

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



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Events of 2002

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**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

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Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2002-2003

Advisors:

Professor E. A. Bell, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., C.Chem., F.R.C.S., F.L.S.
 Professor Sir Ghilleain 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: Allan Hart, A.L.I., M.I.Hort.
 President Elect: Professor David F. Cutler, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C., F.L.S.
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 Past-President: Patrick A. Nutt

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 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 2003

K. R. Jones Ashford
 H. J. Fliegner Twickenham
 C. Funke Godalming

Retire 2004

Mrs S. Atkins **Kew**
 Ms P. Holt Maidenhead
 Ms E. A. Leche Chile
 C. J. Weddell Richmond

Retire 2005

R. C. Ward Kew
 J. R. Woodhams Kingston-on-Thames
 S. J. Henchie Kew

Award Scheme Chair: A. Hart

Students' Union Representatives: J. Evans, Ms M. Corcoran

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C. J. Weddell	Richmond

Retire 2005

R. C. Ward	Kew
J. R. Woodhams	Kingston-on-Thames
S. J. Henchie	Kew

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EDITORIAL

Another year and another host of challenges and changes in the life of the Guild. You may notice a large gap in this year's *Journal* where the list of members and their addresses are normally found. This is, we hope, only temporary while we ensure the Guild is complying with the Data Protection Act. Hopefully the addresses will be sent under separate cover at a later stage. We will be sending out a letter and a form to be returned later in the year and implore everyone to return it ASAP.

The artwork on the cover of this year's *Journal* was generously donated by the artist, Renaissance botanist extraordinaire, Nigel Hepper. Should you, or another member you know, have artwork that you think would make an excellent cover, please get in touch with me. The Committee selects the cover artwork from submissions at our spring meeting for reproduction in two tones (black and white, or two other colours).

The contents of the *Journal* are a reflection of the membership of the Guild, their activities, interests and passions. It needs your contributions, large and small, to flourish. The deadline for non-computerised text is January 15th, 2004, and for computerised text (ie. a disc or email attachment) it is February 15th, 2004. I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all those who contributed time, effort and text to this year's *Journal*.

Jennifer Day
Hon. Editor

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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)

The Kew Guild is thrilled to announce the birth of its new website, www.kew.org/kewguild. The username: kewguild and password: kewguild. The website includes news and information about the Guild and its events and activities. Changes to the password will be published here, just inside the cover of the *Kew Guild Journal*. Past issues of the *Journal*, dating to 1997 are available and will be updated each year. Pictures from events will be incorporated as they are received by the webmaster, Christopher Weddell, kewguild@yahoo.co.uk. Details of the Kew Guild Award Scheme, including application forms and deadlines, are available online, along with details of all previous recipients and their reports where submitted. Information you wish to have incorporated on the website but is not electronically formatted can be sent c/o the Kew Guild. Please remember that the webmaster retains the right to edit and include material at his discretion.

Front cover artwork courtesy of Nigel Hepper. Copyright of Nigel Hepper.

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ALLAN HART, A.L.I., M.I.Hort., Dip.Ld.(UCL), Dip.IPRA
President 2002/2003



ALLAN HART, A.L.I., M.I.Hort., Dip.Ld.(UCL), Dip.IPRA
President 2002/2003



Allan Hart was born in Golborne Lancashire, a coal mining village where plants were rare, but his father and uncles were interested in gardening, though from necessity, the cultivation of vegetables took priority over growing flowers. Allan's first introduction to exotics was through a neighbour who grew large numbers of **tobacco** plants, of the cigarette type, allegedly for his own use! This initial interest was almost extinguished after working in the school holidays at a local nursery, which grew thousands of *Ligustrum ovalifolium* for trunk road landscaping.

Much to the surprise of family and friends, after his grammar school education, Allan decided to work as a gardener and was employed by Leigh Parks Department, attending Day Release at Wigan Technical College. He then became a student at the Lancashire Farm Institute, where he was given much encouragement by Mitch Mitchelmore, (Kew 1947), the lecturer in Mycology and Entomology.

King and Country then called to say that Allan was essential to its plans for world peace, but after an intensive ten weeks of National Service in Warrington, they decided that it would be preferable if he continued to follow his chosen career!

The next move was to T.R. Hayes in Ambleside to study nursery work and garden construction, under the direction of Dick Hayes (Kew 1916), a very enthusiastic supporter and member of the Guild. Any spare time was spent botanising, with help from Hubert Taylor (Kew 1933), or playing football, or rock climbing on the fells.

Working at Bodnant Gardens followed, where there was ample opportunity to increase his knowledge with the wide range of plant species growing in the sheltered micro-climate. However, the feudal system was alive and well at Bodnant, which Allan found hard to reconcile with his socialist upbringing – and so onwards to Kew in 1956.

Placements included the Tropical Department and Palm House (Lewis Stenning), the Herbaceous Department (George Preston) and the Arboretum (George Brown). All were instrumental in consolidating his plant and horticultural expertise, plus the added bonus of making many lifelong friendships, with both British and overseas students. During his time in the Tropical Pits Allan succeeded in germinating seeds of *Clitoria ternata*, a rare climbing plant with stunning bright blue, sweet pea shaped flowers, which was painted by Margaret Stones for the Curtis Botanical Magazine.

During his student years at Kew, Allan joined in all its activities, including the Botany, Football and Social Clubs, being secretary of the latter and organising, amongst other events, fancy dress parties at the Coach and Horses, which have gone down in Kew folklore! He was also a keen member of the Kew Gardens Music Circle, hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Metcalfe at their home in Pensford Avenue. This was a civilised haven, where students could escape from their bed-sits and enjoy some home comforts. The Metcalfes were great admirers of J. S. Bach, but such was their generosity of spirit, that they tolerated exposure to modern music, promoted by the secretary, Lawrence Mills (Kew 1958), which included Hans Werner Henze, Schoenberg, Musique Concrete, and its even more advanced form – Musique

Concrete Renforce! Lawrence was a great character, who later became a Buddhist monk and renowned teacher and poet known as Bhikou Khantipalo. Many years later Allan was able to meet up with him again at a temple in Bangkok.

Being very near to London, Allan also benefited from the opportunity to discover restaurants (food and wine still being a passion), theatre, and music clubs, particularly modern jazz. Perhaps the most significant event in his time at Kew, was meeting Joan at her leaving party at Gipsy Hill Training College, Kingston in 1958 – so significant that they are still together, 45 years later! They enjoy a keen interest in modern design, in fact Allan has been a modernist since an early age, his design gurus include Burle Marx, whom he once had the good fortune to meet.

After Kew, the job market was very poor, so a six month period at an ICI research station followed, notable only for providing Allan with the opportunity to read the complete '*Lord of the Rings*' cycle in three weeks. He was then recruited by Tom Risely to act as Tom's landscape foreman at Hayes and Harlington Parks Department. With Tom's encouragement, Allan applied and was accepted, for the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration course, where an inspirational lecturer in landscape design (Laurie Fricker), prompted yet another change in career.

Allan joined the Ministry of Defence Army Works landscape section in 1961, as a draughtsman, working directly under Cliff Tandy with Phil Haywood (Kew 1950), who willingly shared his wide experience, and insisted that every drawing was of the highest standard, with good italic hand-writing an essential. At that time this was probably the most dynamic office in the country, with a wide range of projects, from housing, barracks, schools/colleges, embassies and new towns both in the U.K. and overseas, giving Allan the opportunity to travel to both the Middle and Far East. There was a steady recruitment of Kew graduates, including Eddie Rolls (Kew 1948), Bob Adams (Kew 1959) and Haydn Bell (Kew 1963). Eddie was a great influence, passing on his experience of design and planting in arid zones, gained from his time working in East Africa.

Joan and Allan were married in 1962, when the Diploma of Parks Administration was completed, and set up home in Richmond. Allan was then able to enrol for part time study of landscape design at University College, London, when Parts 1 and 2 of the Landscape Institute were passed. In 1967 Allan started work for private consultants (LUC), specialising in the reclamation of derelict land, mainly in the Rhonda Valley, including the Aberfan disaster site. The final examination of the Landscape Institute was passed in 1968, just one week before his first son Richard was born – critical timing! Fifteen months later, second son Mathew arrived to complete the family.

Allan established his own landscape design practice in 1968 and has been fortunate in attracting a wide range of clients and projects. He has always insisted on high standards of plants, materials and workmanship, not always easy with the general lack of skilled, trained gardeners. Sustainability and re-cycling have always been of interest, and he created in his own garden over 30 years ago, what was

probably one of the first timber decks in the U.K. using flooring from a demolished local garage. (But not painted blue!) One of his most interesting recent projects has been the involvement with the Canary Wharf development in London's Docklands, which gave him the opportunity to carry out a european-wide survey of nurseries growing large trees. The formulation of a manufactured soil and self-draining surfaces also resulting from research into materials, together with new planting techniques, has enabled this riverside landscape to become established and mature, despite a very harsh environment.

Allan has also had a considerable involvement with the design of sport and recreational facilities, including the first all-weather athletics tracks and field events areas in Surrey and Hampshire. Particularly rewarding has been his participation in the design of several children's play areas, working with the N.P.F.A. and creating gardens for the mentally and physically disabled.

The practice has now been in existence for 35 years, and during this time Joan has played a large part in the success of the business – her secretarial skills and no nonsense critical analysis of designs being greatly appreciated. She has also been a very involved supporter of all Guild activities, including hosting many Award Scheme fund raising soirées held after the AGMs.

A keen member of the Kew Guild since student days, Allan has served on the main Committee and was a founder member of the Award Scheme. He is now very privileged to be its current Chairman. Living so close to Kew Gardens is a real bonus and he visits regularly to enjoy the surroundings, indulge in a little botanising, and refresh a steadily failing memory with plant name reminders!

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S REPORT (2001-2002)

by Patrick Nutt

Modern methods of communication proved to me to be a more than considerable benefit during an eventful year in office.

The fact that the Armorial Bearings of the Guild depict the silver flaunches on either side of the shield, representing the New and Old Worlds and the blue ground of the shield, the Seas that separate the two, was not lost upon me, especially as the Annual Dinner inexorably approached. One friendly communication actually arrived from our dedicated secretary, Mike Clift, while Tom Risley, Richard Ward and I were putting the finishing touches to the order of events on the very afternoon of the Annual Dinner on May 23 (Mike had just recovered from recent surgery)! It also expedited contact with our guest speaker, Mike Pollock, Head of Education at the Royal Horticultural Society and former colleague through selection of exchange students for Longwood Gardens and Wisley. Mike's interesting and humorous speech was very well received, and I am grateful to him and Janet for attending during what must be one of the busiest weeks of the Society's year. I was also very pleased to have two fellow Americans at my table, Laura Furmanski, a Longwood Professional Gardener graduate, 2002, and Martin Hamilton from Kentucky,

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Tom Risley once again took care of the menu, seating and arrangements for a most excellent meal. For me it was great to renew old acquaintances going back many years. I was especially pleased to present Allen Paterson with the George Brown Award (accepted by Allan Hart). Allen Paterson carried on the fine tradition of a former Kewite, Leslie Laking, 1941, at Canada's largest Botanical Garden in Hamilton, Ontario.

I really had to congratulate the Curator and his staff on what I considered to be three outstanding displays in the Living Collections Department. The *Victoria cruziana* was the finest I have ever seen. Even though I was a trifle late for the first *Amorphophallus*, which had partially collapsed, I was able to observe and photograph the second one at its prime just before leaving.

Finally, the splendid *Vireya Rhododendrons* in the Temperate House gave me special satisfaction. Both John Simmons and the late Dick Shaw (1972) had given me invaluable and updated advice on newer composts, when I was responsible for Longwood Gardens' collection of this beautiful race of *Rhododendrons*.

In closing, I must express my sincere thanks to every Committee member for their hospitality, dedicated work, and full support. If any Kewites are visiting the U.S.A. and we can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Mike Clift Secretary 1998-2003

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild, which was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, on Saturday 7th September 2002.

The Guild Secretary opened the meeting at 14.40 pm, as the Vice President, Mike Griffin, had advised the Committee, that he would be on holiday and unable to attend.

01.02. Elect a Chairman: The Committee had asked Nigel Hepper whether he would be prepared to chair this meeting. The Secretary asked for a proposal that Nigel Hepper takes the Chair. A very large number of members were in favour of this move. The Secretary then invited Nigel to continue with the meeting.

Nigel Hepper welcomed the 32 members to this meeting

02. 02. The Chairman then called on the Secretary to read out the list of apologies that had been received. These were from: R Angel, Mike Arnold-Gilliatt, Chris Baylis, Prof. E. A. Bell, Sam Bird, Rebecca Bower, Dorothy Catlin, E. Chantler, Pauline Churcher, Rev. Geoff Collins, Jill Cowley, Silvia Crawford, Eric Curtis, Ray Desmond, M. Done, T. Elton, Hugh Flower, C. D. Foat, Lyn Foss, Charles Funke, Neil and Shiela Gilmour, Miss M. Grierson, Mike Griffin, Norman Hickman, S. D. Hitt, Peter F. Hunt, Colin Jones, Shelagh Kell, Emily Leche,

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Lady Arabella Lennox-Boyd, Trevor Matthews, David Menzies, Roy Mowforth, Brendan Mowforth, J. F. Norris, Allen Paterson, S. Piebenga, Diana Polhill, Sir Ghillelan Prance, W. T. Preston, Princess Alexandra (Patron), Alan and Barbara Ravenscroft, Ron Rule, John Simmons, W. J. Slade, Martin Staniforth, Alan Titchmarsh and J. P. Tregear.

03. 02. *Death of Members:* The Secretary was then asked to list those Guild Members who had died during the last 12 months.

These were: Stephen John Roberts (1928), aged 97, Peter Maunder (1954), Connie Martin (1942), Jean Edna Hingston, (nee Sharps) (1949), and Mike Bentall.

Members were asked to stand and a period of silence was kept in their memory.

04. 02. *Approve minutes of previous A.G.M.:* The Chairman considered that it was difficult to approve these minutes as Members had just received their *Journals*. He asked that these were taken as read. This was agreed by the meeting.

05. 02. *Matters Arising:* The Chairman suggested that if there were any, that these are included in any other business.

06.02. *Secretary's Report:* The Secretary had received a letter from Patrick Nutt, which he read out to the members. It began that Patrick would like to thank every Committee Member for their dedication and support during the year. He considered it a great privilege to have been Guild President. The Guild, at 110 years of age, was in a period of rapid adaption to changing circumstances and fiscal constraints.

He added that the blue ground in Guild's Armorial Bearings, depict the separation of the new and old worlds. He has endeavoured to strengthen these links with that chain of members and carry on the work of the former Kewites in North America. He felt that the exchange of students between Longwood, Kew and other European sources has been very constructive and beneficial.

Patrick mentioned that Longwood's horticultural history goes further back than Kew. A Quaker farmer, George Pierce, an emigrant from Bristol, bought 402 acres of land from William Penn's land Commissioners in East Pennsylvania, which was later to become Longwood Gardens.

Patrick asked that if any member should visit North America, and should he be able to assist them in any way, to please make contact with him.

He appealed to members to keep up the good work and sent his good wishes to the meeting. He had wanted to be with us today, to hear Nigel Hepper's talk and to pass the Chain of Office to Allan Hart to whom he sent his good wishes.

The Secretary, M. Clift, in his report, commented that it really has been quite a year.

Just 12 months ago Patrick Nutt was installed as Kew Guild President. His return to the States a few days later was overtaken by the horrendous events which occurred in New York on the 11th September 2001. The article by John Woodhams on page 76 in the *Journal* covered this time well.

What a start to our year.

The Committee have for recent meetings been unable to use the Guild Room, due to alterations being made in the Herbarium. We have, however, been able to use a room in the Pat Brenan Suite for our meetings. He hoped that it would not be long before we can resume using our Room.

During the year we have had two Chairmen, Mike Griffin and Martin Sands. Martin stood in for Mike, when he decided that he would not attend the July meeting, following a disagreement which occurred at the Dinner. Our thanks to Martin for his co-operation.

The Committee met on four occasions during the year and he added that two members had not attended any meetings during this time.

During the year the question of *Vista* has loomed large. It was shelved due to the problem of despatching it to members. As an interim measure, he reported that Nigel Hepper had been asked to compile an extract from it, which would be of interest to members outside Kew. This item was again raised at the last Committee Meeting and will be further discussed at the next Meeting.

The Secretary mentioned that often there are articles which need to be packed for despatch. It was wondered whether such events are made into a social occasion. He appealed to any local members who could help to make contact with him.

Also it was noted that the Guild have been in contact with the Rev. Worn, Vicar of St. Anne's, Kew, regarding the renovation of lettering on possibly one of the tombs in the churchyard. Further details are still awaited.

The Secretary also mentioned that in the preparation of the nominations list, prior to the Spring Committee Meeting, that the Committee had decided that the person nominated must have been approached and agreed that their name goes forward. This might prevent members suffering shocks and it might save the Secretary some time as well.

The Chairman asked the Secretary to write to Patrick and thank him for his efforts for the Kew Guild.

07. 02. Treasurer's Report: Due to the absence of Rebecca Bower, the Secretary read her report.

The Accounts for 2001 show a healthy position for the Guild despite a fall in the value of our investments. This fall has continued into 2002 with the general fall in the stockmarkets, but as our investments are long term this is not, so far, of major concern.

Income in 2001 totalled £19,000 of which £6,000 was from subscriptions and £7,000 from our investments. The Award Scheme Chairman was active in raising funds for our Millennium Appeal and almost £3,000 was donated. In addition we were pleased to receive a further donation from the Philip and Granville Charitable Trust.

Awards and Prizes of over £5,000 were made during the year helping many students to go on exciting trips related to their botanical interests and also to support other members in further education.

The cost of the *Journal* was reduced by about 30% compared to previous years reaping the benefit of submitting everything electronically.

Total expenditure was £12,000 giving a net surplus of the year of £7,000. This has been added to Reserves but is offset by investment losses so that overall Reserves finished at £202,000 compared to £223,000 at the end of 2000.

Rebecca concludes her report by asking anyone if they have any queries about the accounts they are welcome to contact her directly.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to our Treasurer for her efforts over the year and for her valuable report.

08. 02. Membership Secretary's Report: David Barnes in presenting these figures emphasised that the figures were lower than last year, but they represent the members who have actually paid.

Membership figures at 7th September were:

Staff	38
Student	21
Corporate	6
Standard	319
Life	28
Trustee	2

This gave a Total of 414 Members.

The missing members he believed were those who had paid by cash. He could report on one member who had recently paid his sub. during September which was due last January. Standing order payments are much preferred. Another problem is that many members are reluctant to inform the Guild when they have changed their address.

The Membership Secretary considered that we are in competition with the Friends for members and we compete badly. He thought a useful move would be for Guild members to have access to the gardens without payment. It was thought that the Friends are able to offer inducements to attract new members. During a long discussion, the comment was raised that the Friends are a professional organisation. Another point put forward was that the Kew Guild should represent the practical horticulturalist while the Friends have no requirement apart from the ability to pay. Kewites ought to have benefits over the Friends. Comments were made that the members have to weigh up whether the Guild can offer greater benefits, but with just the *Journal* to show we are at a grave disadvantage. Perhaps this is why we are losing members, especially those who have just graduated. John Woodhams commented that by personal contact he has persuaded some ex-members to rejoin. It was also suggested that an appeal slip might also be of benefit.

The Chairman thanked David for his report and members for their comments. He considered this to have been a very useful discussion. He suggested that a letter is composed and sent to the authorities regarding these comments.

09. 02. Editor's Report: Jennifer Day hoped that the new cover would meet with some approval. She then appealed to anyone who might have suitable artwork for future covers to contact her. She also mentioned that she is attempting to get some advertising input to help pay for the *Journal*. She thanked the Secretary for his help during the year.

In questions, Jennifer was asked why the *Journal* was so late this year. Jennifer's reply was that, initially she was waiting for some articles from members, but then the roof of her house collapsed and the room where her computer was situated, was blocked off. It was some while later, that access was permitted.

Comments were made that Kew ought to be able to supply photos. She was aware of that option but there were others present who might be able to help.

She might convene a meeting of a group of Kew personnel to advise in the choice of options for the cover. Jennifer was congratulated on the appearance of the *Journal*.

The Chairman thanked Jennifer for her efforts.

10. 02. Events Officers Report: Tom Risely began his review of the year by commenting on the interesting and successful visit to Canary Wharf, arranged by Allan Hart, last Autumn.

