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OF THE KEW GUILD

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



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The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

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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

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EDITORIAL

Greetings old friends! Please listen carefully!...

I gave up editorship of the Journal in 1999, not only due to completing 25 years as Editor and pressure of work, but also due to the complexity of the modern computer technology which I found difficult to master.

Five years down the line no-one came forward to take over from Editor Jennifer Day so I volunteered again, as a stop gap, since my computer skills had bettered and the Committee agreed that my daughter Alexandra might be remunerated to make her young skills available to the Editor. Without her you would not have had your journal today, and I gratefully thank her. I also thank all the wonderful and skilled contributors who have sent compact disks, emails and attachments, jpeg photos, artwork and snailmail 'copy' to enrich this Journal and your lives - for posterity.



My first job as Editor was to obtain quotations from various recommended Printers which, happily, resulted in a useful decrease in costs when the Committee decided to accept the quotation from Green Tree Press and I thank that company for their excellent assistance in printing this Journal. Thanks should also be extended to the previous Printers, Rayments of Dorking, who we used for over 40 years.

Happily, common sense, expert advice, and planning have rallied and enabled us to print out the membership list for your edification again this year.

Finally three cheers for your Committee and Sara Arnold, our 'out of town' Communications Secretary, who have spent so much time on your behalf to give you the Guild you enjoy today.

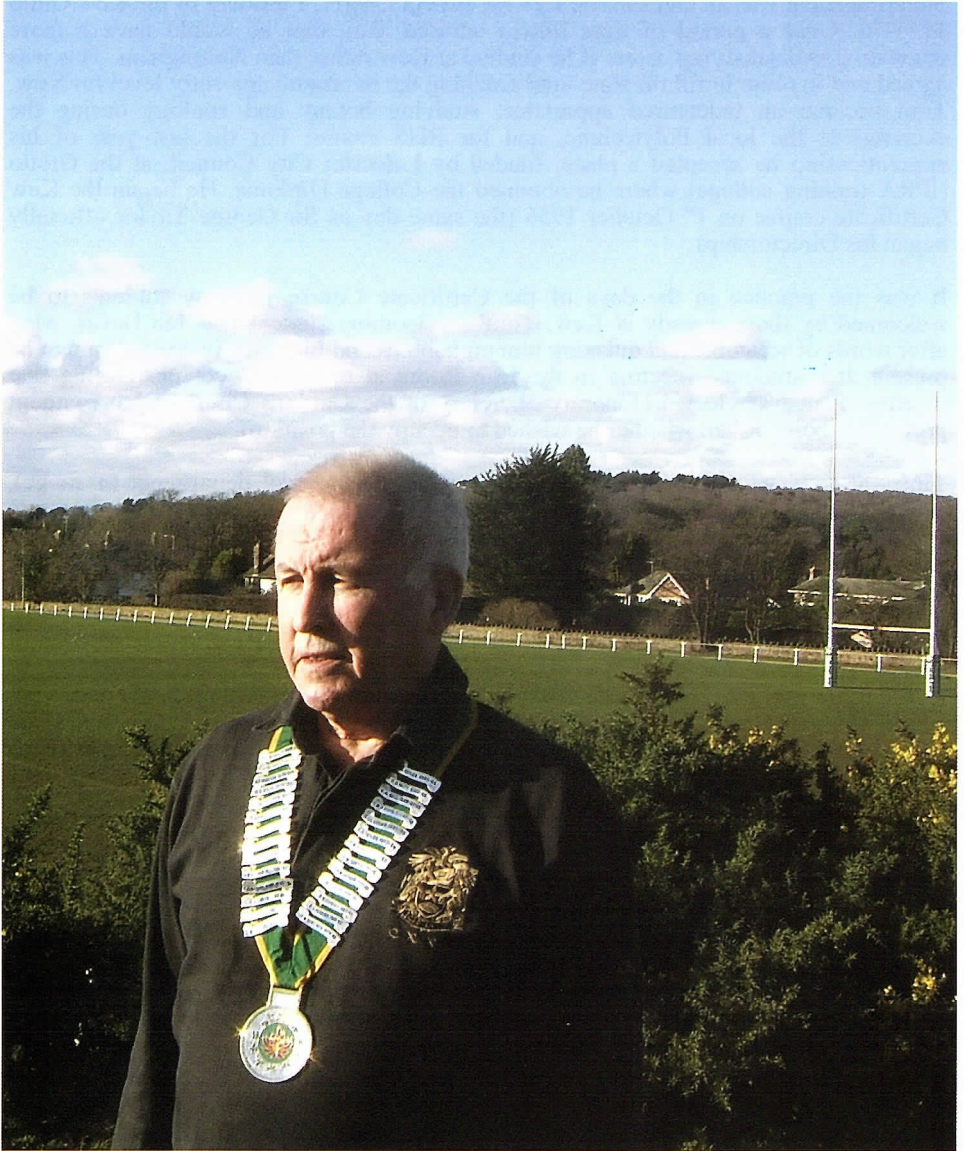
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Cover and Medal design by Anthony Ross.