He reviewed the Annual Dinner held this year in the Cambridge Cottage which was attended by 68 members. We were limited to 90 persons. In the feedback that he had received, he considered this event to have been one of the best Dinners. The Toast was proposed by John Woodhams, to which Patrick replied and he considered Mike Pollack's response was an outstanding after dinner talk.

Tom added that perhaps it was not always appreciated that the Guild subsidises the students attending the dinner by 50%. This costs the Guild about £300. He was surprised not to have received any response from the Students concerning their involvement until the last minute, but he added that they then did well. They also raised some £430 for their own funds.

Tom then appealed for member's comments about forthcoming dinners. Were there other options to consider? He would like to know.

He added that there will be a visit on 6th October to the National Botanic Garden of Wales. This would be a worthwhile place to visit, with its obvious Kew connections. He would be mailing details to members next week.

He concluded his report by commenting that this will be his tenth year as Events Officer and he would be requiring someone, more locally based, to take over from him in a year's time.

Tom then outlined the rest of the afternoons events and that it would conclude with an historical item, Nigel's talk, on his expedition to West Africa in 1957-58. This he thought would make interesting comparison with today's trips.

The Chairman, summing up, agreed that the dinner was very good and thanked Tom for his report.

11. 02. Award Scheme Report: Allan Hart began by commenting that £5,000 has been Awarded this year.

He reported that £1,000 had been received from Guild Members this year. He also noted that books donated by N. Hepper and M. Clift had realised £75.00. Should any member have any item they could donate to the Award Scheme this, would be appreciated.

He reported that they now have a new and standard application form, devised by Annabelle Chantler. This states what is expected and has brought the scheme into line with others. He reported that after five years as Secretary of the Award Scheme Annabelle had announced her retirement. He thanked Annabelle and the other members of the Award Scheme Committee for their input. David Barnes considered that the Award Scheme under Allan was doing a very useful job.

12. 02. Student Prize Day: Nigel Hepper represented the Guild at this event on the previous day. He reported that it was well patronised and was a very good and interesting afternoon, with Carol Klein presenting the prizes and giving an amusing talk.

13. 02. Honorary Membership: The Secretary commented that at last year's A.G.M., it was suggested that we might extend the award of Honorary Membership to persons outside the Guild. It was agreed that this Award should honour the person and reflect equally on the organisation. The Committee were asked by the A.G.M. to suggest an idea, how to operate such a scheme.

He reported that the item was raised at a Committee Meeting during the year and after discussion it was agreed to shelve the idea, there being no great interest to continue further with this proposal. The Chairman commented that appeared to be that.

14. 02. Retiring Members of the Committee: The Secretary commented that every year, owing to the rotation of Officers and Committee, that we inevitably lose the input from various members of the Guild.

This year the retiring members are:

Allen Paterson, *President 2000-1*, and *Past President*.

Mike Griffin, *Vice President 2001-2*.

The following *Members of the Committee*: David Taber, Topher Martyn, Keith Woolliams, Graham Pattison and the Student Representative, Katie Steel.

On the Guild's behalf he thanked them all. This was endorsed by the Chairman and the meeting.

15. 02. Election of Officers: The Secretary commented that we have in the past listed only the changes to the Committee. The Rules require that all Officers must be elected to the Committee at the A.G.M.

The Chairman then suggested that we elect en bloc, the Treasurer, Editor, Membership Secretary, Events officer and the Award Scheme Chair. The new Nominations were:

President

Allan Hart

Vice President

Ian Leese

*President Elect
Committee*

Prof. David Cutler
Richard Ward
John Woodhams
Stewart Henchie

The Secretary commented that he is still waiting confirmation from the overseas member.

The Secretary reported that after the last Committee meetings some ideas to fill that role had been suggested. He commented that there was a request in the *Journal*, from which a response might be received or he even hoped that a member present would come forward. If not, he would continue until the Committee had found a replacement, hopefully before the next A.G.M.

The Chairman commented that we elect those members listed, with the additions. This was agreed and by a round of applause they were duly elected.

16. 02. Any Other Business: Comments were immediately made that our funds appear to be basically for raising further moneys. We ought to be considering spending some of our reserves for the Guild's benefit. Discussion then centred on the possibility of a website for the Guild. Comments were made that the R.B.G. already has one and possibly we could share this. The point was made that our site ought to be totally independent. Gerald Morgan then proposed that the Committee investigate the possibility of an Internet website. This was seconded and agreed by all. It was considered that this would also pay dividends in fund raising.

There were no further matters raised.

17.02. Inauguration of the New President: The Chairman, Nigel Hepper, then asked Allan Hart to come forward and placed the Guild's Presidential Chain of Office on him, to applause from members.

Allan, commented that it was indeed a great honour to be elected Guild President and thanked Nigel Hepper for taking the chair for this afternoon's meeting.

18. 02. Date of the Next A.G.M.: Allan then reported that we hold our next A.G.M. on 6th September 2003. He thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 15.55 p.m.

THE GEORGE BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

This award was instigated in 1981, and has now been presented to 21 Guild Members. This award is in recognition of a member, who in the opinion of the Committee, has best furthered communication and diplomacy, in the true spirit of the Kew Guild. The recipients name is inscribed on the lectern and a scroll is presented to the winner. This is presented at the Annual Dinner.

An article was printed in the 1997 *Journal*, which lists the previous winners of this award. Since then, the following members have joined this elite group:

J. B. E. Simmons, P. A. Nutt, R. C. Ward, J. R. Woodhams and A. P. Paterson.

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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Pamela Holt

After leaving R.B.G., Kew, where she was a student with Alan Titchmarsh, Pamela worked at City College, Manchester and Cannington College, Somerset (where she tutored Charlie Dimmock). After 25 years of lecturing, Pamela was recently appointed as Team Leader and Lecturer in Amenity Horticulture at the Berkshire College of Agriculture.

An avid world-traveller, Pamela has collected plants in Bolivia and Peru for R.B.G., Kew. As a keen rock climber, mountaineer and photographer, Pamela has been able to use the long college holidays to further these interests. She now has an impressive slide collection featuring alpine plants, growing in their natural environment from Europe, Russia and Asia to South America. Pamela also gives lectures on hardy annual plant cultivation, tree planting, shrub pruning, French landscape gardens and Italian lakeside gardens.

Richard Ward

Richard's enthusiasm for horticulture was fired by growing radishes in the school vegetable plot, and has continued undimmed through time at Hastings Park Department, Slocock's Nursery, three years at Kew, time in Copenhagen, world travels, and some 25 years as Richard Ward Landscaping. He has been a committed and active member of the Guild, editing 24 editions of the *Kew Guild Journal* and serving as President in 1998-1999. His unstinting commitment to the Guild reflects a deeply held conviction in the value of fellowship and the merits of the Guild.

Christopher Weddell

Three years after leaving Kew, Diploma in hand, Christopher joined the Kew Guild Committee, bringing with him his skill in IT and extensive experience with committees. After finishing the Diploma, Christopher stayed on at Kew for a year in the post of Higher Botanical Horticulturalist in the Palm House. Eventually, he was lured away by the charms of R.H.S. Wisley where, among other achievements, he researched and ghost-wrote a weekly newspaper column and compiled the R.H.S. Garden Wisley website. This year he was promoted to the post of Senior Horticulturist, a position that involves working with the many plant committees to facilitate their effective running, as well as participating in the creation of new policies for the R.H.S. and its gardens. Christopher has already contributed to the Guild, creating and managing our new web site, www.kew.org/kewguild.

John R Woodhams – Committee 2002

Little time seems to have elapsed since my last stint on the Guild Committee though I am pleased to chip in again and help where I am able. One frequently hears from those in retirement that the weeks and months fly by and I now know at first hand this to be so.

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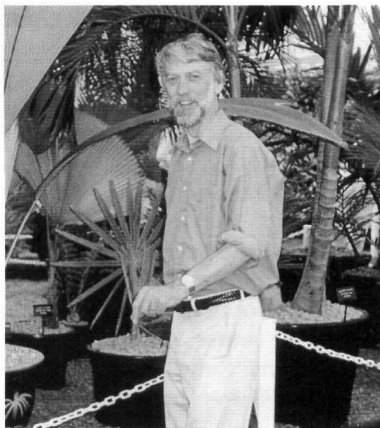
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My wife, Joan and I continue with our love of ferns, which has resulted in an ever-growing collection of hardy ferns accommodated within a rather tiny home garden. The ever-popular TV gardening and garden makeover programmes have popularised the use of hardy ferns for the home gardener and there is a healthy demand for these plants especially those of more unusual or exotic appearance. Interest in a small antiques and collectables venture also eats into our time though researching the history and background to specific items is often fascinating and rewarding.



Compiling the 'News of Kewites' slot for the *Journal* makes its demands too, but is also rewarding with numerous Kewites that I have contacted returning interesting and informative text for inclusion. It is disappointing when there is no response to one's initial contact for I am sure the Guild needs to hear from, as well as send out to its membership. **Do please** continue to send in snippets of information for inclusion. **This slot in the *Journal* needs your input too!**

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY SPEECH 2002

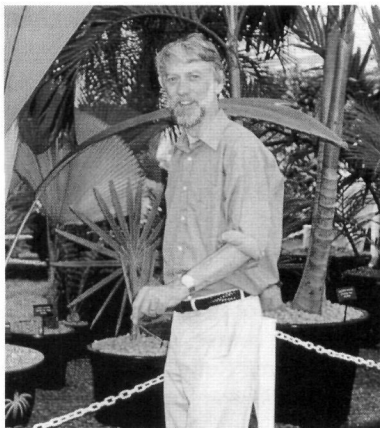
by Ian Leese, Director of Studies

Your Worship, Ms. Klein, Director, Mr. President-Elect, 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.

It is an honour to have you here today, Carol. With the range of your work and interests as a writer, television presenter and plantswoman, you are a role model for many here who have an equal love of plants.

It is fitting that we have a female Guest of Honour today, because Course 37 has made history in having the highest number of females ever in the group. When, in 1896, the first two female gardeners joined the Kew staff, the then Director had them issued with brown knickerbocker suits, thick woollen stockings, and brown cloth peaked caps. Walking to and from work, they had to wear long mackintoshes. The Director's reason for the special clothing was to make the females as unattractive as possible to the male gardeners. I can assure you, Director, that we have continued to carry out your predecessor's wishes by issuing all the group with our current blue corporate clothing. Having suffered the dishevelled appearance, particularly after working in the rain, of these creatures for the past three years, it is amazing to see their beauty today!

My wife, Joan and I continue with our love of ferns, which has resulted in an ever-growing collection of hardy ferns accommodated within a rather tiny home garden. The ever-popular TV gardening and garden makeover programmes have popularised the use of hardy ferns for the home gardener and there is a healthy demand for these plants especially those of more unusual or exotic appearance. Interest in a small antiques and collectables venture also eats into our time though researching the history and background to specific items is often fascinating and rewarding.



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It is my pleasure to give a report on the activities of the School of Horticulture over the past academic year, highlighting the successes that have been achieved. Firstly, I must place the three-year full-time Kew Diploma course, which is administered by the School, in context. Earlier this year, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew was subject to a Quinquennial Review of its performance, initiated by its major sponsoring government department, D.E.F.R.A., the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Part of this comprehensive review involved a public consultation exercise. All respondents cited Kew as a world leader in botanical collections and research, with a formidable profile as an international centre of excellence. In the case of the Kew Diploma, the respondents declared that it is the best course of its type in the world. I must thank everyone who contributes in any way to the course, including the support of Dr. Nigel Taylor, Head of Department, and Mr. Greg Redwood, Head of Section, for ensuring that our students receive the best possible start here which is such a good foundation for their future careers.

Most Kew Diploma graduates stay within botanic gardens after their training, and a number are employed on the staff at Kew. Following Prize Day last year, two graduates were recruited to work here in Jodrell Laboratory. Laszlo Csiba (Chiba) became D.N.A. Bank Database Administrator, and Antony O'Rourke is a Conservation Genetics Researcher. Another of last year's graduates, Jane Pearson, replaced Kew Diploma graduate, Dina Gallick, as Botanical House Manager at Wildwalk Bristol, a multi-million pound Millennium project. Jane also won the Institute of Horticulture's Aberconway Medal, a national award, for her final-year dissertation. Dina moved to New York Botanical Garden to be Curator of Glasshouse Collections. Another of last year's graduates, Helenka Jurgielewicz, joined a joint Kew/Mauritian Wildlife Trust conservation project in Mauritius. In London, Christopher Leach was promoted to the post of Head Gardener at the Chelsea Physic Garden. Paul Cook became Curator of the University of Liverpool's Botanic Gardens at Ness in the Wirral. After successfully gaining a Master of Science degree from the University of Reading, Bernd Mengel was appointed as Assistant Curator at Mainz Botanic Garden in Germany.

After botanic gardens, many Kew Diploma graduates work as head gardeners of private estates. Rachel Martin, Head Gardener of Exbury Gardens in the New Forest, had the satisfaction of seeing that estate voted top garden of the year by members of the Historic Houses Association. Kathryn Kidby was promoted to be Head Gardener of the private estate at North Standen in Berkshire. Christopher Weddell was appointed to the post of Senior Horticulturist at the Royal Horticultural Society's Wisley Garden.

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. However, John Crowther should be mentioned for gaining the position of Head of Parks and Landscape at Cheltenham Borough Council. Ian Hudson, who graduated last year, was appointed Assistant Parks Manager at the Royal Parks Agency's St. James' Park here in London.

A number of Kew Diploma graduates progress onto higher degrees after their time here. Currently, Mirco Berenbrinker, Alys Fowler and Rosminah Brown are all completing their M.Sc. theses at University College London and the University of Reading respectively, after successfully passing their examinations. Eamonn Byrne is about to start his second and final year of the Master of Landscape Architecture degree at the University of Sheffield. Upaneetha Abeygunawardana gained a lecturer in horticulture post at Capel Manor College, Enfield.

You will be well aware, Carol, that several Kew Diploma graduates, like you, have entered into journalism as a career. Your Gardening Editor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Ursula Buchan, is an example of this. Television gardener, Alan Titchmarsh, is another case in point. Current graduates who have entered into the field of journalism include Esther McMillan who, as Features Editor of the trade journal '*Horticulture Week*', was presented with the Richard Burton Features Writer of the Year Award. She has since been appointed as Assistant Head Gardener of Kelmars Hall Estate in Northamptonshire.

A graduate from last year, Tom Hoblyn, has also followed you into television, Carol. He, together with a Kew botanical artist, is currently featured on the BBC 2 series, '*The Ship*', which is re-tracing Captain Cook's famous voyage to Australia and the South Seas 230 years ago. Tom's role is to follow in the footsteps of Sir Joseph Banks, Kew's first unofficial Director, who accompanied the trip and brought back 1,400 new plant species. Apart from appearing on television, Tom has also gone into business with Silvia Crawford, another graduate from last year, offering landscape design, construction and consultancy.

Apart from the achievements of our graduates, there have been a number of developments at Kew this year which have featured our current students and shown them at their best. Firstly, we had a very successful *BBC Gardeners' World Magazine* Subscribers' Day Event in May. One thousand six hundred subscribers visited Kew for the day. Tours were provided by Friends' Volunteer Guides. Some third-year students were on hand to help demonstrate pest and disease problems and talk about their controls. Some first-year students explained and showed their vegetable plots to the visitors, while others gave propagation demonstrations. Kew Diploma graduate, Matthew Biggs, who writes for the magazine, joined Roy Lancaster in question and answer sessions held in this lecture theatre. The display of the vegetable plots in the Order Beds area just outside this building has proved very popular overall with the visiting public throughout the year, and all the first years have maintained the highest standards of practical horticulture. We are most grateful, too, for the provision of seeds for this project from Thompson and Morgan Limited and irrigation equipment from Hozelock Limited.

A committee of second-year students, aided by some Kew staff and outside members, have been responsible for a very successful Kew Mutual Improvement Society series of weekly evening lectures from September last year to the end of this April. Audience numbers were at their highest level, including two sell-out evenings for lectures by Roy Lancaster and Christopher Lloyd.

For the first time, third-year students were given the opportunity to have their landscape design projects constructed at Kew. Each person designed domestic-sized gardens for their final-year project under the supervision of their tutors, Brita von Schoenaich and Christopher Bradley-Hole. The designs of Nicky Sharp, Katie Steel, Mima Taylor and Janet Thompson were chosen for construction as 'Ideas Gardens', part of Kew's 'Summer Festival of Colour'. These have proved very popular with the public, and we are grateful for the generous support of the S.I.T.A. Environmental Trust and the David Colegrave Foundation to make this possible.

As well as the Kew Diploma, the School of Horticulture also administers the Internship Programme of three months' work experience in the gardens. This year, we have had 28 interns from all five continents. Alex Henderson, helped by Linda Pilgrim before she moved to assist Martin Staniforth, the Practical Training Co-ordinator in increasing the scope of practical training available to staff and students, successfully arranged a course of studies, in addition to the work experience that they gain in the gardens. This now provides a very useful source of recruitment onto the Kew Diploma with nine interns joining the course. Three other interns are now Kew staff members. As well as Alex and Linda, the other School of Horticulture staff, Barbara Hanson and Pam Black work tirelessly to give the highest standards of care to all our students, and I pay tribute to all of the team around me.

Finally, I must thank Course 37 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 Friends and Foundation events; and you have been excellent ambassadors for Kew both at home and abroad.

We wish you all success in the careers you have chosen – whether on the staff at Kew or in private estates, landscape design, in the media, commerce, working overseas, 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 of your progress. 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."

PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 2002

(Course 37)

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Kew Diploma Course 37. 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-Elect, Mr. Allan Hart, 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 £5000 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

For the first time, third-year students were given the opportunity to have their landscape design projects constructed at Kew. Each person designed domestic-sized gardens for their final-year project under the supervision of their tutors, Brita von Schoenaich and Christopher Bradley-Hole. The designs of Nicky Sharp, Katie Steel, Mima Taylor and Janet Thompson were chosen for construction as 'Ideas Gardens', part of Kew's 'Summer Festival of Colour'. These have proved very popular with the public, and we are grateful for the generous support of the S.I.T.A. Environmental Trust and the David Colegrave Foundation to make this possible.

As well as the Kew Diploma, the School of Horticulture also administers the Internship Programme of three months' work experience in the gardens. This year, we have had 28 interns from all five continents. Alex Henderson, helped by Linda Pilgrim before she moved to assist Martin Staniforth, the Practical Training Co-ordinator in increasing the scope of practical training available to staff and students, successfully arranged a course of studies, in addition to the work experience that they gain in the gardens. This now provides a very useful source of recruitment onto the Kew Diploma with nine interns joining the course. Three other interns are now Kew staff members. As well as Alex and Linda, the other School of Horticulture staff, Barbara Hanson and Pam Black work tirelessly to give the highest standards of care to all our students, and I pay tribute to all of the team around me.

Finally, I must thank Course 37 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 Friends and Foundation events; and you have been excellent ambassadors for Kew both at home and abroad.

We wish you all success in the careers you have chosen – whether on the staff at Kew or in private estates, landscape design, in the media, commerce, working overseas, 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 of your progress. 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."

PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 2002

(Course 37)

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Kew Diploma Course 37. 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-Elect, Mr. Allan Hart, 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 £5000 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 Studley College Trust have all given significant funds to our students and Kew staff this year.

If there is anyone else in the audience who has not yet given a substantial donation, endowment, or left a legacy to the School of Horticulture, please arrange to do so before the end of this afternoon.

JESSICA BEAGHEN

The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize for the person attaining the second-highest marks in their third-year Dissertation.

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

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 Bhutan which she has already visited during the second year of the course.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

RUTH BONE

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

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.

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.

DAVID BURNS

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

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.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

BARRY COETZEE

Kew Diploma Pass grade.

FRANK EMMERICH

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

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

HANNAH GARDNER

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

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

The Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation Bursary for a six-month stay in Japan consisting of language tuition, work placements with two Japanese landscape architects, and botanising in Hokkaido.

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.

BECCY HOLMES

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 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.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

SARAH MORGAN

The John Gilbert Prize, provided by the Bentham-Moxon Trust, from an endowment by the late Mr. Gilbert, a former member of Kew's Herbarium staff, for the best published work during the Kew Diploma course.

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Vocational Service Award, presented by the local Rotary Club to the person who has done most for charity. In this case, Sarah raised funds to help deal with the aftermath of the two earthquakes in Turkey.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

HARRIET PARSONS

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 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.

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as Treasurer during the past year.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

NICKY SHARP

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

KATIE STEEL

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

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

MIMA TAYLOR

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

The Landsman's Bookshop Prize, and *The Paul Temple O.B.E. Prize*, sponsored by the international landscape designer, for the best overall performance in landscape design, including having her final-year design constructed as one of the 'Ideas Gardens'

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

JANET THOMSON

The Lecturers' Prize, donated by Drs. Philip Cribb and Nicholas Hind of Kew's Herbarium, to the student gaining the highest mark for their Systematic Botany project.

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, another of the constructed 'Ideas Gardens'.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

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

JOHN EVANS

The David Dalziel Travel Scholarships are donated by Mr Dalziel who lives in Florida. The first winner, John, who is unable to be with us today, made a study tour to Malawi to investigate what measures are being taken to conserve medicinal plants used by traditional healers.

He is also awarded the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* for services rendered as Treasurer

FUMIKO ISHIZUNA

A study of green waste management in the U.S.A., including attending the International Symposium on 'Composting and Compost Utilisation' held in New York, was made by Fumiko as the second winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*. She is also the recipient of *The Margolas Study Tour Award*, provided by the Margolas Trust to help with the costs of her travel.

ANDREW LUKE

Tomorrow, Andrew, the next winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship* will travel to Western Australia to study terrestrial orchids growing in the wild as well as in cultivation.

ROSSANA PORTA

A study tour to Taiwan to investigate the conservation management of endangered endemic plants was made by the next winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*, who also gains the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* as Secretary

MIKE WHATMORE

An investigation of the flora of the Caribbean island of St. Vincent was made by Mike as another winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*

ROWAN BLAIK and CHIE HATTORI

Other second-year students, Rowan and Chie, are recipients of the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize* as Secretaries of the Society.

All the above members of the Kew Mutual Committee shared chairing the meetings, two other Committee members did the same.

EMMA LOCHNER

Emma is unable to be with us today because she is currently studying cacti in the Atacama Desert, Chile.

AARON BERTELSEN

Aaron is the other person who, on behalf of all the Committee, will receive the *Sir Joseph Hooker Prize* presented by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor.



Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes.

The prize is augmented by *a cup donated by Mrs Hazel Hyde* who retired as Administrative Officer of the School of Horticulture in 1993.

MARCELLA CORCORAN

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is the final Kew Mutual Society Prize and is awarded to Marcella, who is currently on holiday. This is donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory to the person who has given the best 'item of interest' talk to the Society.

THOMAS UNTERDORFER

The Merlin Trust, as I mentioned at the beginning, gives substantial support to our students and staff. This year two special 'Merlin Trust – Alpine Garden Society Tour Scheme' trips were available as national awards. One was won by first-year student Thomas, who is on leave currently. This enabled him to take part in the Alpine Garden Society's tour to Sichuan in China.

JOANNE EVERSON

Joanne is the other *Merlin Trust* winner and is a member of Kew's Hardy Display Section staff with responsibility for the Rock Garden. She benefited from a study tour to Bhutan.

LOUISE DANKS

Donated by one of our lecturers, 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.

MARTIN O'HALLORAN

The Institute of Horticulture Prize, sponsored by the Institute, is presented to Martin as the person with the best overall performance in the first year.

KATH KING and LUCY RICH

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*'.

Staff members from the Great Glasshouses and Training Section, Kath King and Lucy Rich, who are unable to be here today, travelled to South-West Australia to study carnivorous plants and terrestrial orchids.

NOELIA ALVAREZ

Noelia, another staff member from the same Section, from the Temperate Nursery, made a study tour of botanical institutions and commercial nurseries in Chile to learn about their propagation and cultivation techniques of *Embothrium* and *Eucryphia* species.

CHRISTINA HARRISON

A visit to the Sonora Desert Museum, Arizona, to see the exhibit of desert ecology, and then a visit to Hawaii to see the effect of 'alien' species on the native flora was made by Hardy Display Section staff member, Christina who has just been promoted to a post dealing with interpretation.

MATTHIAS KREUTZER

Matthias, who is a member of staff from Kew's satellite garden, Wakehurst Place, which contains a collection of Southern Hemisphere plants, has just returned this week from a study tour to South-West Australia to see native *Proteaceae* plants in their natural habitat.

To consolidate the establishment of a new team in the Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section, a study tour of Scottish gardens and arboreta was made by a group of Kew staff consisting of:

TONY HALL, JON HAMMERTON and ANDY McCLURE

Another member of the group, WILL HARDING, is on Jury Service currently.

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.



TOM ATTWOOD

HELOISE BROOKE

ANDREA BRUNSENDORF

CHRISTINE BUCHMANN

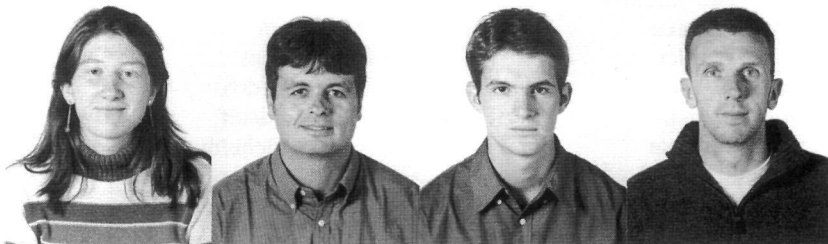


JACKIE CHAMBERS

LUCY COLE

SI HEWITT

KATE JENRICK



RENATA MAZZINI

RICHARD MORTON

CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON

GLYN SHERRATT



TRACY STICKLER

COURSE 40



TOM ATTWOOD

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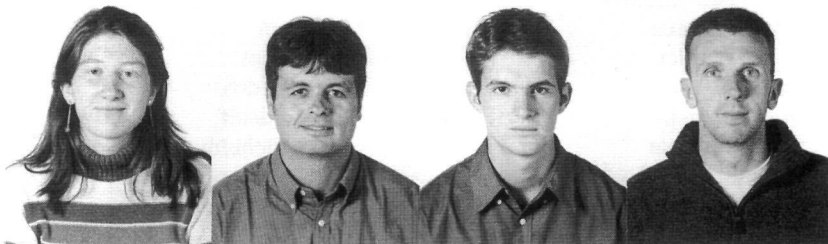


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TRACY STICKLER

COURSE 40

THE KEW GUILD AWARDS SCHEME: REPORT FOR 2002

by Allan Hart

The Awards Scheme sub-committee for this year comprised: Annabel Chantler (Hon. Secretary), Rebecca Bower (Hon. Treasurer), Susyn Andrews, Emma Fox, David Barnes, Mark Bridger and Mark Pitman, with Katie Steele and John Evans representing the students.

The Guild is very fortunate to have such professional and enthusiastic officers, and I would like to thank them for their dedication and good humour during the intense debates to decide the outcome of the various applications.

This year has seen the publication of the revised Award Scheme Application Form, which is now in line with its requirement to conform to other major award organisations. Members are reminded that the closing dates for applications are 28th February and 30th June – each year.

Annabel Chantler has announced her retirement as Secretary after five years in office. Her efforts over this period and particularly her work on the production of the revised application form, are much appreciated.

Fund raising continued with appeals to members, friends and commerce, with the following results:

GUILD MEMBERS:

Peter Bridgeman
Ernest Chantler
Derek Coates
David Coleman
Frank Constable
Anthony Dunball

Jim Eaton
Colin Jones
John Maddox
John Medcalf
Cyril Mitchelmore
Margaret Stant

Members Total: £670

LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY:

Farmura Ltd.
Folia (Europe) Ltd.

Industry Total: £150

Sales of donated books raised a further £75.00.

This year, ten applications were received and discussed at the meeting held on 12th March, 2002. Awards were made as follows:

Kirsty Angwin (Redman Award). U.S.A. – Ecological restoration £700.

Mirco Berenbrinker. M.Sc. in Conservation £900.

John Evans (Redman Award). Malawi – Medicinal plants £500.

Nigel Hepper (Dallimore Award). Production and distribution of off-prints 'The Introduction and Cultivation of *Cedrus libani* into Britain' £250.

Fumiko Ishizuna. U.S.A. – Utilisation of green waste £650.

Emma Lockner. Northern Chile to study *Copiapoa* £600.

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Andrew Luke (Redman/Arnold Awards). Australia – Orchids in cultivation and the wild £730.

Rosa Porta (Dallimore Award). Taiwan – Propagation techniques for endemic species £750.

A further six applications were received at the mid year stage and a meeting held on 25th July 2002 made awards to:

Jessica Beaghan. Bhutan – Providing training at the Royal Botanic Garden, plus studying the flora and its conservation £500.

Frank Emmerich. Aberdeen – M.Sc. in Arboriculture and Forestry £500.

Steven Robinson. Hungary – International Conference on Dormice conservation £500.

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR THE YEAR £6,580

The Committee would like to receive more applications from the membership, for a wide range of interesting projects and activities.

THE KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME

The object of the Award Scheme is to help members of the Kew Guild further their education or widen their interest in horticulture.

ANYONE who is a current member of the Kew Guild for more than one year is eligible to apply to the scheme for an award. The Award Scheme Committee meets in March and July to review applications.

In the year 2002 over £5,000 was awarded to Kew Guild Members. Awards are available to fund activities within the following categories:

- To assist purposeful travel (fares and subsidence)
- To assist members further education
- To assist in the purchase of books and equipment
- To pay tuition or examination fees
- To provide grants to aid publication of specialist books or papers
- To assist pensioner members to attend the Chelsea Flower Show
- To assist pensioner members to attend Kew Guild Events
- To assist other projects which the Awards Scheme finds acceptable

The Chairman of the Kew Guild Awards Committee should receive applications for awards by the 28th February or the 30th June. There are specific rules for the distribution of Awards, including the fact that recipients must submit a short report for publication in the *Kew Guild Journal*.

For further information on how to apply for a Kew Guild Award please write to the Chairman of the Kew Guild Awards Committee, Allan Hart, Orchard House, 61 Christchurch Rd. East Sheen, London, SW14 7AN.

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Please read these important notes before applying for a Kew Guild Award.

The closing dates for application forms are 28th February and the 30th June. Applications are considered by the Kew Guild Award's Committee in March and July each year.

Applications should be no longer than two single sides of A4, clearly hand written or typed in black ink. All supporting papers must be presented as single sided copies on A4.

Please include the following information within your application:

1. **Personal Details:** (To include Surname, First Names, Address for correspondence, Tel. Number, e-mail address.)
2. **Present Occupation:**
3. **Date started at Kew:**
4. **Date joined Kew Guild:** (Applicants should note that applications for Kew Guild Awards will only be considered if applicants are up to date with their subscription payments and have been a member of the Kew Guild for at least a year prior to applying for funds.)
5. **Previous support from the Kew Guild:** (If you have received an award from the Kew Guild in the past please provide details of the project, the amount awarded and the year you received the award.)
6. **Purpose of Application:** (Brief Title.)
7. **Aims and Objectives:** (To clearly indicate perceived benefits to horticulture, botany, R.B.G. Kew, Employer, Host Organisation and to the applicant.)
8. **Summary Plan of Action:** (Details of project method, scientific protocol, itinerary.)
9. **Duration:** (Start and completion dates.)
10. **Names of others directly involved in the proposal:** (Please note that the Kew Guild Award Committee does not normally support applications for the R.B.G. Kew, School of Horticulture Third Year Study Field Trips.)
11. **Names and addresses of Persons consulted about the proposal:** (In the case of R.B.G. Kew, School of Horticulture Second Year Travel Scholarships copies of correspondence must be included.)
12. **Personal Referees:** (Two persons, other than relatives, who have known you for at least a year and are able to provide knowledgeable opinion in support of your proposal.)
13. **Summary of Costs of Proposal:** (To include travel costs, administration, subsistence, and essential equipment.)
14. **Value of Kew Guild Award Sought:**

15. **Other Grants / Financial Contributions:** (Please list other organisations or sponsors to whom application for grants / financial contributions has been made. Please provide information on the amount requested / received and the status of the application.)

Kew Guild Committee Members at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Emma Fox, are available to discuss possible applications.

Applications for Kew Guild Awards should be sent to the Chairman of the Kew Guild Awards Committee, Allan Hart, Orchard House, 61 Christchurch Road, East Sheen, London, SW14 7AN.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO MALAWI

by John Evans

In May 2002 I undertook a four week trip to Malawi thanks to the generosity of various bodies, particularly the Kew Guild. The aim of my trip was to investigate measures being taken to conserve the medicinal plants most used by traditional healers (whose survival is seriously threatened by over collection and destruction of natural habitats) and to assess the environmental awareness education in the Botanic gardens.

The trip began in Zomba (in the south) at the National Herbarium and Botanic Garden at the base of the beautiful Zomba Mountain. I was shown round the garden, particularly the nursery area where they propagate medicinal plants for local healers to grow on, as well as running clinics to teach propagation skills and sustainable collecting techniques, and also a service identifying plant samples which healers bring to them.

I visited a recently developed medicinal conservation garden in Mwanza with the local traditional healers association chairman, where the local healer manages a small area of land containing both wild and cultivated medicinals, providing materials for the local healers. I was also taken to a small medicinal garden in Govala village near Zomba, where medicinal plants were grown amongst the crops.

I travelled from Zomba to Lilongwe in the Central region to visit the Lilongwe Botanic Garden, which is managed to allow natural regeneration of indigenous species and maintains certain plant collections, particularly Aloes, fruit trees and wildflowers. They, too, run workshops for traditional healers and allow collection of certain materials within the gardens.

For the final part of my trip I drove to the North to Mzuzu, to visit Hassam Patel at the Mzuzu Botanic Garden. This is more a managed piece of woodland/scrub than a garden, containing many naturally occurring medicinal plants, where the main problem is stopping local people from collecting medicinal plants. We visited the Masinga evergreen forest, which although not rich in medicinal plants is an important remaining pocket of indigenous forest which is being rapidly depleted in Malawi.

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Hassam also took me to the purpose built Environmental Education Centre and to Nkhata Bay on Lake Malawi which, with its white sand and blue waters, was more reminiscent of a Caribbean beach!

The most memorable part of the trip was a visit to a tiny village in the heart of the country. After a seemingly endless drive across flint roads, mud tracks and fields, we arrived at Embangweni, where four generations of healers from the same family were keen to show us their contribution to plant conservation. The whole village walked with us, to look at the nursery area they were constructing, the field where medicinal plants were being grown and the small patch of untouched indigenous woodland. The women sang the whole time (because they were happy to have visitors) and cooked a meal for us of Nsima (the staple maize dish), eggs and deliciously crunchy fried ants. I was given a live chicken, which accompanied us in the back of the car on the three-hour drive back to Mzuzu!

I had a fantastic time in Malawi and learnt a lot, not only about medicinal plants, but also about a whole new culture and country I had never experienced before. I am very grateful to the Guild for providing me with the opportunity to undertake such an unforgettable trip.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CEDAR OF LEBANON INTO BRITAIN

by F. Nigel Hepper

In 1996 I went to Lebanon to see the famous cedars, *Cedrus libani* (A. Richard), in their reserves high up on Mount Lebanon. Unfortunately, civil war in Lebanon had prevented me from traveling there for many years, so it was a thrilling experience as this was the species used for ships and thrones in Ancient Egypt and Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. Later on, having given a lecture on **cedar** past and present to the Palestine Exploration Fund (P.E.F.), I was invited speak to the Association for the Study of Travel in Egypt and the Near East (A.S.T.E.N.E.). This was to cover the published accounts of travelers over the centuries, but it developed into a major study on the introduction and cultivation of **cedar of Lebanon** into Western Europe. Seeds were often collected by the travelers to Lebanon and grown in parks and gardens where they have survived for several centuries. I wanted to find out when these were planted and by whom; what was their provenance? And were they grown from wild or cultivated seeds?

First, I needed to consult the published records of **cedars**, such as *Loudon's Arboretum & Fruticetum* (1844); Elwes and Henry's *The Trees of Great Britain and Ireland* (1908) and Alan Mitchell's *National Tree Register* and his other recent works. This lead on to a wealth of other literature, which in turn resulted in considerable correspondence with landowners, followed by a fascinating series of visits to see and photograph the trees.

The earliest extant **cedar** in England seems to be Rev. Edward Pocock's tree at Childrey, Oxfordshire (c.1642). One of the four trees planted at Chelsea Physic Garden in 1683, was the first in Britain to yield seeds, in 1732. Richard Pococke

Hassam also took me to the purpose built Environmental Education Centre and to Nkhata Bay on Lake Malawi which, with its white sand and blue waters, was more reminiscent of a Caribbean beach!

The most memorable part of the trip was a visit to a tiny village in the heart of the country. After a seemingly endless drive across flint roads, mud tracks and fields, we arrived at Embangweni, where four generations of healers from the same family were keen to show us their contribution to plant conservation. The whole village walked with us, to look at the nursery area they were constructing, the field where medicinal plants were being grown and the small patch of untouched indigenous woodland. The women sang the whole time (because they were happy to have visitors) and cooked a meal for us of Nsima (the staple maize dish), eggs and deliciously crunchy fried ants. I was given a live chicken, which accompanied us in the back of the car on the three-hour drive back to Mzuzu!

I had a fantastic time in Malawi and learnt a lot, not only about medicinal plants, but also about a whole new culture and country I had never experienced before. I am very grateful to the Guild for providing me with the opportunity to undertake such an unforgettable trip.

THE INTRODUCTION OF CEDAR OF LEBANON INTO BRITAIN

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An old cedar of Lebanon at Highclere Castle, Lord Carnarvon's home. the 17th and 18th century trees grown from wild-collected seeds have been lost to storms. (Photo courtesy Nigel Hepper, 2000)

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All this I have now published in the *Arboricultural Journal* vol.2, pp.197-219 (2001). Although my travel and correspondence for this study was at my own expense, I am grateful to the Kew Guild Award Scheme which enabled me to purchase and distribute reprints as a thank-you to those who helped me.

HUNGARIAN DORMICE 2002

by Steven Robinson (Wakehurst Place)

I was asked by one of the locals in the pub, "What are you doing in Hungary?" I replied, "I am attending the 'International Conference on Dormice'." His reaction was laughter followed by, "Come on what are you really doing?" This was a common reaction in response to my reason on going to Hungary. If, however, instead of dormice I had said elephant or tiger I know their response would be different. Little do they know that the conservation of the Common Dormice is promoting better



An old cedar of Lebanon at Highclere Castle, Lord Carnarvon's home. the 17th and 18th century trees grown from wild-collected seeds have been lost to storms. (Photo courtesy Nigel Hepper, 2000)

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management and understanding of our woodlands. The continued conservation of this mammal does not only benefit the dormouse but increases diversity within the woodland environment. However, the ignorance of people is something which they have no blame for. It has taken me many years to understand woodland management and the many benefits to both flora and fauna. As the Common Dormouse is so small and illusive it is hard to gain it high profile attention among the public. Perhaps it is left to people involved in nature conservation to educate people to give the status of our dormouse the same profile of the tiger – if it dropped from trees and attacked humans it may be easier. This can be an excuse to return to the pub and try to convince people of the importance of the conservation of the Common Dormouse.

Mustcardinus avellanarius (common dormouse) is not only found in the U.K. but also throughout Europe. The animal may only differ in colour the more east it is found. In Britain it has disappeared in about half its range in the last 120 years, probably due to loss and fragmentation of its ancient woodland habitat and to the cessation of traditional woodland management. It is now mainly confined to the southern half of Britain. This is why there is a national monitoring programme set up to monitor remaining populations and detect further declines of which Wakehurst Place is part of. *Glis glis* (edible dormouse) which had an interesting presentation given by a Ph.D. student is our non-native introduction. Released in 1902 this species has only spread 32km from the point of release. This could be due to the strong relationship between breeding and the fruiting of **beech**.

So the conference, this was the fifth conference to be held dedicated to the many species of dormice found through out the world. Dormice can be found as far East as Japan and as south as South Africa but these are a different species. In the U.K. we have one native species, *Mustcardinus avellanarius* and an introduced species *Glis glis*.

The conference was held at the Szent Istvan University in Godollo which is 30km east of Budapest. The university has some 30,000 students studying 40 subjects, ten of which are to Ph.D. level. The campus is spread over 50 miles and makes this the biggest university in Hungary and an important site for education in Eastern Europe. There were 60 delegates from 12 countries as far as Japan with the U.K. being the best represented.

The presentations given were from biologists who have studied certain aspects of dormice ecology of different species and presented their findings. Of interest to me was data on *Mustcardinus* and *Glis*. Presentations on species not linked to the U.K. were still of interest, as a lot of the data analysis techniques can be applied to any species. As I am currently studying field biology part time, it was good to see and understand survey results. Speaking at the conference were Paul Bright and Pat Morris, who are two people who have been leading the way in dormouse conservation. A chance to meet and hear their talks was of great value.

As well as presentations at the university there were field excursions to forests occupied by both *Mustcardinus* and *Glis*. Here in the Britain we associate

dormice with coppiced woodland. It was interesting to see *Mustcardinus* inhabiting neglected orchards on the edge of coniferous woodland to the dominated forests of oaks in the north east of Hungary.

The post conference excursion was at Aggtelek National Park which is a karst region of eastern Hungary. As part of our entertainment we were taken down 140m into the cave systems of the national park, these caves represent the park as a World Heritage Site and no, there were no dormice down there.

Not only did I gain useful information about dormice which I can apply to my work, but also it was one of those life experiences. I have been fortunate to travel to many places far and near but the 'International Conference on Dormouse' will be remembered as a trip, which could never be repeated.

I look forward to the Kew Guild funding me in 2005 for the next conference?

A HORTICULTURAL ODYSSEY

by Mike Lycett

It has been said many times that one should not look back. Perhaps on this occasion, I might break the rules and perhaps reflect on a horticultural career.

My father worked for the Ministry of Agriculture as a Provincial Land Commissioner. One of my relatives worked as Head Gardener for Lord and Lady Harrowby. The year I left school, my father was promoted and transferred from Cambridge to Nottingham – otherwise I might have found myself at the Cambridge Botanic Garden. The only options (or so it seemed at the time) were the Land Settlements Association, where people were encouraged to grow more by means of government grants, or the Parks Department at nearby Nottingham. I took neither. Instead I ended up at Wicks Nurseries at nearby Lambley. It was one of the biggest nurseries in the area and close to Nottingham. There were differences of opinion constantly between father and son on how the nursery should be run, but the motto 'we grow all we sell' always held good. The nursery is now a garden centre and thriving.

At the time, there was a strong market for **African violets**. The first job I had was planting **freesias** in old mushroom compost in fish baskets. There were no plastic seed trays: the war had only been over nine years. However, Keuper Marl produced acres of **roses** and **chrysanthemums** and the arrival of 100,000 **azaleas** for potting on and resale kept everyone busy. Vast areas of glass produced **tomatoes** by the acre, bedding plants and the usual **primulas** and **cyclamen**. All were produced with a minimum of mechanisation. Equipment consisted of three hand trolleys, one horse and cart, one lorry with a canvas top (reminiscent of a Kanestoga wagon of the early U.S. settlers), one electrically operated shredder for soil and an open five-ton Bedford truck. This latter was used for collecting breeze from the nearby gasworks at Basford for fuel and heat for the stoke holes. A typical run would involve a loaded covered lorry going to the Victoria Central Market, Nottingham, unloaded, reloaded with fish boxes from the fish market next door (these were known as peg

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boxes). On return, the driver would switch to the lorry to collect breeze from the gasworks. When I reflect, Calvin's Pathway had not been established, plastics were unheard of in the horticultural industry, and basic horticultural equipment was very much Heath Robinson. Brands and Barks had not discovered the axial hole in the anisometric type virus, and Crick and Watson had not discovered the double helix.

After 15 months, the axe fell and a number of us were made redundant. After a period as an Improver, I secured a bound apprenticeship. This was my first introduction to Dick Stanion, an ex-Kewite who had worked with and knew the late Stanley Rawlings. I owe it to Dick for the encouragement he gave.

After serving at the Arboretum, University Park, the Victoria Embankment and Woodthorpe Grange, I completed my apprenticeship. It was during my spell at the latter park (which was the headquarters of the Nottingham Parks Department) that a Durham-educated public schoolboy appeared by the name of John Brookes. We worked together for a short time. Also there in the propagation unit was the late Dave Welsh, who became the Head of the London Parks. John Brookes, in the meantime, was working with the late Sylvia Crow on landscaping of new towns, of which Telford, Basildon and Harlow were but three.

During my time at Nottingham, I was becoming more inclined towards environmental and biological science and their teaching. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was certainly a factor. Did I really wish to spend the rest of my career in what at the time appeared the confines of the Parks Department? I always felt the restrictions of a Parks Department were stifling. I may have been wrong in my analysis. Parks were in their heyday and contracting out was not an option at this time.

The move to Kew gave me pause for thought. The late Stanley Rawlings and George Preston appeared as fixed bastions of a past empire who seemed to find it strange that anyone at Kew should not be keen on anything other than Parks Department work.

Kew in the late fifties and early sixties was on the threshold of major developments. We were in the throes of the old regime. Kew relic Gardens might have been more appropriate. There was something of an apartheid between the Gardens (horticulture side) and the Herbarium. The infrastructure was falling to bits: the Iron Room (lectures) was falling apart; the Shaft Yard with its two ostlers, breeze fire boilers; the Arboretum Yard with prisoners from Wandsworth turning compost. The old Jodrell laboratory, built in 1884 was still in use 76 years later. The two cranes used in the Rock Garden consisted of a 7cwt light crane and a two ton Fordson Major – a cantankerous brute. While working in the Rock Garden, Tony Hitchcock lowered the lift gear on the small crane and the offending rock fell, hitting another rock and smashing it into a hundred pieces. Mr. Preston, toddling along, saw what had happened. Tony Hitchcock turned round, 'Sorry Mr. Preston.' That section of the Rock Garden by the students' quarters is still there to this day.

The massive rebuilding programme over the years has restored Kew's place at the forefront of modern research. The plus signs were the visit of the Queen to

celebrate the bicentennial of the Gardens and the arrival and erection of the new flagpole from British Columbia. Bob Adams and I were in the Running Team for the Kew-Wisley Relay Race. We practised in Bushey Park during the evenings and often after dark. I well remember running along the A3 for my leg – a feat not to be repeated in traffic conditions of the present day. We were met by Frank Knight, an ex-Kewite and late Director of Wisley, at Wisley. Sadly, we did not win.

Departure from Kew saw me arrive on the R.S.P. course at the Worcester College of Education at Worcester. We duly arrived at the Day Room of Henwick House to be welcomed by a five foot six inch dapper little man (sadly now deceased) by the name of Dr. Westgate. He could easily have been passed off as 'The Laughing Policeman' or in African terms 'Tokolosh' – the dwarf. The late Dr. Westgate was an educational psychologist. The two other chief organisers were Mr. Saunders and Mr. Ryding. The late John Ryding was the best man I have ever met for teaching method. He had been Head of Department at a school in Kent. Unfortunately, he had ill-fitting teeth, which pupils picked on straight away . . . especially when they fell out!

Completion of the course at Worcester was somewhat compressed. The year consisted of two teaching practices, a project and numerous essays. Teaching practices at Bewdley and Brighthelm took a term out of our one year course.

Graduation and job hunting saw me arrive in Wiltshire. I duly arrived at Kingsdown Secondary Modern School near Swindon to be welcomed by the Head and Head of Rural Studies. This latter was an ex-Kewite by the name of Sid Chantry. Stan Rawlins knew him. Sid, sadly now deceased, had suffered a nervous breakdown and was far from well. The place on arrival was a shambles. Builders were in, work was almost four months behind schedule, cupboards, shelves etc. were absent. Sid and I were resigned to demonstrations. The two County organisers, the late Miss McCredy Forseter and Esther Frenke were very sympathetic – there was something of the Hinge and Bracket about them. However, our entries to the Bath and West Show were successful and in-service training at Urchfont Manor improved my techniques.

The Head entered my laboratory one morning with the retort, "So we need our spears do we?" Unbeknown to me, he had posted references on me to North Rhodesia (it had gotten its independence then), Canada and Turkey. Within a matter of weeks, I received replies. I was offered two posts, Canada and North Rhodesia. I took the latter. To write about my time of five years on the Angola border would take a book in itself. I found myself at Balovale with an American Head, a Fulbright scholar, in the middle of the desert at that point where the Zambezi re-enters Zambia from Angola. It was an immense challenge. The roads were non-existent and I used the cycle regularly. We were 700 miles from the copper belt. The school was a trade school started by the missionaries and we had to develop a local school along side. Our Rural Studies plots thrived, except where the baboons destroyed everything. During the rains, it was possible to canoe to Morrigin through Barotseland.

I accepted that my time was limited and my thoughts were turned toward my own department. After returning to the U.K. around the world, it was a foul winter's day which saw me accept an offer of a post at Westcliffe in Essex. Little did I think I would be nearly 26 years at that post.

It was a case of BAH HUMBUG! – The National Curriculum out with the old in with the new – staff – warts and all. The old school merged and the old order gone. My odyssey has taken me from a nursery to parks to adult education. I have travelled through environmental work to biology to human biology to evening classes and the National Curriculum. I have met some wonderful people. I think the most significant and interesting was Mr. Simpson, ex-Head of St. Georges School, Jerusalem. The last place where Jew and Arab will ever be under the same roof together. My odyssey has been a challenge from which I derive some satisfaction.

UPDATES FROM THE HIMALAYAS

by Udai C. Pradhan

Dear Friends – Old and New,

Much has happened since my last mail to you 1999/2000. My promise to Tej to take her to England to see Kew in 1999 – 25th year of our wedding, had to be shelved owing to compelling reasons at home. Most of all we felt that failing to receive any sponsorship to do her Masters at the Royal College of Art (R.C.A.), London, Hemlata might need all the resources we could muster for her art school in the Himalayas. This was not to be. Her trip to England for the R.H.S. Show in London changed the course of events as she was able to convince the authorities at the R.C.A. and finally got a recommendation letter for the scholarship to do her Masters in Natural History Illustration and Ecological Studies (Department of Communications, Art and Design) and also won the R.H.S. Silver Gilt for her exhibit of paintings of Indian Wild Orchids. The year she joined the College she won the R.H.S. Gold for her exhibit of Himalayan Jewel Orchids, which must be the first for an Indian. These paintings, now housed at Kew, also became a subject for a series of six postage stamps issued by the Royal Government of Bhutan to commemorate the Year of the Mountain 2002 and also to celebrate the First Event – The Third Meeting of the Indian Sub-continent Regional Orchid Specialist Group (O.S.G./I.U.C.N.-S.S.C. at Thimphu, Bhutan. The commemorative stamps were released on the occasion by Her Majesty the First Queen of Bhutan, Ashi Wangmo Wangchuk. I was told by the I.U.C.N. Plant Office this was the second time the S.S.C. was on stamps, and the first time for the O.S.G. I made up in a small manner for my Silver Wedding promise to Tej by naming a *Cymbidium* orchid hybrid – *Cymbidium* 'Tej and Udai' – which has since been registered with the R.H.S.

Finally 2002: our trip to England became partly possible because Past President of the Kew Guild, Richard and his wife, Wienna Ward solved the problem of lodging by inviting us to stay with them during our visit. What more could we possibly have

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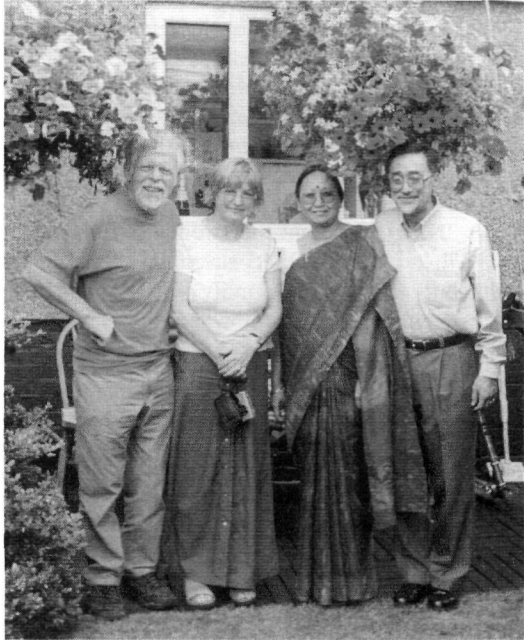
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asked for, since we would be at a five-minute walking distance from Kew! Hemlata was also graduating from the R.C.A. and we had an invitation to attend the ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall. At last my dreams of taking Tej to Kew was moving in the right direction and we boarded the British Airways direct flight to Heathrow on 28 June 2002 arriving in England in the wee hours of the morning on 29th with Hemlata and her friend Chris helping us to get to the Wards. The 29th was spent overcoming the jetlag and catching up with Richard and Wiena since their last visit to Kalimpong. Richard promised to take us to Kew the next morning, a Sunday, with free passes.

Sunday was a lovely sunny morning and as we arrived at the Main Gate at Kew, we had the good fortune of meeting Professor Simon Owens, whom I had already met in letters when Hemlata was to be admitted as a student of Botanical Illustration. Richard left us very courteously after admitting us to the Garden. Thirty years ago I had come as a Voluntary Student for a year to learn the techniques of artificially propagating **orchids** in the laboratory and also to work at the herbarium to complete my manuscript on the a preliminary reckoning of Indian **Orchidaceae** published as a two volume work in 1975 and 1979. We decided to savour



Richard and Wiena Ward (left) and Tej and Udai Pradhan.

the day just going around the Gardens and doing absolutely nothing but admiring the superb landscape, the fascinating greenhouses enclosing myriad of plants from around the world. We made our way up the Orangery under renovation where I explained to Tej about the orchid exhibit 'Growing Orchids from Seeds' which we had helped Dr. Peter Thompson to stage as students. The steaming Palm House held her fascinated as we climbed up to see the top of a **Plectocomia** species, a feat we are unable to achieve at home. Temperate House, Princess of Wales Conservatory, the Japanese Garden and the Pagoda Walk, the **water lilies**, the Rock Garden beside the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Collection of **grasses** all held her spellbound. We were both totally delighted to find the gigantic **Amorphophallus titanum** in bloom at the Conservatory, the fascinating **Paphiopedilum** species in natural setting, my favourite gems **Ludisia discolor** and

Macodes petola in the wardian cases. Tej was totally charmed by the carpets of *Begonia semperflorens* and *salvias* in bloom at the end of the Conservatory.

Tej is the gardener at home. Her love for plants and the natural flair for arranging plants and flowers during local exhibitions has won her deep respect from the professionals and amateurs here in the Himalayas and at the O.S.G. Meetings and the Orchid Society of India Exhibitions and Seminars. When I asked her what impressed her most she mentioned the manner in which children were brought out to visit Kew – she thought we needed to do that more often with our children in India too.

Phil's (Dr. Phillip Cribb) Secretary, Lucy (Mrs. Lucy Borez) was co-ordinating our visit to Kew as Phil was on holiday. We decided to visit at least some **orchid** nurseries and selected McBeans and Burnham Nurseries with whom we had contacts during the 60's and 70's. The English countryside fascinated Tej as we crossed familiar *Cymbidium* hybrid names like Haywards Heath, Plumpton, etc. on way to McBeans. There Liz's (Mrs. Liz Johnson) Foreman, Jim Durrant, met us and took us around and we exchanged flasks of *Cymbidium* hybrids we had carried with theirs. Though we had the strongest desire to meet Brian (Mr. Brian Ritterhausen and Wilma (Wilma Ritterhausen), we were unable to do so for the distance and the cost, but Brian very kindly mailed us free passes for the Hampton Court International Flower Show where we met his daughter.

On 2 July we met Phil at the Orchid Herbarium and presented him with a few flasks of **orchids** we had carried for Kew among which were *Cymbidium* 'Herbert Graham Brown Indian Pearl', the first orchid hybrid honouring a Rotary International President and *Cymbidium* 'Tej and Udai Silver Anniversary'. We received autographed copies of Second Editions of his books on *Pleione* and *Paphiopedilum*. He also introduced us to Dave (Dr. Dave Roberts) and we met Jeff Wood, my 1972 acquaintance at the Herbarium. We decided to meet again after Hemlata's Convocation and return from a week's tour of Holland.

Hemlata's Convocation on 5 July at the Royal Albert Hall was an event we will remember and cherish all our lives. Tej and I felt overwhelmed and honored as some of Hemlata's friends seated us in the Hall. Across us were the graduating students from all parts of the world and we felt deeply moved that among them was Hemlata, from a village in the Himalayas receiving her Masters Degree from Lord Snowdon. She had come a long way overcoming many hurdles in pursuit of excellence. Later on we met her Rector, Sir Christopher Frayling, her mentor Professor John Norris Wood, Professpr Dan Fern and others and enjoyed the exhibition of diverse products by the graduating students of the Royal College of Art.

In Holland we visited the Floriade (complimentary tickets provided by Mr. J. W. Dix of Hoog and Dix), the **orchid** nursery of Michel Paul who earlier used to frequent Kalimpong with **orchid** groups; Anhtuirum Vogels and the University Botanical Gardens at Leiden, which though small, had a superbly managed collection of **orchids**, **carnivorous** plants and **aroids**. Pascal Bruggeman, an *Arisaema*

enthusiast, who had stayed with us last year guided us around the **Aroid** Collection of Walter Hetterschied along with Art Vogel. Art had the whole world in the not so big greenhouse and we wondered at the excellent culture of **orchids**. Pascal also took us to the Rijksherbarium where we went through specimens of the **orchid** genus, *Papilionanthe*. Before we left Holland we paid a visit to the Van Gogh Museum and spent half a day admiring the works of Van Gogh and other masters.

We visited the Hampton Court International Flower Show on the last day. What a long queue we had to pass through, but when we finally got to the Show it was a true feast for the eyes. That plants could merge together in one day, a few hundred thousand diverse people from around the world – braving endless queues conveyed the role plants can play in bringing about peace and goodwill amongst mankind. Tej spent a good deal of her pocket money buying seeds of **begonias**, **marigolds**, **geraniums**, books for our grandchild, nephews and nieces and souvenirs to bring back home for her friends. The **marigold** was a blaze of colour until last month and now the **geraniums** are taking over. They bring back to us a memory of the unforgettable show we attended. What we liked most about the show was the personal interaction with the exhibitors.

After returning back from Holland, Phil took us to visit the Pembertons. Mr. Leo Pemberton had been my Supervisor of Studies in 1972 and the meeting was nostalgic. We were treated to English pastries and excellent tea amidst his lovely backyard garden. Later Phil took us home and we met his charming wife, Marianne who seemed to be equally interested in plants. Over wine and Chinese cuisine that evening, we met Nick Pearce and Jenny (both practising doctors) with whom I have been corresponding regarding the **orchids** of Bhutan. Nick is also a Member of the Indian Subcontinent Regional Orchid Specialist Group.

Richard (Richard Ward) arranged for a brief meeting with Professor Peter Crane and we were able to present him with a set of Bhutan Orchid Stamps from Hemlata's paintings and also a set of our books on **Himalayan Orchids**, **Sikkim Himalayan Rhododendrons** and **Himalayan Arisaemas**. We met Ian Leese, Supervisor of Studies at the School of Horticulture, and he immediately took us to see the mug shots of students of 1972 – I recognised most of them but mine was found missing. I promised Ian to look for a 1972 shot and mail it to him! We also briefly met a Kew student, Harriet Parsons who had stayed with us for about six weeks the year before.

Among other highlights of the visit were:

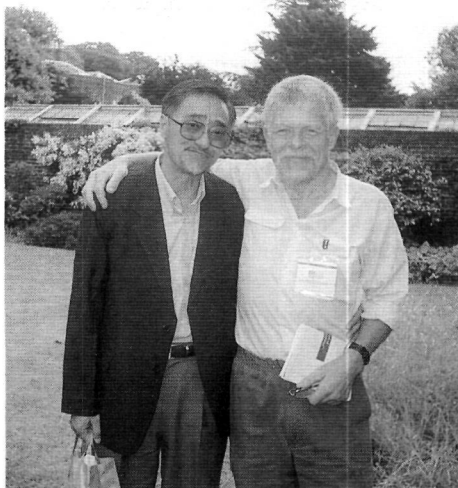
The visit to The Palm Centre, Richmond and the flower bulb nursery of Jacques Amand International.

The visit to Jodrell Laboratory where we met one of our senior lecturers, Dr. David Cutler. He introduced us to Dr. Michael Fay who took us around and later we met Dr. Grace Pendergast, Dr. Brian Spooner and Professor Paul Bridge to discuss the germination of seeds of **saprophytic orchids** and studies on **mycotropic fungi** associated with them.

Two meetings of the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens as guest of Richard and Wiena Ward. The members of Rotary Club of Kew Gardens were thrilled to learn that an **orchid** hybrid raised in the Himalayas was the first to be named after a Rotary International President, and a flask had been presented to Kew Gardens.

A meeting of the O.S.G. organised by the Executive Secretary, Shelagh Kell and attended by Dr. Phil Cribb, Dr. Dave Roberts, Mr. Phillip Seaton, Dr. Kingsley Dixon, where we discussed the formation of Orchid Conservation International – a charity to raise funds for the O.S.G. to carry out its programmes of Orchid Conservation around the world.

Two days at the Orchid Herbarium studying specimens of *Paphilionanthe*. Tej helped me with the notes and references I wanted to carry back home and Hemlata made sketches of some herbarium specimens. Dave (Dr. Dave Roberts) was down to earth, kindly and helped us in every manner.



Udai Prahan (left) and Richard Ward at Kew.

On the last day in England, Richard drove us through Richmond Hill and close to Box Hill to meet David Sharp at Rayment Printers at Dorking to discuss the reproductions of Hemlata's works. I told Tej and Richard of my local guardians, late Maurice and Joan Street who lived at 29 Aldridge Rise, New Malden and who spent their weekends bringing me to Box Hill and taking me around the lovely gardens in England with a packed lunch. Though they were no more, their daughter Jenny, who married a Maori and lives in New Zealand, has sent her Christmas greetings through the net after losing touch for many years.

The year 2002 has been another landmark year for us. While we did miss meeting some friends and owing to costs failed to make a circuit of the British Isles with Tej as in the 1973 summer, we are grateful we could spend some time in the midst of some of them. In particular we missed visiting Brian and Wilma Ritterhausen. Our connection with Kew, four generations old, now appears to take on a new meaning with Hemlata's Institute of Natural History Art (which will have botanical illustration as a prime subject) soon to come up. Her write-up in the *Orchid Review* about plans to have a School devoted to Natural history Art caught the attention of Lady Lisa Sainsbury, who invited her through Phil (Dr. Phillip Cribb) and asked her to present her idea of the school and the funds necessary to build it. The funds have arrived since and in January 2003 the Trust Deed for the Himalayan Trust for

Natural History Art was presented for registration. Meanwhile, an architect has already completed the preliminary drawings for the Institute. This will come up in the months ahead in a picturesque Relli River Valley in the Darjeeling Himalayas. Tej and I decided to donate two acres of land from our family holding for the Institute with a provision for expansion later to four acres. It is our hope and dream that this Institute will host natural history art students from the Indian Region and many other countries including students from Kew, the Royal College of Art, London, and others and help Hemlata in her crusade for conservation of nature through Art.

Side by side with her Project, Hemlata is also preparing for an exhibition of her **orchid** paintings at the Sainsbury Centre in London on invitation from Lady Sainsbury and hopefully, at Kew towards the end of 2003/early 2004. Lots to look forward to and we hope many of you will visit the Institute when it is ready and help Hemlata in nurturing it to become an example in excellence in teaching and providing leadership in the field of Natural History Art and conservation of our natural heritage.

Warmest regards and many thanks to all of you who interacted with us to make this trip to Kew and England so memorable and meaningful. May the New Year bring you and all of mankind peace, goodwill and togetherness towards building a planet our children and their descendents will be proud to inherit.

CRANE

by Graham Burgess

Writing Kew Obituaries is a form of time travel and one of the most heartening things is that many of the fine characteristics we find amongst our living friends was present in the past.

Our current Director is in so many ways, unique. His open management style means that whenever he is seen in the gardens he is recognised, a distinctive Peter Crane, no doubt. He is not, however, the first crane, he is the fourth.

In our records of 1936 the following can be found:

“A New Stanley Crane, ‘Joey III’, came to Kew on November 19th 1936. He is a finer and larger bird than his predecessor, ‘Joey II’”.

For those interested here is a picture on the right of one of the Stanley Cranes raised at Marwell Zoo last October.



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HORTICULTURE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION AT KEW IN 2002

by David Hardman

It was a year to remember, not least when we saw the Clog and Apron Race record, held by our President, Patrick Nutt since 1951, smashed by a massive four seconds. Congratulations must go to Kate Jenrick for such an outstanding achievement. In the Gardens' year festival themes of Orchids, Colour Sensations, Autumn Cornucopia and Making Spirits Bright harmonised the four seasons. Positive progress towards our World Heritage Site nomination and unusual events ensured Kew was regularly featured in the media. The installation of the massive Dali sculpture 'The Profile of Time' last December in the Rose Garden created great interest: it weighs a sturdy 2,500 kilos and stands 5.65 metres high.

Kew's nomination for World Heritage Site status for the U.K. was a major announcement made by Arts Minister Baroness Blackstone in January. As part of the process, site management and conservation plans had to be prepared, these plans together provide a framework for conserving Kew's important architectural and landscape heritage whilst managing and developing the site to improve visitor and scientific facilities, this included making the historical link to the River Thames. During the public consultation phase the Consultation Draft Plan was available on our website <http://www.kew.org/aboutus/worldheritage> and at other locations for visitors to view.

Spring

The well established Orchid Festival, 'Beauty in Danger: Orchids at the Edge' set the new year off and the centrepiece in the Princess of Wales Conservatory was a new 'fallen tree' constructed of glass reinforced concrete over a stainless steel armature. Installation of the two tonne structure was a team effort made possible from funding through the Friends annual Plant Auction and after the festival it has remained as a permanent structure on which to grow epiphytic plants.

The tallest tree thought to have been planted at Kew for over 50 years was completed in February. A 30ft *Ginkgo biloba* weighing over 2.5 tons, that had been sourced from a Hamburg nursery, needed a 60-ton crane to lift it into position in an enclosed courtyard within White Peaks.

Over the Easter weekend, Kew became a chocoholics dream with over 3,000 Terry's chocolate eggs for the Easter egg hunt. Costumed animal characters (no prizes for guessing who) were out in the gardens to give out coloured eggs to be collected by children who could trade them in for a real Easter egg.

Kew's largest ever **Titan arum** (*Amorphophallus titanum*) flower unfurled on May 1st from a bud that emerged in early April. The massive bloom swelled dramatically and reached a height of three metres. Notorious for its foetid smell, it is said to resemble rotting flesh. It comes from the rainforests of Sumatra and progress of this flower could be seen on Kew's website.

Channel 4's *Time Team* arrived over 21st-23rd May to make its excavations on the site of the White House and near Queen Charlotte's Cottage, the programme and the results of their excavations was seen in March 2003.

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Summer

The Queen's Golden Jubilee year celebrations provided colour in many areas of the gardens, a spectacular one kilometre long Sunflower Golden Vista towards the Pagoda provided interest and colour throughout summer culminating in birds feasting on the large seed heads during September. The formal bedding in front of the Palm House peaked in August as gold and yellow flowers dominated the display. The Colour Spectrum on the large lawn area in front of Kew Palace was a display of plants arranged in a relaxed style as they merged to reflect the colour wheel. **Water lilies** were a great attraction as we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Waterlily House, which was originally built in 1852 to house the mighty *Victoria amazonica*.

For the first time advertising on buses was used to promote festivals. Routes 11 and 13 were targeted to promote Orchids at the Edge. The successful scheme continued through summer and 50 Routemaster buses emblazoned with a large sunflower advertising the Colour Sensations Festival from 1st June to 30th September could be observed in Central London. Elsewhere huge roadside posters of **sunflowers** were on display and travellers on the Underground and South West Trains could see the Pagoda featured.

The Diospora Music Village arrived at Kew on 29th and 30th June. This open-air festival is an eclectic group of musicians from all over the world. They depicted their musical cultures, which celebrated the interplay of music, ideas, customs, and beliefs and explored how they contribute to the richness and diversity of today's culture.

With over 8,000 crop circles appearing worldwide each year the 'Kew Circle' was at the centre of much speculation. It appeared in the wheat field at the river end of Syon Vista before harvesting took place by scythe on Sunday 6th October. Earlier in the year this area provided a wonderful wildflower carpet evoking memories of meadows full of **cornflowers**, **field marigolds** and exhilarating **poppies**.

Autumn

In October the Orangery opened after 18 months of extensive restoration work being carried out to provide a new high quality restaurant and a facility for corporate events, externally it has a new raised seating terrace of York and Portland stone.

During the Autumn Cornucopia event the North end of the Princess of Wales Conservatory was transformed into an autumnal rural scene with a harvest of fruits and vegetables. The Waterlily House complemented this with a display of over 3,000 **pumpkins** and **gourds** to delight the 'cucurbit' fans whilst through the gardens several scarecrows were on parade.

The Kew Apple days held in the Princess of Wales Conservatory in October had over 300 cultivars on show and experts on hand to advise about identification, cultivation and storage. Tom Hoblyn who organised this event was also a volunteer on the 'The Ship' a BBC 2 series tracing Captain Cook's famous eighteenth century

voyage on the Endeavour. Tom followed in the footsteps of Joseph Banks finding specimens of plants in locations mentioned by Banks whilst Lucy Smith from the Herbarium sketched them, retracing the efforts of Sydney Parkinson who was one of the best botanical artists of his generation. They both had to undertake the gruelling work on board taking turns to trim sails, haul the anchor, climb the rigging and attend to look out duties on the voyage.

Winter

A fantastic 750,000 *Crocus* corms were planted along Victoria Walk as restoration of the Crocus Carpet continued: it was first planted in 1987 and generously supported by *Readers Digest*.

As autumn gave way to winter the excitement of the festive season filled the air. In the Princess of Wales Conservatory a traditional horse drawn seed planter and derelict farm cart lay covered with a thin layer of snow creating an atmospheric rural scene. Outside the gardens were resplendent with twinkling lights and Christmas decorations, trees along the Broadwalk were lit from below creating dramatic silhouettes against the winter sky and at weekends choirs sang and handbells rang out whilst Father Christmas waved as he drove around the Gardens. A Victorian carousel and mini train roundabout provided additional family entertainment whilst a steam traction engine arrived later on the scene. To enable visitors to enjoy the nightscape the Princess of Wales Conservatory remained open until 8:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays.

First Flowerings of Rare Plants

Two of the most critically endangered Indian Ocean island species held at Kew in the Temperate Nursery have flowered for the first time since their arrival at Kew. *Medusagyne oppositifolia* arrived as seed in 1981 from the island of Mahé in the Seychelles. It is represented by less than 40 known individuals in the wild. Donated in 1989 from Réunion island, *Ruia cordata* is a monotypic species of *Sterculiaceae*. It is a very attractive tree with strikingly heterophyllous leaves and rose-magenta flowers.

Fauna in the Gardens

Beyond the ornamental areas of the Gardens in the Queen Charlotte Cottage grounds a large pile of selected fallen timber logs has been constructed to create a habitat for Stag beetles, other fauna and a range of fungi. This display is to show visitors how they might create a similar habitat to encourage and help insects at home as an alternative to chipping or burning in their gardens.

Inside, Valentine's Day saw the arrival of several different species of day geckos and chameleons via H.M. Customs and Excise following a C.I.T.E.S. seizure. These geckos are active during the day, brightly coloured and very territorial and were released into the tropical zones in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, they also provide another type of bio-control.

Web on Line

For the first time the Living Collection database was made accessible through the web. It is part of Kew's electronic Plant Information Centre (ePIC) that allows simultaneous searches of the International Plant Names Index (I.P.N.I.), Kew Record of Taxonomic Literature and Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (S.E.P.A.S.A.L.). This will be an important base for anyone searching for plant information and provides easy links to other on-line databases to expand the search.

Restructuring Initiatives

H.P.E. restructuring Phase 2 saw the appointment of Team leaders in most sections. This offers greater opportunities for staff to obtain some junior management experience with the objective of improving communication in Units. Towards the year end Section Heads with the Curator selected a consultant to assist them in meeting the challenges outlined in the Quinquennial Review Survey and Recommendations.

Ten new Band A rotational trainees received their induction training in April and a second recruitment was completed in September. They work in the gardens receiving on-the-job training and attend regular practical sessions from experienced staff. Trainees maintain a work diary to record their personal progress as they change to a different section each year to gain valuable experience. This initiative is part of H.P.E. restructuring and was designed to attract enthusiastic people who want to follow a career in horticulture. They receive structured training in the process and this will hopefully give them better opportunities to progress to more senior positions in the Gardens and provide Kew with a better-trained workforce.

A new initiative to showcase the talents of four Diploma students was achieved when their designs were constructed near Brentford Gate as 'Idea Gardens.' Nicky Sharp's 'Blues and Rock Hues', Mima Taylor's 'For the Chemist', Katie Steel's 'Whirl' and Janet Thompson's 'The Furnace' were the successful displays that were then maintained by students as part of their course work.

In conclusion 2002 proved to be a very wet year and progress has been hampered but the viewers of BBC *Breakfast Time* during the week 9th to 13th December gained a fantastic insight about Kew's work in all Departments and various locations around the Gardens. A range of staff and guests were interviewed but the cold winter mornings had the presenters searching for the warmth.

HORTICULTURE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION AT WAKEHURST PLACE IN 2002

by David Hardman

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The Queen's Golden Jubilee provided colour and honours, a new visitor centre was announced, uninvited guests and record visitor attendances again recorded in a very wet year headline 2002.

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Congratulations to David Marchant, Machinery manager who was awarded an M.B.E. in the Birthday Honours for 37 years service to the estate and to Tony Ovenden who received his Kew Medal at the Diploma Student Prize Day.

To recognise the start of the Queen's Golden Jubilee year the Pleasaunce was planted in spring using a colour theme of gold, which continued in the summer and included *Marigold 'Perfection Gold'*, *Gazania 'KissYellow'*, *Argyranthemum 'Butterfly'* with *Tropaeolum peregrinum* and *Thunbergia alata* on wigwam frames.

Visitors

The proposed new £1.8m Visitor and Plant Sales Centre received planning approval in late July. The building comprises of facilities for interpretation, visitor reception, gift shop, café and plant sales centre. It will be located in the old stone quarry site to the eastern side of North Drive

For whatever reasons Wakehurst Place continues to increase its visitor numbers to a new record of over 323,000, which is against the trend of other major attractions. Two months, August (37,126) and April (36,488), achieved third and fourth highest months ever recorded in overall visitors to Wakehurst Place. Perhaps, our award and accreditation as a Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Service (V.A.Q.A.S.) site is an indication, as Wakehurst passed with flying colours. A different assessor to last year, but again impressed by all the staff she met. We continue to get a good response to our survey forms, with 84% of visitors saying their visit very enjoyable, 87% finding the gardens beautiful, 84% interesting and 85% well kept.

The improved quality of all the lawns fronting the Mansion had an unfortunate side effect with the arrival of unwanted visitors. Badgers, searching out worms and insects, regularly set about ripping up large areas of turf keen for an easy meal. Much interest after a short television news item brought a whole range of suggestions about techniques to control them, unfortunately these were mainly directed to small gardens and totally impractical on the scale of the croquet lawn.

Weather

The old aphorism that visitor numbers reflect the weather conditions has been well proven this year: as ever our achievements are dependent on the weather. The winter months were generally mild with the odd exceptional cold spell but the water retained in the soil made planting difficult and spasmodic. Signs of spring arrived with some plants flowering up to three weeks early, which again put pressure on available planting time. By December the total recorded rainfall of 1,120mm was the second highest after 2000's record 1,337mm. This is of even more concern since the rainfall for 2001 of 989mm was the fourth highest recorded over this last 16 years. This had a major impact on our work programmes with attention being diverted to control weed growth when normally this would be less of a problem.

Plantings

Where soil conditions allowed, a comprehensive planting programme of over 400 new trees and shrubs was achieved and all faired well with few failures. However, the heavy water retentive soils in the Bog Garden and the Seed Bank site almost halted progress completely. Due to the wet spring, consequential increases in maintenance and the shortage of staff during the summer months, completion of some 2002 targets was delayed slightly.

The dry central areas of the Ditch Beds were successfully replanted using more drought tolerant species and the opportunity was taken to extend the flowering season here into late summer. These included 2001-4607 *Lobelia tupa*; 1995-1021 *Lilium regale*; 2002-136 *Primula viallii*; 1994-1435 *Thalictrum chelidonii*; 1995-601 *Lilium concolor*; 1992-3903 *Lilium formosanum var. pricei*; 1989-3654 *Lilium distichum*. A stock check on Location 740 (the Water Garden), which was the last major part of the Gardens to require checking has now been completed. This had been outstanding for 20 years.

The renovation work on the Bog Garden has continued, although progress in this area remains prone to the exceedingly wet conditions. Following the arboricultural work to the *Quercus ilex* screen, close cutting of the north bank has reduced the perennial weeds, and conversion to wild flowers can proceed. Initial teething problems with the new drainage system appear to have been cured and the path



'Man the pumps': progress is slowed by very wet conditions in the Bog Garden. (Photograph by D. Hardman.)

surface has dried to ease access to the area. The base of the Bog Garden has been cleared of sediment and a shingle base installed. A new controllable weir will be installed and the **chestnut** retaining walls repaired. A spray programme was carried out throughout the summer to eradicate the perennial weeds from the site. Following cultivation and ground contouring, the ornamental east and south sides will be planted. Construction of a raised boardwalk for the Schools Education programme, along with planting of U.K. natives adjacent to the dipping pools, will then proceed for a scheduled opening at Easter 2003.

Changes to the plantings in the Sir Henry Price Memorial Garden reduced the propagation burden placed on the Nursery and has improved the displays. Moving several of the **sweet pea** frames from the centre to the edges of the beds has generated supportive comments from visitors, eased maintenance and reduced the damage caused by people wishing to smell the blooms.

In the Spring Border, plantings have been added to reinforce the display and add evergreen species to maintain interest in summer. Further material was added to the Tony Schilling Asian Heath Garden and some the most vigorous species such as *Spiraea* and *Berberis*, which have not been attended to since the feature was first laid out, drastically pruned.

Over 170 new plantings were completed throughout Westwood Valley. The wet spring made bracken clearance to reduce competition and maximise the establishment and subsequent growth of the East Asian collections more onerous and four weeks were needed to clear around the trees planted since 1995. An area at the far end of the Himalayan Glade was renovated using **rhododendrons**, *Sarcococca* and *Daphne bholua* with a flight of wooden steps being reconstructed. This was to repair the damage caused by a large **oak** tree destroyed in the storms in October 2000.

Continuing the major planting programme from the last two years in Horsebridge Wood, Pinetum, Bloomers Valley and Coates Wood a further 217 new plantings were made. However, a group of four ailing **Sitka Spruce** in Coates Wood were the source of an outbreak of Great Spruce Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus micans*). This non-indigenous species can be very damaging to all **spruces**, causing death to parts or whole trees by the larvae feeding on the cambium beneath the bark. On the advice of the Plant Health division of the Forestry Commission, this group of trees was felled, the timber converted with a mobile bandmill, and the flitch wood burnt on site to destroy any beetles and larvae.

Millennium Seedbank

The M.S.B. landscape plantings have also all established well following the wet spring and dull summer and are beginning to mature the site surrounding the building. The Millennium Seed Bank Commemorative Oak Tree scheme was fully subscribed and planting completed. In late spring very rapid weed growth to the western areas of the landscape was troublesome, a combined control programme resolved the problem. The remaining block will be planted in runs through this area.

The Parterre Bed displays were again well received, a filtration system was installed in the water feature bed, experimental plantings to test the effectiveness of the system were installed before risking any more valuable plants in the display. The Starfruit Collaborative Project between Kew and Plantlife, with H.P.E. liaising with Seed Conservation Department and Jodrell continued. The seed was harvested and cleaned and enough material was produced again this year to re-bank and provide material for *in situ* sowings at sites selected in Surrey and Buckinghamshire by Plantlife.

Events

May saw two organised events – the Bluebell Weekend and the Wild Wood Festival – held over two days. The theme, 'A Celebration of Woodlands Skills, Traditions and Folklore', showed conservation in action. It incorporated the Association of Pole Lathe Turner's A.G.M. with approximately 170 members attending and over 20 of them demonstrating craft skills in addition to the 43 main event craft demonstrators of traditional woodland skills. Other elements in advance of the Wild Wood Festival included the living **willow** seat, which is now a permanent garden feature, the 'Culpepper Mermaid' sculpture that proved to be a popular feature of the Wetlands Conservation Area and the onsite construction of our yurt. This provided an opportunity to involve local school parties and has been used throughout the summer months to support the schools education programme.

The arrival of the world's biggest dug-out canoe in 2,000 years generated newspaper, radio and regional TV coverage of this ambitious project which was completed at Wakehurst Place and after the Festival travelled to Kew to support their Jubilee Celebrations.

Rain and wind severely affected the Autumn Colour Days in October and attendance at the Carol Concert.

Education

Teachers and volunteers worked together to develop and trial a new activity for schools based on the ideas underpinning sustainable development and citizenship. It is known as the Wakehurst Barbecue and charges students to source all the materials for such an event whilst encouraging them to be enlightened questioning consumers. Four able pupil programmes were run through the summer where many students learnt about the role of plants in their lives by imagining the home without plants and included the use of discovery trolleys. Meeter, Greeter and Explainer volunteers for the school programme completed their training and proved themselves to be extremely useful, bringing additional enthusiasm, energy and experience to the team.

The launch at Easter of the Seed Bank Family Challenge was well received and the Wakehurst Treasure trail followed in August, providing family groups with another reason to explore the garden and provided a timely reminder about free entry for under-17s to the gardens.

Two adult education courses were run, the first entitled, 'Sketching in the Field' gave the opportunity to learn traditional sketching techniques and make water-colour studies from the rich and varied plant life that is on offer within the gardens in high summer. The second, 'Wild at Wakehurst' was spent exploring the tranquil and important site of special scientific interest, with lunch taken near the working charcoal kiln when the benefits of the ancient craft were discussed.

Visitors

Important visitors this year included Lord Whitty, D.E.F.R.A.'s Minister, who attracted a great deal of media coverage as he spent considerable time in the Study Centre with primary school children who proved most photogenic. This was followed in September with Professor Howard Dalton, D.E.F.R.A.'s Chief Scientist, making a private visit to see the Loder Valley, the Millennium Seedbank project, the Gardens and woodlands and learn about the education programme at Wakehurst Place.

And as the year closed the rain continued, the challenge ahead will be the completion of the planting programme before the onset of spring and the arrival of a new Head of Wakehurst Place who will be appointed in January 2003.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2002

Compiled by J.R.Woodhams

Sandra Bell contributes on a number of occasions through the year to Kew's in house news-sheet *Vista* on wildlife and conservation matters relating to the Kew site and beyond. Within *Vista* (issue 45, 10 September, 2002) Sandra's contribution mentioned that a spate of exotic butterflies had been reported at Kew during August. Recorded throughout the Arboretum were Morpho species and a black and red exotic swallowtail was seen near the Lower Nursery. The London Butterfly House at Syon Park is thought to be the most likely source of these and Sandra mentions that a staff member confirmed that escapes can occur when the house is ventilated during the warmest of summer weather. Also in this issue there was mention of **Peter Edwards** undertaking his 27th marathon – his 16th for the (M.N.D.A.) Motor Neurone Disease Association on 27 September at the New Forest Marathon. Peter requested sponsors and concluded, "Should I succeed in getting under 3hrs 35 (my best time was 3hrs10, but this was in 1989) you may like to offer a little bonus? I need that extra incentive now I am in my last year of veterans 50-54 category!"

Nick Biddle (1997) wrote in reply to an inquiry from the compiler. Nick comments "I am no longer employed by English Heritage having just completed a five year contract to restore the gardens and grounds of Down House, and am currently looking for a new role. I am very proud of what we have achieved at Down – when I say 'we' I refer not only to E.H. colleagues but also to many others: the main contractors, Coblands Landscapes, were a joy to work with and members of the Darwin family, the Darwin Archive and Darwin Correspondence Project at Cambridge University Library as well as other Darwin scholars internationally, the RHS, Kew and the many garden volunteers *et al* have all made very valuable contributions to

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the project. The key aim of the project was to restore the atmosphere and appearance of Charles and Emma Darwin's garden, woods, walks and meadows, kitchen garden, orchard and greenhouses to how it was during the last few years of Darwin's lifetime, in order to illustrate his life and work to the visiting public." Nick concludes by urging all to visit. Apparently one should telephone the house on 01689 859 119 for opening times etc. Down House is in the London Borough of Bromley. Thank you Nick for the information.



Nick Biddle (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

Vista (issue 47, 8 October, 2002) featured the arrival in Foundation and Friends of **Lucy Blythe** who is the new Director of Development. Lucy originally comes from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and has been living in the U.K. for the last 10 years and has been a regular visitor to Kew over that time. The article indicated Lucy plans to spend her first few months developing strategies for fund raising and hopes to meet as many people as possible across the organisation. She was quoted, "I realise that everyone is going to have projects that they want funded yesterday, but if we want to seriously increase our fundraising we must have a road map, clear priorities and the team to deliver it, otherwise we will miss the whales while looking for minnows."

The retirement of **Mike Lock** on 27 September was also featured in this edition. The tea room on the top floor of the Herbarium was the venue for friends and colleagues to meet for a presentation by **Professor Crane**. Mike was given a Times Atlas, two jars of preserved ginger and a cheque. After entertaining speeches from both, Mike indicated that he would be buying a telescope with the money. Wonderful refreshments were available for all.

Wolfgang Bopp (1995) visited Wakehurst Place on 21 January 2002 to learn more about current conservation work there. Wolfgang is presently Head Gardener at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and during the visit acquired some of Wakehurst's surplus plant stock to grow in Carmarthenshire.

Scanning through *Horticulture Week* (May 30, 2002) in an article entitled 'Health Centres' the compiler read, "Plant adviser **Peter Boyce** works at Squires garden centre in Twickenham." Many will remember Peter at the Kew Herbarium working on **Monocotyledons** and his particular interest and involvement with the family **Araceae**. The compiler, in endeavouring to make contact with Peter 16/10/2002 was informed by a representative at Squires that Peter had now terminated his employment there this past summer and had moved to France.

Kew's in-house paper *Vista* (issue 37, 23 April 2002) reports on the front page the retirement of **Diane Bridson** after 39 years working in the Herbarium. She started her career at Kew as an assistant working in the African section and was promoted through the ranks until she became a Principal Scientific Officer focusing her work on *Rubiaceae*. During this time she also acted as Assistant Keeper for a couple of years. We all wish her a happy retirement.

Following the compiler meeting **Ursula Buchan** (1976-9) at the Student Prize Day (September 2002) and mentioning the News of Kewites section in the *Journal*, Ursula wrote to say how much she enjoyed the presentation of Diplomas and Prizes this year and how nice it was to be back in the Jodrell Laboratory lecture theatre once again after more than 20 years! Ursula continues, "Since leaving Kew I have developed a precarious but enjoyable career as a freelance gardening writer (and occasional broadcaster), being a regular columnist for *The Spectator*, *The Independent* and *The Daily Telegraph*, as well as writing for specialist magazines such as *Gardens Illustrated*, *The Garden*, *The Plantsman* and *House and Garden*."

Ursula mentions that she has published 10 books, the latest of which, *Good in a Bed* – a compilation of *Spectator* articles – was published last year. She has also presented two series of *Village Show* for Channel 4 in the late 1980's. Ursula states, "I love the work, in particular meeting people who are experts in their field." Ursula is married to Charles, a Circuit Judge, and they have, in her words, two almost-grown-up children (Emily and Tom). Living in Northamptonshire Ursula mentions that she cultivates three acres of heavy clay. She remembers her time at Kew with great affection and is always pleased when she bumps into Kewites in gardens or at shows.

Vista (issue 33, 19 February, 2002) reported that **Professor Peter Crane** (Kew's Director), was due to sign an access and benefit-sharing agreement on March 4, between R.B.G. Kew and the National Commission for Wildlife Conservation and Development (N.C.W.C.D.) of Saudi Arabia. The signing to take place in Riyadh. **Dr. Michiel van Slageren**, W.A.N.A. co-ordinator of the Millennium Seed Bank and **Dr. Colin Clubbe** of Kew's Education Section, were also to be present. Afterwards Colin was to stay for a few days to act as external adviser for one of N.C.W.C.D.'s conservation projects.

A photograph appearing on the front cover of the *Grower* magazine (July 4, 2002) featured **Victoria David** with nursery proprietor Robin Pearce and Sales Controller Kristina Thompson on their nursery stand at the Midland Regional Growers Show, held at the Malvern showground. Victoria, a Kew Diploma course student was undertaking her work placement at the time with Robin Pearce Plants, a specialist producer of herbaceous plants and grasses. Though founded only eight years ago their nursery exhibit won the XL Horticulture Trophy for the best nursery stand at the show.

'**John Flanagan** appointed Kew's Head of Library and Archives,' was the headline above a photograph of John showing the Indonesian President, Megawati Soekarnoputri, a sample of the the Library and Archives collections on her recent

visit, reported in *Vista* (issue 43, 6 August, 2002). The article mentioned that John joined Kew in 1983 as Deputy Librarian and, following Sylvia FitzGerald's retirement has been acting Head of Library since 1999. The text stated, "John more than proved himself against national and international competition and has taken up his new duties immediately." Congratulations John from the Kew Guild.

David Frodin awarded Engler Medal, was a headline on the front page of *Vista* (issue 51, 10 December, 2002). The text stated, "David Frodin was awarded the Engler Medal in Silver on 15 November at the Plant Species Level Systematics symposium in Leiden for the second edition of his monumental work, the *Guide to Standard Floras of the World*. The Medal is given by I.A.P.T. (the International Association of Plant Taxonomy) once each year to recognise outstanding contributions in plant taxonomy." **Simon Owens**, Keeper of the Herbarium stated, "This is a great honour for him and for Kew."

An obituary by **Peter Gasson** for **Timothy John Lawrence**, 22.2.1955 to 4.10.2002, appeared in *Vista* (issue 48, 23 October 2002). The obituary stated, "Tim began working in the Anatomy section at Kew in 1974 after training as an artist. From 1978-1981 he went to Bangor University to study Botany on the understanding that he would return when he finished his degree. There wasn't anywhere at the Kew site, so he worked as a seed bank assistant with Simon Linington at Wakehurst from 1981-1984, before returning to Anatomy, where he had worked ever since. Tim was one of the most colourful characters at Kew. He took a poor view of authority and had strong opinions on most things. He was very entertaining company, with an anarchic sense of humour and endless supply of anecdotes." Peter mentioned his great knowledge of British wildlife and his particular interest in Ornithology. He had a strong interest in Oriental birds. He travelled to Thailand on several occasions, meeting his wife Nit on one of these trips. Peter concluded the obituary, "For the past couple of years Tim's health had declined inexorably, ending in his untimely death on 4 October. Many of us will have stories to tell involving Tim and he will long remain in our memories. He leaves behind an enormous hole in the lives of Nit, his parents Audrey and Peter and his many friends at Kew and elsewhere." The Guild sends its condolences.

Peter Gasson kindly agreed to our using the above extract from his obituary to Tim and mentioned that, through the help of **Tom Bailey** and colleagues in Building and Maintenance at Kew, a bench seat has been obtained and located beyond the southern end of the lake, near the Queens Cottage boundary. A brass plate has the inscription, 'In memory of Tim Lawrence 1955-2002 Botanist and Birder - A friend and colleague at Kew.' It is set close by a seat placed in remembrance of **Rupert Hastings**. Both Rupert and Tim were born in the same year - 1955.

Harvey Groffman featured in *Vista* (issue 37, 23 April 2002) in relation to the media coverage following the death of the Queen Mother. Harvey, well known for the annual opening of his home garden to the public as part of the Open Gardens scheme; planted carpet bedding with a golden colour theme this year relating to our present Queen's Golden Jubilee. Harvey was quoted in the Sun newspaper, "On the

14 July this year it was exactly 20 years ago that the Queen Mother came to see my garden.”



Mr. and Mrs. Howard Day.

The Honorary Editor of the *Kew Guild Journal* **Jennifer Hirsch** (2000) became **Jennifer Day** on March 31, marrying her husband Howard at the Audubon Naturalist Society just outside Washington D.C., U.S.A. **Christine Lavelle** was a bridesmaid, and **Christopher Weddell** recorded the event on video. The newlyweds honeymooned in the West Indies, but despite considerable pressure, Jennifer failed to convince Howard

that botanising was an appropriate way to spend the time. Instead, they sailed from island to island, touching down in Mustique (where she did get the chance to see a few gardens), Petit St. Vincent, and Bequia.



Christine and Mick Lavelle enjoying the festivities.



Christopher Weddell captures the action.

Vista (issue 44, 28 August, 2002) included news of two Kew volunteers participating in the BBC2 series *'The Ship'* which began on 20 August. The series of programmes retraced Captain Cook's voyage on the Endeavour over 200 years ago. Botanist **Tom Hoblyn** and illustrator **Lucy Smith** joined the 41 other volunteers and 15 crew on the six week voyage to Australia. On board the Endeavour some 230 years ago were the botanist Joseph Banks and Sydney Parkinson one of the best botanical artists of his generation. The article continued "The gruelling pace of life on board for Lucy and Tom included climbing the rigging, trimming sails and keeping lookout at night, living on a diet of ship's biscuits

and salty stew. However Tom's role was to follow in the footsteps of Joseph Banks. He collected and documented plant specimens and was delighted to find many which Banks had found and named during the original voyage, still growing in the same places." Tom was quoted, "As I sat in his cabin, reading his journal and writing my own, it was easy to feel the spirit of the original voyage." Lucy stated that she developed enormous admiration for Sydney Parkinson and was quoted, "he worked in really difficult conditions, often painting in heavy seas and by candlelight. His role was extremely important, as painting was the only way to capture the details of the plants."

Pamela Holt (1974) featured under the Soapbox title in *Horticulture Week* (March 7, 2002) under the heading, 'Classifications fail to tell true story.' Pamela took up the issue of the myriad of salary bands used in the horticultural industry and that training by the colleges turn out students with little practical training. Pamela mentioned that several employing organisations have produced recommended bands for gardeners and grounds staff. She wrote, "They would do well to note the latest classification system unveiled by the Office for National Statistics. There are now seven classes for those in work and an eighth for the unemployed as opposed to the old structure which had six. The new system distinguishes primarily between those who are employers, self employed and employees. A gardener is now seen as a semi-routine occupation and is grouped with traffic wardens, supermarket shelf-stackers and assembly-line workers in class six. It is not



Pamela Holt (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

surprising our industry does not receive the recognition it deserves." The final part of the article dealt with training. Here she mentioned that colleges have to operate on reduced levels of funding, with part time agency teaching staff and with actual teaching time reduced. Pamela is team leader/lecturer in amenity horticulture at Berkshire College of Agriculture and stated that they offer students City and Guilds practical skills, enabling them to be more competent and employable.

Bob Ivison (1974) was one of the speakers at a one day conference held at L.G.A. House in London on December 3, 2002 entitled 'The Liveability Agenda – Delivering better Urban Green Spaces'. Bob delivered one of the case study reports. The programme indicated the speaker would detail how Enfield Borough Council won its Green Flag award and how the development of Enfield parks is central to the council's green space policy.

A lengthy letter with much news of Kewites arrived with the compiler in early November from **Chris Kidd** (1996) presently at Ventnor Botanic Garden. Chris

commences by saying that he and **Gwenda** (nee **Kitchener**), along with son David and daughter Rebecca have been living on the Isle of Wight for over two years. Chris mentions (tongue in cheek) that he has gone a little way toward his ambition to become Curator of Ventnor B.G. by gaining the post of Head Gardener. Chris has admired the garden for many years especially as it embodies his favourite horticultural work – the growing of plants which should not normally be hardy in a maritime environment. **Simon Goodenough** (1986) is Curator at Ventnor and has been for the past 16 years and was recently elected fellow of the Institute of Horticulture; Congratulations Simon. Simon's wife, **Debbie**, is Head Gardener at Osborne House where Chris says she, "rules with an iron rod." Deb also carries the secretary duties for the Professional Gardeners Guild.

The letter continues, "Ventnor Botanic Garden is swelled with ex-Kew people, **Ian Miller** was appointed Nursery Manager after he completed the Kew Diploma Course in 2001. This is a return to the island for Ian whose family run the strawberry empire in Arreton Valley. Ian brought with him, **Jenny McIntosh** from Kew staff, who we employed in our commercial nursery to cover maternity leave. Jenny now has charge of Deb's nursery at Osborne. The next ex-Kewite we acquired was **Irene Fletcher** who became our Educational Officer last year. Irene has got through 30,000 schoolchildren in the past year, I feel many a top heavy education department could learn from her approach. However, Irene is now nursing her own child, Baxter Callum Fletcher, born two weeks ago.

Being on the island, we don't get as many visitors as we used to, the crossing of the Solent is prohibitively expensive for a car, but some stalwarts do make the effort. **David Barnes** (1997) – the one from the Midlands – has visited us frequently. Dave is Head Gardener at Moreton Morrel College and has responsibility for more acres of ground than anyone should have. Dave has recently been up-graded salary wise and now has even more responsibility for developing the nurseries! He lives not far from **Tammy Woodcock** who took over from me at Thenford, though she now works for Banbury Council in a nice office job. **Chris Bailey** (1995) – the one I worked with pre Kew – is a frequent visitor. Chris is still at the Sir George Staunton Estate at Leigh Park where he attempts to wrest my world record for waterlily leaves from me. Chris seems almost a professional delegate at conferences and I've not been to one he hasn't over the last two years. Chris last came to the island to see a gig with Ian Miller and myself.

I have met a number of my Kew contemporaries at conferences this year. I caught up with **Louise Allen** (1993) at Plant Net at Biddeford. Louise is still at Oxford Botanic Garden where her job title is the somewhat enigmatic *Pro Curatrix*. **Wolfgang Bopp** (1995) also attended and gave a paper on the pros and cons of life at the National Botanic Garden of Wales which was very refreshing and singled out for praise by **Peter Thoday**. The show was, however, stolen by Simon Goodenough's power-point presentation on the Ventnor garden which had delegates beside themselves with laughter. Ian Miller, Chris Bailey and myself attended the first Glasshouse Forum at Cambridge Botanic Garden where we met up with

Robert Brett (1999) who had organised the event. The day proved a great success due to Rob's efforts. We stayed overnight and went to a restaurant with Rob, his wife Monica, **Dr. Tim Upson** (1993), Superintendent of the garden and his other half **Caroline Gohler** (1995), who now wrestles with the madness that is Local Authority Parks and Gardens in Cambridge. The restaurant led to a pub and then a club and the next day Tim was far too chirpy by half as he donated us some rare treasures from his *Rosmarinus* collection.

Visitors to the Ventnor garden have included **Matthew Vincent** (1993) and entourage last year. Matt, 'Kew Gardener' supremo, brought over his staff on a day's outing. Included was **Wayne Page** (1993), who is now Matt's designer working from Kew Station, **Daniel Slack** (1999), who seems to be becoming wealthy through the internet and bicycle **John** no?, who used to work in the Arboretum at Kew. The visit was whistle-stop to say the least, Matt keen to go on to Cowes to look at yachts. Matt took back some of our rarities from our own retail outlet. Matt now has a new shop opened in Wimbledon which is apparently doing very well.

Early one Saturday morning I met **Martin Staniforth** and wife **Wendy** (nee **Golledge**) who was in my year at Kew. Similarly saw **David Hardman** over here on holiday. He was amazed how quickly we had built the Japanese Terraces on the north side of the valley. I mentioned not all works necessarily need committees to slow them down! We decried the spectre of a donated bench and even worse the commemorative tree for which we are eternally responsible to the point of replacement by ourselves at any time in the future. I intend to include in my final will and testament that nothing commemorative at all be planned anywhere in my remembrance and that the ashy remains of my frame be unceremoniously ejected into the sea at Freshwater Bay to a snort of "good riddance" from Gwenda.

The receipt of a letter a few months ago from **Sarah Higgins** (1996) announced the birth of her daughter. Sarah and Pierre emigrated to France some time ago where Sarah continues to freelance in horticultural journalism – she was Features Editor for the R.H.S. magazine *The Garden*. Christmas cards still arrive from **Jane Reynolds** (1993) and I must visit Jane sometime. I have heard that **Graham Madill** has returned to Britain and is setting up a nursery somewhere north of London. **Harvey Stephens** (1996) visited and apparently has plenty to keep him busy with the Borde Hill garden and in organising a Nerine collection."

Chris brings the letter to an end saying that their son David is going on three and will be in nursery soon and that daughter Rebecca will be in school next year – how time flies. Gwenda will return to work in the



Harvey Stephens (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

near future having taken time out for the children. Many thanks Chris for for the time given to put the information together. It is much appreciated by myself as compiler and I am sure will be by the readers too.

Tony Kirkham, Head of A.H.S. (Arboretum and Horticultural Services) in H.P.E. (Horticulture and Public Education), featured on the front page of *Vista* (issue 35, 19 March 2002) under the title, 'Tallest tree planted at Kew.' Thursday 28 February saw Tony and his team planting a large *Ginkgo biloba*, obtained in a partner initiative with Health Perceptions. Ann Mawdsley, M.B.E. and David Wilkie, M.B.E., were present at the planting of the tallest tree at Kew in the last 50 years. Tony had located the tree at a nursery in Hamburg and, weighing in at 2.5 tons, it was a mammoth task to plant, requiring a 60 ton crane to position the tree in its prepared location. Health Perceptions, founded by David Wilkie, sponsored the planting in partnership with Kew to mark the Raynaud's and Scleroderma Association's 20th Anniversary. The article carried a photo of David Wilkie and **Claire Hyde**, Kew's P.R. Manager.

Both *Vista* (issue 41, 2 July 2002) and *The Horticulturist* (Vol. 11 No.4 Autumn 2002) and for sure other publications also, carried the news of the awarding of an M.B.E. to **David Marchant** for his dedication over 37 years in helping to keep



Garden Stalwart.

Wakehurst Place in tip-top condition. David has lived all his life on the Ardingly estate where he now leads a team of six to manage the Machinery and Turf Maintenance unit at Kew's country garden.

Gardening runs in the family, for David's father was also a gardener at Wakehurst Place when it was a private estate owned by Sir Henry and Lady Price. David will no doubt be best remembered as the man who helped Wakehurst recover from the devastating storm of 1987 which caused the demise of so many trees on the estate.

David's role with regard to Kew's recycling and composting programmes at Wakehurst Place received specific mention. Through an agreement with the local authority, tonnes of leaves, swept from the streets of mid Sussex are turned into useful mulch. Also, by agreement with the conservators of the Ashdown Forest, bracken cleared from the forest is converted into compost for rhododendrons. The Director, Professor Peter Crane concluded the article in *Vista* so, "Many, many congratulations. This is a wonderful tribute to your commitment to Wakehurst over many years." Congratulations also David from the Kew Guild.

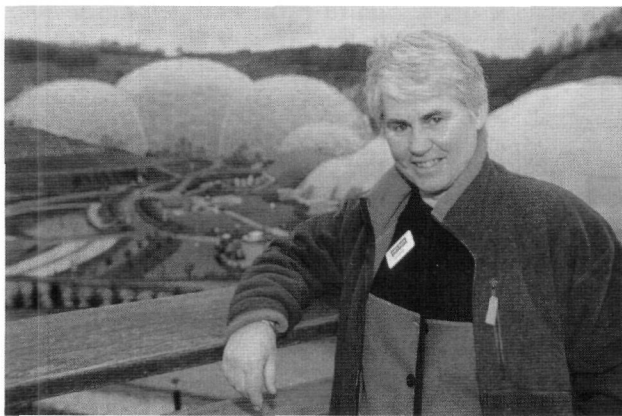
Also recorded in this issue of *Vista* were two rare plants flowering in Great Glasshouses and Training section. *Medusagyne oppositifolia* from the island of Mahe in the Seychelles and *Ruizia cordata* from Reunion island. The first flowering at Kew of these two critically endangered Indian Ocean species coincided with a visit by Arnaud Meunier, Nursery Manager for the Mauritius Wildlife Foundation on Rodrigues. He completed a very successful visit to Kew bringing a wealth of experience with him.

Esther McMillan (2000) has taken the post of Assistant Head Gardener at Kelmarsh Hall Estate in Northamptonshire. Esther who completed 18 months as Features Editor for *Horticulture Week* magazine featured in their 'Move of the Week' (May 16, 2002). The article mentioned that the move will involve her with a team of five gardeners working on the informal gardens which were partly designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe. Esther stated "The challenge is to make developments but still keep the spirit of romance, shabby chic and billowy borders that Nancy Lancaster – American owner and interior designer – inspired." The article mentioned that one of the first tasks within the walled garden has been to create a border that will provide flowers for cutting and use in the house.



Esther McMillan (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

Sue Minter (1990) sent a fax to the compiler at the end of December in answer to an earlier request for a career update. Sue writes, "I joined the Eden Project in Cornwall in November 2001, having been at Chelsea Physic Garden nearly 11 years. I'm Horticultural Director in succession to Peter Thoday/Philip McMillen-Browse and a member of the



Sue Minter (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

Executive which runs Eden and I have 65 staff. I've also just been appointed Co-ordinator for the Dry Tropics Biome – our next project – with Ian Martin as Curator for it." Sue mentions that **Glen Leishman** is the Supervisor of the Warm Temperate Biome and **Jane Allen** is a skilled Gardener in the Humid Tropics Biome.

Patrick Nutt (1953), during his presidential year mailed the compiler on a number of occasions through 2002, initially to provide information for my use in proposing the toast to him at the Guild Dinner in May. Patrick wrote the next month to say that he has the framed photograph of the **Victoria water lily** taken from the Marianne North painting and which I gave him at the Dinner, on display on the wall above his desk at home. Patrick mentions that he has a copy of *The Orchids of Sumatra* by **Jim Comber** (1955) and a fellow student, and enthuses over its information and photography. On the day of the Guild Dinner Patrick met with **Emma Fox** at Kew's Waterlily House and enjoyed seeing the **Victoria cruziana** growing so well there. Emma provided a flower from the plant for the President's table at the dinner.

Whilst here, he visited Chiswick House Park and was dismayed at the senseless vandalism evident, there being so much destruction to the glasshouses. Patrick keeps busy in the States with lectures and advice on waterlily cultivation etc. He spoke to the Water Garden Society of Kansas City and lectured at Connel Gardens also in Kansas City. June saw two letters arrive, one containing a photograph of Patrick's office, showing the picture mentioned above in place on the wall. Patrick indicated that hardly any ex-Kew students living in the States now belong to the Guild! He included a photocopy from the *Kew Guild Journal* (Vol. V111 No.LXX1 1966, 662-663). This carries an account of the 50th Anniversary Annual Dinner of the Association of Kew Gardeners in America. Some 20 Guild members attended including a number from the U.K., for the dinner was held on August 14, 1966 at the University of Maryland in conjunction with an International Horticultural Congress at which 6,000 delegates attended from around the world.

Toward the end of August Patrick wrote saying they were suffering a very severe drought and that he could only pump a little water from a nearby pond to sustain his plants at home. Also from an article enclosed it seems that many commercial growers were suffering substantial crop losses. Among various literature received at the end of September was the Home and Design section from the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (Friday September 13 2002). The lead article concerned **water lily** cultivation and related to a festive and educational night out at Longwood Gardens. The article included a picture of Patrick at night in one of the pools to carry out pollinations on one of the many **Nymphaea** plants.

Patrick also gave a talk on water gardening to Pennsylvania University, School of Arts and Sciences in Philadelphia in early November and said they had allocated him a very generous time slot. All in all a busy and eventful year Patrick.

Kenwyn Pearson (1975) sent news of his progress in Australia to **Leo Pemberton** (1988) in October. Kenwyn mentioned he had so far visited Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Perth. He had stayed with **Tom Jones** (1975) at Port Lincoln and was moving on to New Zealand later that week. Tom added a note as follows to Leo, "Hi – it has been great to catch up with Ken and relive Kew years, which were three very important years. Thank you for your part. **Brian Gornall** (1975) came out earlier and life is very busy here."

An article relating to the Micropropagation unit at Kew featured in *Vista* (issue 41) where Grace Prendergast mentioned that a teacher from Writhlington School, Bath contacted her because he wanted to start an **orchid** project at his school. "He asked me to be a partner in a grant application to the Royal Society, which promotes excellence in science and awards grants to school/industry partnerships." Our grant application was accepted and the school is setting up an **orchid** laboratory to grow **orchids** from seed. They apparently have a collection of tropical **orchids** and children can join an after school club to learn about **orchids** and growing them from seed. Several groups of children visited the Micropropagation Unit where we ran a workshop on **orchid** seed sowing. Grace thanked colleagues, **Estelle Gill**, **Viswambhjaran Sarasan** and **Kath King** for finding time to help and inspire these future scientists.

Vista (issue 48) also featured **Charles (Chas) Shine**, Unit Manager in Hardy Display section part of H.P.E. Chas had been demonstrating his creative efforts by crafting scarecrows and animals featured in various tableaux positioned at the gardens entrance gates and around the Palm House. His artistic work formed part of the of the Autumn Cornucopia festival which also embraced 'Apple Days,' a lavish cucurbit display in the Waterlily House and 'Nature's Bounty' in the Princess of Wales Conservatory.



Chas and friend.

It was interesting to read in *The Times* (September 30, 2002) that a chest of medicinal herbs from the 1920s had been discovered in a garage in Birmingham. This rare *Materia Medica* has been donated to R.B.G. Kew by Mark Arstall who came across it whilst clearing his late mothers garage. **Professor Monique Simmonds** said that access to biological samples of this age could be very interesting and valuable to drug discovery programmes and **Julia Steele** also said the historical value of the chest was equally exciting. The *Materia Medica* box once belonged to a S. Newman, of Wiltshire and a date of 1927 appears on the inside label along with the legend, "Bath and West of England College of Chemistry and Pharmacy." Kews botanists have now been handed an unusual opportunity to examine a tool kit that links modern pharmacology to the ancient ways of the apothecary.

John Simmons (1958-1995) wrote a note for *Vista* (issue 36, 19 April 2002) entitled 'Awards for Kew and Castle Howard' (The Castle Howard Arboretum Trust).

The text contains a deal of information as follows, "As work at the Arboretum Trust (the joint project between Kew and Castle Howard) continues apace, it is pleasing to record its widening role in the receipt of two awards. Yorkshire Wildlife Trust presented a 'Highly Commended' conservation award in recognition of the Arboretum's work on wildlife in Yorkshire. Since then the continuing survey on birds (by the R.S.P.B. York Members Group) has logged some 74 species – from buzzard to woodcock. Whilst on general ecology, Martin Hammond (Ryedale's ecologist) has recorded 15 species of aquatic bugs, ten species of dragon and damselflies and 68 aquatic beetles of which the whirligig beetle *Gyrinus distinctus* is a 'Red Data' species and several of the others are nationally scarce or uncommon species. In support of Martin Hammond's work, Roy Crossley has surveyed the *Diptera* recording some 174 species of which six are nationally scarce. The second equally pleasing certificate has come from North Yorkshire's Business and Education Partnership for a project with the local Terrington Primary School whereby Key Stage 1 children have been introduced to the arboretum as an environmental project, planting and sketching trees and designing leaflets. The project is ongoing and fits well with the Government's new initiative on citizenship."

Martin Staniforth (Practical Training Co-ordinator) was pictured together with 10 new recruits to H.P.E. rotational training scheme in *Vista* (issue 38, 7 May 2002). The group completed their induction-training block on 19 April and they will be working in the gardens receiving on-the-job training sessions from experienced staff. Trainees maintain a work diary, which records their progress, and rotate on yearly moves to experience different garden sections. This initiative, part of H.P.E. restructuring, is designed to encourage enthusiastic people who wish to follow a career in botanical horticulture, into Kew's entry grade Band A. The article mentioned that Kew now had 21 participants and had enjoyed noticeably stronger responses from advertisements. This training vehicle appears to be similar in nature to the improver gardener scheme that operated at Kew through the 1960s and before (compiler).

This issue of *Vista* carried a heading on its front page, 'Bon voyage to **Margaret Stones**.' Margaret returned to her native Australia at the end of April 2002 after many years associated with the U.K. The text explained that Margaret had trained as an artist in Melbourne, though her first career was as a nurse serving for several years before unfortunately catching TB. After a slow recovery which took 18 months (effective drug treatments were not available then) and with nothing to do but sit in bed, her mother brought her watercolours in to the hospital. Margaret began to make drawings especially of **orchids** from the mountains around Victoria. Her talent was noted by John Donnell and her first commercial show came about whilst she was still in hospital. Margaret realised that there was no openings for her in botanical illustration in Australia so she bought a one way ticket costing £97 and came to England. Apparently things were difficult at first but eventually a commission for 20 drawings came her way. Sir Edward Salisbury liked the drawings and asked if he could exhibit them at the Royal Institution. Margaret was quoted, "And then it was downhill all the way." Margaret is an extremely talented botanical artist having

completed over 400 watercolours and 400 drawings for *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. Margaret said her favourite place at Kew is the grass garden and that she admires the dedication of staff mentioning **Mary Thorpe** who works so hard in all weathers undeterred. Margaret has made a very generous donation to Kew from her own private art collection of contemporary artists. An exhibition was arranged from 13-24 May in the Library on the second floor of the Herbarium.

Alan Titchmarsh (1974) and Flora-for-Fauna charity patron, **Jill, Duchess of Hamilton** were pictured in *Horticulture Week* (March 14, 2002) on the occasion of the planting



Marg.

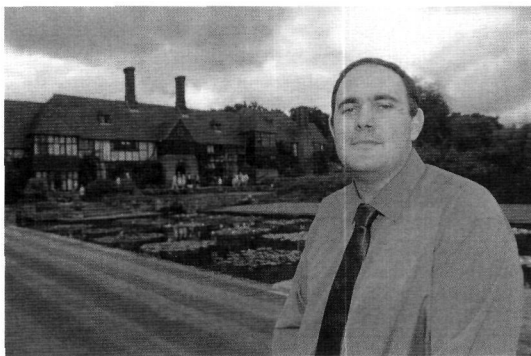
by Alan of an **oak** sapling grown from an 800-year-old English **oak** tree in Windsor Great Park. The planting, which took place in early March at Embankment Gardens in London, was to commence Westminster City Council's celebrations for the Queen's Golden Jubilee. The article indicated that the council had joined forces with Flora-for-Fauna to launch a campaign to encourage people to plant a native tree or shrub to mark the celebrations.

Page 13 of the same publication was devoted to discussion about Alan's new and on-going BBC programme '*How to be a Gardener*' which Alan says, "Gives me the chance to explain why we do things, not just how." The article by Geoff Sawyer sought to canvass opinion on the merits of the programme which to this point had received extremely good reviews. Retailers reported a rise in sales of products featured with one garden centre owner commenting, "The programme is excellent and it appeals to those new to gardening. It is exactly the sort of programme we need." Comment from Horticultural Consultant David Domoney concluded the article. He was quoted. "Anything that brings gardening to the public and motivates them has got to be good for trade. It's also good that gardening is being demystified. Alan is doing what Jamie Oliver did for cooking." This comment has the compiler conjuring-up the Alan and Jamie show – who knows!

Vista (issue 42, 23 July 2002) reported Alan visiting the School of Horticulture during the filming of a new episode of '*Gardeners World*' at Kew on Friday 5 July. After meeting **Ian Leese**, the Schools' Principal, Alan filmed a segment in the school, reminiscing on his happy times as a student at Kew and later met with students **Mima Taylor** and **Nicky Sharp** and was thrilled to learn about the Idea Gardens project from them.

This issue of *Vista* also featured a visit to Wakehurst Place by D.E.F.R.A. Minister **Lord Whitty**. The visit took place on 24 June for him to see conservation in action and local school children finding out about U.K. biodiversity. Two photographs of his visit were printed, one with **Professor Peter Crane** and **Chris Clennett** in discussion in front of the mansion, the other showing Lord Whitty with children from Lewes examining specimens with the aid of hand lenses.

The Royal Horticultural Society now has **Christopher Weddell** (2001) as Senior Horticulturist at the society garden at Wisley. Chris will be supporting the Director



Christopher Weddell (Photograph courtesy of *Horticulture Week*).

of Horticulture in raising the profile of the society and developing links with specialist plant societies. Chris worked for a year at Wisley improving and developing the gardening content of the R.H.S. web site. Following successful completion of the Kew Diploma course, Chris continued for a while at Kew as Botanical Horticulturist. He had previously spent time on the gardening staff at Sheffield Park, in East Sussex and as Gardening Technician at the University of Bristol

Botanic Garden. Christopher is presently assisting the Kew Guild Committee in its endeavours to establish a Guild web site.

Stephen White (1973) wrote to the Editor to say the only Kewites he has bumped into since leaving Kew are **Gerald Morgan**, **Phil Williamson**, **Ivor Stokes**, and **Alan Titchmarsh**. He lived in a bed-sit off Kew Green for the first 18 months of the course and then moved to a flat in East Sheen which he shared with **Robin Bletsoe**, **Tony Trafford**, **Andy Mugford**, and **Gareth Stanfield** . . . where are they all now, he wonders?

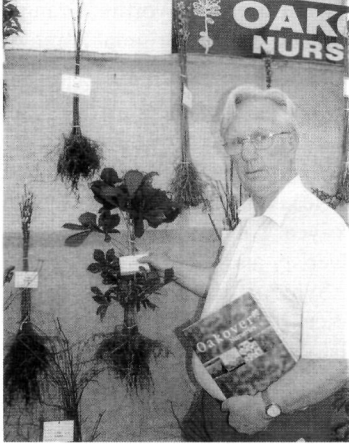
After studying at Worcester College of Education, Stephen gained a Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education, which he has been using ever since (from 1976) as a Senior Lecturer at Sparsholt College, Hampshire, where he started courses and has specialized in Garden and Landscape Design since 1985. "At Sparsholt I am responsible for all garden design courses at H.N.C., H.N.D. and shortly degree level modules. I was once interviewed for the post of Supervisor of Studies at Kew when Leo retired but was unsuccessful – twice! Now I also run my own part-time design consultancy, mainly concentrating on the restoration of historic gardens. Current projects include: restoring five acres of riverside gardens of a Georgian house on the River Itchen; restoring four acres of formal gardens by Harry Inigo Triggs (a contemporary of Lutyens) around an Arts and Crafts manor house; restoring three

acres of mixed gardens around a Victorian rectory, Headborne Worthy Grange, which once belonged to Lewis Palmer, F.L.S., V.M.H. and was the original home of *Agapanthus* '*Headbourne Hybrids*' in the 1940's."

Stephen became a full member of the Society of Garden Designers in 1991 and is currently a member of the Standing Advisory Panel for the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum in Hampshire. He has variously been involved in committee work for the British Association of Landscape Industries and the Society of Garden Designers over the years. Recently, he finished a two-year part-time Masters degree in Garden History at Birkbeck College, London University and is currently awaiting the results of his dissertation 'Rusticity – Status Symbol, Rural Retreat or the Rejection of Modernity?', an exploration of the artifice, retrospection and antiquity employed in the creation of three centuries of English 'fantasy' gardens. He writes, "I have been married to Hilary since September 1973 – the day after I graduated from Kew. We have two children, Katy 25 a Staff Nurse, and Tom 23 a Manager with the John Lewis Partnership. My hobbies include mountaineering, collecting Art Deco china and Scandinavian Art Glass, creating computer art, collecting garden design and garden history books of the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries and traveling in the summer to New England for our holidays studying Colonial architecture and the gardens of Massachusetts and Main. I would love to work there as a garden designer!" In closing, he notes he has only six years until his retirement, but from the sounds of it, he will be far from idle.

John (Log) Whitehead (1972) sent the following for inclusion in the *Journal*, "Bren and Log's adventures in 2002 lasted 99 days on bargain 'Around the World' air tickets to which they added a number of botanically interesting islands including Andaman, Chatham, Lord Howe, the Maldives, Norfolk and Nuku Hiva. They saw many endemic **palm** trees on their travels and managed to catch the flowering time of the **Chatham Islands Giant Forget-me-Not**. On Pit Island they visited Mt. Hakepa, which is the first land in the world to receive the sunrise every day." The compiler received a number of interesting post cards from Log as he and Bren progressed on their journey.

Phil Williamson (1973) appeared in picture and print in *Horticulture Week* (August 15, 2002) under the title 'Soapbox'. The lead line used was, 'Natural world is difficult to classify.' The article delved into the discussion about the use of non native plant material, though expanded the argument to ask, "When did 'natural' countryside become unnatural?" Phil expounded that life forms are constantly evolving and that there should be a greater readiness to accept change. In concluding he comments, "The theory of ecology needs revising. Man must be in the equations rather than seen as excluded and 'interfering' from outside. Evolution must be accepted as moving on to the future and not ending in some idyll in the 17th century." Needless to say the article stirred a number of readers to put pen to paper in the weeks following. Phil is Senior Projects Officer with Brighton and Hove Council.



Tom Wood (Photograph courtesy of *The Grower*).

Tom Wood (1960), Past President of the Guild 1996/7, was featured in *The Grower* magazine (July 18, 2002) in an article entitled 'Woking Winners.' Tom whose photograph on his Oakover Nursery stand, at the previous week's Woking show was included in the article, claimed that he was the only Woking exhibitor showing bare rooted plants. He was quoted, "Surprisingly we are finding a great deal of interest. Some garden centres still have customers who want bare root plants for hedging and a lot of retailers are still based on production nurseries and want them as liner material." It stated that there were other customers including plantsmen who want understocks for grafting, typically for street trees.

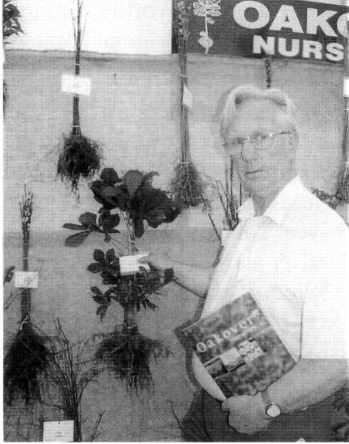
**A CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM OUR PATRON
H.R.H. PRINCESS ALEXANDRA**



For you All
my

With Best Wishes
for Christmas and
the New Year

from
Alexandra



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YEARLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR R.B.G. KEW 2002

2001	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year (Totals)
Month's Total rainfall (mm)	55.2	73.6	43.5	27.1	50.0	70.4	71.2	61.4	16.3	53.9	136.2	127	785.8
Most rain in one day	12.4	21.9	13.0	11.6	13.1	24.1	28.0	18.0	12.0	11.5	15.6	24.1	July 28.0
Highest temp. Max.	14.2	14.9	17.1	23.1	25.2	26.9	32.0	29.9	24.2	21.9	15.6	13.9	July 32.0
Lowest temp. Max.	4.2	8.8	7.1	12.4	11.6	15.2	17.1	18.1	17.0	10.7	9.1	4.2	Jan/Dec 4.2
Lowest temp. Min.	-9.1	-2.9	-2.2	0.2	1.2	7.3	8.0	6.0	2.4	-1.9	1.4	-1.1	Jan -9.1
Highest temp. Min.	9.3	11.0	10.4	9.5	14.1	15.5	17.7	17.5	9.5	10.5	8.3	9.3	July 17.7
Max Average	9.3	12.1	13.1	16.1	17.4	20.0	22.2	23.8	20.9	16.6	12.9	9.1	16.1
Min Average	2.0	4.1	3.8	4.4	8.2	10.8	12.3	11.7	6.0	5.2	4.3	3.8	6.4
10cm Average	4.0	6.3	7.6	10.1	13.4	17.3	18.4	18.9	15.3	11.3	8.9	6.3	11.7
20cm Average	4.4	6.7	7.8	9.7	13.7	16.7	18.2	19.0	15.8	11.9	9.4	7.0	11.7
30cm Average	5.0	7.3	8.2	10.6	13.8	17.3	18.9	20.0	16.9	13	10.2	7.4	12.4
100cm Average	6.1	8.	8.3	10.2	12.6	15.6	17.4	18.7	17.2	14.5	11.6	9.1	12.4
Snow days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hail days	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Thunder days	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	7
Gale days	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
Lowest grass temp.	-12.7	-8.6	-8.1	-1.1	1.9	2.1	3.4	6.6	1.1	-2.5	-1.9	-6.1	Jan -12.7
Lowest concrete temp.	-10.2	-4.5	-4.4	-1.0	1.0	5.5	7.3	7.6	4.3	-2.9	0.0	-3.5	Jan -10.2
No. days air min < 0°C.	12	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	4	27
No. days grass min < 0°C.	16	10	14	6	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	6	59
No. days concrete min< 0°C.	15	8	11	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	9	53
Rain hours A	101	109	74	33	74	80	67	47	20	89	158	137	989
Rain hours B	62.0	69.2	53.4	21.3	49.9	37.4	43.7	30.3	11.8	47	91.3	100.1	617.40
Hours sunshine	57.2	86.9	116.4	201.4	201.1	177.6	201.4	187.2	176.0	79.3	67.7	28.3	Apr/Jul 201.4
Av. Mean sun per day	1.85	3.10	3.75	7.46	6.49	5.92	6.69	6.00	5.80	3.00	2.50	0.91	Apr 7.46
Most sun in one day	6.0	8.5	10.5	12.2	13.5	13.2	13.6	12.8	10.3	7.7	7.0	7.1	July 13.6
Fastest wind speed (knots)	34	22	30	18	22	14	14	12	12	45	18	16	Oct 45
And Gusts	45	44	48	32	35	29	22			59	36		Oct 59
And Direction	SE	SE	SW	SSE	N	NE	SE	ESE	WNW	W	SW	S	Oct SW
No. of days with no sun	10	4	4	4	4	3	0	1	1	5	9	21	62
No. of days with no rain	5	9	18	23	15	14	17	17	26	11	4	8	167
Deepest snow depth (cm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pH Range	6.62	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.26-6.84	6.45-6.51	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.26-6.84
pH Average	6.62	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.55	6.48	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.55
pH No. Tests	1	None taken	None taken	None taken	2	2	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	5

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And Direction	SE	SE	SW	SSE	N	NE	SE	ESE	WNW	W	SW	S	Oct SW
No. of days with no sun	10	4	4	4	4	3	0	1	1	5	9	21	62
No. of days with no rain	5	9	18	23	15	14	17	17	26	11	4	8	167
Deepest snow depth (cm)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fog days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pH Range	6.62	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.26-6.84	6.45-6.51	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.26-6.84
pH Average	6.62	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.55	6.48	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	6.55
pH No. Tests	1	None taken	None taken	None taken	2	2	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	None taken	5

WAKEHURST PLACE WEATHER 2002													
2002	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year (Totals)
Month's Total rainfall (mm)	102.9	109.9	56.8	41.3	139.3	61.1	83.6	47.4	39.3	83.0	186.2	168.7	1,120
<i>For Comparison 2001</i>	(129.9)	(123.5)	(119.8)	(85.0)	(32.4)	(15.6)	(53.1)	(99.9)	(102.5)	(159.3)	(40.7)	(28.3)	(989.5)
<i>For Comparison 2000</i>	[35.9]	[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]
<i>For Comparison 1999</i>	(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)	26th 27.0	4th 23.6	18th 12.2	27th 12.5	13th 27.3	5th 17.6	2nd 29.9	9th 17.8	6th 20.5	26th 14.6	13th 28.8	21st 29.6	
Rainless days	5	10	19	21	13	14	18	17	24	7	2	2	
Highest Max. Temp. (°C)	12.8 30th	14.6 22nd	18.1 30th	24 3rd	28.5 16th	28.3 2nd	36.1 29th	32.3 15th	29 3rd	21.9 3rd	15.6 2nd; 4th	12.2 29th	
Lowest Max. Temp. (°C)	3.8 8th	8.4 27th	6.6 14th	11 13th	11.3 6th	14.6 5th	16.5 7th, 8th	17.8 26th	17.4 27th	10.9 18th	9.2 19th	2.1 9th	
Highest Min. Temp. (°C)	9.8 30th	15.1 11th	10.7 21st	10.1 3rd	15.6 17th	15.6 18th	18.9 29th	19.0 18th	15.8 6th	14.4 2nd	11.7 6th	10.3 24th	
Lowest Min. Temp. (°C)	-6.0 1st	0.0 15th	-0.2 2nd	1.0 14th	4.1 2nd	7.8 29th	9.6 10th	11.1 1st	7.8 25th	-0.2 19th	2.4 26th	-1.1 10th	
Nights with air temp. below freezing	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	
Windiest Day	27th S 34 mph	26th WSW 35 mph	19th WSW 29 mph	29th WNW 30 mph	22nd S 26 mph	10th SW and 12th WNW 18 mph	2nd SW 25 mph	11th WNW 12th NW 27th and 28th NNE 14 mph	10th NW 30 mph	27th SW 40 mph	14th SSW 30 mph	2nd WNW 26 mph	

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OBITUARIES

JOHN WILSON EWART

Born in Wellington in 1909, John was educated at New Plymouth Boys High School and then later at Canterbury University where he was awarded the N.Z. Diploma in Horticulture.

John Ewart entered Kew on the 19th February 1934, 68 years ago, after spending time in preliminary training at the Botanic Gardens at Dunedin, Christchurch, New Zealand and a year as an exchange student at the Berlin Dahlem Botanical Gardens. In best Kiwi fashion he brought superb cricketing skills. In one of his first games he scored 111 runs. His involvement in the Kew Cricket Team was to bring them great success in the ensuing years. In his first year he handed in a completed plant collection to the British Botany Club and the following year he gained a distinction in Plant Pathology.

In 1935 Batting Honours again and in that 12 month period Distinctions in Arboriculture and Forestry; Soils and Manures and Plant Pathology. In 1936 he beat the previous record for the Mile Swim in the Thames with a time of 18 minutes 30 seconds. Heaven knows where they got the energy from but this event was followed by a dance. In 1937 he was Captain of the cricket team and a member of the Executive but he was bound for distant shores. In August 1937 he joined the Colonial Agricultural Service and was appointed Assistant Curator of the Singapore Botanic Gardens and later worked in both Straits Settlement and Penang, Malaysia, where he was appointed Curator.

Learning to fly with the Singapore Flying Club before the War, John joined the Malayan Volunteer Airforce in 1940 and was involved mainly in short range coastal patrols. After Singapore fell in 1942 he was posted to Ghana with the task of increasing the production of cocoa as a part of the War effort. Fortunately he was at home in New Zealand on holiday when Singapore fell. Two years later he was commissioned in the British Army and posted to India before returning to Malaya. Demobilised in April 1946, from the Army Civil Affairs Unit, John resumed his civil service appointment in Singapore as Curator, Botanic Gardens and Agricultural Officer.

He came back briefly to England to be appointed Inspector of Plants and Products for the Gold Coast. He spent several years working in Accra. Always interested in sport, John played rugby for N.Z. Universities, cricket and football at club level in England, and later, in Malaya played inter-state rugby and cricket, representing Malaya in games against Hong Kong, in both sports.

John retired to Tauranga in New Zealand but kept in regular touch with Kewites in New Zealand and England, particularly Professor Holtum. I visited him in 1993 and enjoyed drinks with John and his wife Mary. The garden was full of wonderful plants and, like so many Kewites, he was full of enthusiasm for Kew and the Kew Guild. He retired to Tauranga in 1957 where he grew **carnations** commercially

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and carried out valuable development and propagation in the then fledgling **avocado** industry.

He was for many years a Member of the N.Z. Institute of Foresters, the International Dendrology Society, Secretary of the Singapore Nature Reserve Commission, President of the Singapore Gardening Society and Vice President of the N.Z. Society. He was a Charter member of the Otumoetai Rotary Club.

John is survived by his wife Mary, whom he married in Wanganui in 1942, two sons, one daughter and eight grandchildren to whom we send our condolences.

HARRY JOHN KRUGER

11th January 1911 – 16th September 2002

Harry commenced his career in Public Parks in 1936 as a Garden Labourer/Lifeguard at Roath Park, Cardiff after, like most boys born in South Wales, going to sea as a ship's steward.

The start of World War II found him at Territorial Army Camp, but some three years later he was invalided out of the Royal Corps of Signals having fallen from a telegraph pole. Under the special circumstances prevailing at the time, and the waiving of the age limit, Harry found that he could leave Cardiff Parks and become a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It was to his great delight that 22nd March 1943 found him commencing duties in the Tropical Propagating pits. It was whilst there, researching the propagation of the Bread Fruit, that he came upon some contemporary writings which lead to his life-long fascination with the good Captain Bligh of *The Bounty*.

During his studentship Harry was set the task of sorting out the seed drawers and whilst doing so was prevailed upon, by someone whose name is lost, to let him have some of the seeds that were to be disposed of, despite it being strictly against the rules. This person was the proud owner of a bicycle and was in the habit of taking regular rides over Box Hill.

In the early fifties the Borough Librarian in Barry drew Harry's attention to some correspondence – I believe it was in *The London Illustrated News* – concerning plants indigenous to Eastern Europe flowering in the Box Hill area. Eventually the Director of Kew was approached and the theory was that bombs dropped in the area had been stock-piled in the open in Eastern Europe, had mud on them, that mud contained the seeds of plants indigenous to that area and when the bombs were dropped the mud had been scattered and the seeds germinated. This became too much for Harry – an honest soul and caring Kewite – and a letter was sent to Bill Campbell, Curator, admitting to the wrongdoing and explaining that the seeds had probably been scattered by the unofficial seed distributor. In due course Mr. Campbell replied and said "I knew if I waited long enough one of my boys would confess". He had spoken to the Director who agreed that no further action would be taken.

Harry took a keen interest in his work and was promoted to the position of Foreman of the Rock Garden moving from the Tropical Pits to the Rock Garden in the January of one of the coldest winters of the forties.

Having overcome a serious speech impediment, Harry loved to talk. He regularly attended meetings of the Mutual Improvement Society and gave a paper on 'Reconstruction of the Small Park Area'. Subsequently he was appointed Secretary of the Society and was awarded the Hooker Prize. He recalled that on one famous occasion the speaker (I believe it was the late John Souster) said not a word, picking up his violin and playing a selection of pieces all of which included 'spring' in their title.

Harry was a poet and published in the *Journal*, at one time writing in support of women.

All students at Kew during the War years were called upon to do Air Raid Warning Duties – this entailed spending nights at the top of the Chinese Pagoda and when anything was heard or sighted, running like mad down the stairs to sound the alarm and then going back to their post. Why couldn't have the alarm been at the post?

Having become the first student from Kew to secure the Diploma of Park Administration (1945) he left Kew in 1946 to join Beckenham Parks Department as Technical Assistant.

In 1947 he went north as Deputy Parks Superintendent of Wallasey and New Brighton – an experience he found horticulturally challenging, too cold and too windy. In 1949 he returned home to Wales as the first Superintendent of Parks, Barry. He set about upgrading the extensive sea front, reinstating woodland areas and centralising the playing fields.

In 1963, feeling in need of a change of direction he became Curator of Dyffryn Gardens, then under the control of the Glamorgan County Council, but formerly the Estate of Reginald Cory. Here glasshouses were upgraded, the Rose Garden redesigned, the arboretum cleared and new areas planted. The Gardens became a venue for many special events and were visited by some thousands throughout the year.

He sat on the Kew Guild Committee in the 1970s and in 1982 made a donation to the George Brown Lecture Fund. For many years he served as an examiner for the Local Government Certificated Gardeners Examination and was always delighted at the success of his men.

On his retirement in 1976 the family returned to Barry but he still continued to act as a Judge at National and Village Shows, much preferring the village. He was also called upon for some years to lecture in Arboriculture at The Glamorgan College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Pencoed.

Although he maintained, "I can't think little garden," and rarely did anything in the garden at home, unless it was holding a hose pipe and watering, he was always prepared to advise or, more often than not, to help in a practical way anyone seeking advice.

Harry lived life to the full and will be sadly missed by his wife Joan, his son, Nicholas (University Lecturer in Plant Pathology, Fellow of St. Cross College) and his family.

FREDERICK REGINALD RICHARDSON

31st January 1915 – 10th September 2002

'Rich', as he was affectionately called by his friends, was born in Camberwell. In the following year his father was killed in The Great War, leaving a widow and two children. In 1921 his mother married and started a new family. Life was hard so at the age of 14 Rich left to work in a factory to help with the family finances.

He won a scholarship to Birkbeck College, whose charter then as now, was to educate working students through Evening Classes. His textbooks were paid for by a generous local benefactor, never was a gift more generously repaid. Rich worked in the Botany department there.



By the time he started at Kew he had married Cissie, whom he had known at school. At the time of his death they had been married 66 years and had six children, 11 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

At Kew he became a part of the way of life in The Jodrell Laboratory. He joined the staff of the Jodrell on 14th May, 1934. He was the Laboratory Assistant to Dr. Metcalfe and subsequently became one of the world's best section cutters and provided C.R.M. with most of the slides for '*Anatomy of the Dicotyledons*' (Metcalf & Chalk) and the first volumes of *Anatomy of the Monocotyledons*. He sectioned material for about a third of the priceless collection of microscope slides in the Anatomy Section of the Jodrell Laboratory, (30k out of 90k) and became expert at identifying plant material from the anatomy. He was particularly good at wood identification. I remember him attending The Music Circle at Professor Metcalfe's House and Dr. Keith Jones remembers him as a quiet and stalwart person who had long been at the Jodrell when he arrived.

He left on March 7th, 1975, as a Senior Scientific Officer. Generations of visitors and staff have benefited from his patient training skills and enjoyed his quiet, unassuming manner.

In the early 50's the family moved to Roehampton where, being surrounded by Richmond Park and Wimbledon Common, Rich could fulfil his love of wildlife and nature, frequently taking his children on nature rambles to these places where he shared his knowledge of flowers and trees.

Rich became a leading light with the Roehampton Garden Society, for many years he was the Show Secretary and later Vice President. He had a well-maintained

allotment and won many prizes at the shows. Every Sunday morning until a few weeks before his death he went to the Garden Store where he was in constant demand to answer questions on gardening. He answered every question put to him with simple accurate and freely given advice.

He will be very missed by all who knew him but especially Cissie and the family.

To them all we send our deepest condolences.

We thank his son, David Cutler and Keith Jones for contributions to this Obituary.

DAVID SHARP

As the *Journal* was going to print, we sadly learned of the death of David Sharp of Rayment Printers.

David was an invaluable asset to the Guild, advising and helping to produce the *Journal* for over 30 years. His patience, wisdom, technical knowledge, endurance and sense of humour will be much missed.

Jennifer Day
Hon. Editor

**THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2002**

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2002 £	Total 2001 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions	6,038.38			6,038.38	6,365.40
Donations and Legacies	1,000.00	1,752.53		2,752.53	3,233.00
Investment Income – COIF	1,293.72	4,524.64		5,818.36	6,015.29
– Interest	1,270.93			1,270.93	1,344.03
Annual Dinner	1,654.50			1,654.50	1,760.00
Sale of “Kew Plantsmen”	820.00			820.00	238.00
Sale of Emblems	4.00			4.00	3.00
	12,081.53	6,277.17	0.00	18,358.70	18,958.72
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Kew Guild Journal	4,232.00			4,232.00	3,585.00
Prizes	495.00	12.00		507.00	508.00
Awards		5,530.00		5,530.00	4,943.00
Annual Dinner	2,090.91			2,090.91	2,415.38
Postage	303.83			303.83	168.46
Other expenditure:					
Insurance	38.24			38.24	29.89
Honorary Officers’ Expenses	42.00			42.00	0.00
Stationery and Printing	591.40			591.40	361.56
Website Software	874.72			874.72	0.00
Sundry	112.51			112.51	92.35
	8,780.61	5,542.00	0.00	14,322.61	12,103.64
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	3,300.92	735.17	0.00	4,036.09	6,855.08
OTHER RECOGNISED LOSSES/GAINS					
Losses on investments:					
Unrealised	-7,788.51	-9,802.13	-18,216.51	-35,807.15	-27,776.01
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS ...	-4,487.59	-9,066.96	-18,216.51	-31,711.06	-20,920.93
Balances brought forward at					
1 January 2002	64,033.22	50,298.57	87,301.91	201,633.70	222,554.63
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT					
31 DECEMBER 2002.....	59,545.63	41,231.61	69,085.40	169,862.64	201,633.70

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**THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2002**

	31 Dec 2002		31 Dec 2001	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		135,797.20		171,604.35
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	300.60		534.70	
Charities Deposit Fund	34,500.00		30,500.00	
Cash at Bank	434.19		342.42	
		35,234.79		31,377.12
LIABILITIES				
Life Subscriptions	44.63		47.77	
Creditors	1,124.72		1,300.00	
		-1,169.35		-1,347.77
NET CURRENT ASSETS		34,065.44		30,029.35
NET ASSETS		169,862.64		201,633.70
FUNDS				
General		59,545.63		64,033.22
Restricted		41,231.61		50,298.57
Endowment		69,085.40		87,301.91
		169,862.64		201,633.70

These are summarised accounts extracted from the Annual Report and Accounts of the Kew Guild. The Annual Accounts were approved on 20 January 2003 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.