TOM RISELY,
Master of Horticulture (RHS) Dip IPRA Cert Hort Kew FIHort
President 2006/2007



Tom Risely, President 2006 – 2007, was born in Leicester and educated at Wyggeston School in that City. Academically successful, he was encouraged to obtain a place at a Cambridge College to read economics. However, horticulture was in his blood and he was determined to study it at Nottingham University (the Sutton Bonnington campus). Advised to obtain practical experience, he joined the local parks department where the Superintendent was an enthusiastic Kewite, Edwin Cherry, President of the Kew Guild 1975-76. Over a period of time Edwin advised Tom that he would have a more interesting and satisfying career if he studied at Kew rather than Nottingham. This was agreed and in order to fill the time until reaching the minimum age entry level for Kew, Tom became an indentured apprentice, studying botany and zoology during the evenings at the local Polytechnic, and for RHS exams. For the last year of his apprenticeship he accepted a place, funded by Leicester City Council, at the Grotto (IPRA training college) where he obtained the College Diploma. He began the Kew Certificate course on 1st October 1956 (the same day as Sir George Taylor officially began his Directorship).

It was the practice in the days of the Certificate Course for new students to be welcomed by those already at Kew. Tom's welcoming student was Ian Beyer, who, after words of welcome and quizzing him on hobbies and interests, instructed him to be present at a students' meeting in the Iron Room at 6pm that evening. During that meeting Tom was elected Honorary Secretary of the Gardens Cricket Club (without previously being asked whether he wished to occupy the position).

Times at Kew were very happy. Tom worked in the tropical department (T range), decorative department (pits), tropical department again (pits), and finally the arboretum (nursery), under the guidance of assistant curators, Lew Stenning, Stan Rawlings and George Brown. At the time, Jack Souster was heavily involved in student training and his chief influence was to train students to think academically for themselves.

During this time at Kew, Tom received the Dümmer Memorial Prize for a collection of British flora and obtained two external qualifications, the National Diploma in Horticulture and the Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration. He was very active in Kew affairs as a reference to the Guild Journal 'Events of 1958' shows. He was a student representative on the Guild Committee and contributed articles as Honorary Secretary for these sections; the Gardens Cricket Club, the Kew Botany Club and the Kew Gardens Cricket Club tour of Holland (the first Guild overseas tour?)

Upon leaving Kew, Tom worked first for the Parks Department at Hayes and Harlington, Middlesex and then as Assistant Parks Superintendent at Lytham St. Anne's. In October 1969 he joined the Ministry of Transport, where he worked alongside Anthony Dunball (1953) on the landscaping and ecological management of motorways and trunk roads. At the beginning of 1970, another change of direction when he joined a private company specialising in the restoration of derelict land. This involved the vegetating and landscaping of colliery spoil heaps (including establishment of parks and playing fields in such areas) and areas surrounding graving docks in Northern Scotland. At one such area, Nigg Bay at the side of Cromary Firth, saline sand and mud had been dredged and spread on surrounding land and the work involved specifying restoration to surrounding landscape values.

With the oil crisis of 1975 undermining the construction and landscape industries, Tom moved to the Middle East to obtain contracts and to design and supervise construction, initially in the UAE, where he specified and constructed the first natural grass football fields in the Arabian Peninsula. Other projects included the design (designs by Allan Hart, Guild President 2002-2003) and construction of an Arab family public park (separate screened gardens for families, within the park) and the establishment of a 100km² forest in a desert area on the borders of the Abu Dhabi Emirate and Saudi Arabia. He moved to Saudi Arabia in 1979, where he established his own landscape company. Projects included technical designs and construction of football fields in municipal stadia in various parts of the country. The brief was to minimise water use and the design incorporated the laying of an impervious membrane beneath the growing zone and collection of all surplus irrigation water, purification by reverse osmosis, and reuse. As there was no topsoil, selection of the growing media was all important, together with Kew-acquired knowledge on plant nutrition, plus some consideration of the Jack Souster principles. Other work included the design and construction of gardens for Saudi Princes – sometimes to Islamic designs, others were Western gardens. Also public works including landscaping of the National Guard HQ in Riyadh, Dahrn Military Base and of the new British Embassy, Ambassador's garden, and Embassy staff gardens, also in Riyadh.

The landscape works in Saudi Arabia involved the import of plants from various countries, including Spain. Tom established a link with Huerto del Cura in Elche, who imported trees and shrubs from Cuba - and now plants from that country grow happily in Saudi Arabia.

Tom moved to Spain in the late eighties and was Project Manager for a major landscape project in Barcelona in the early nineties. This involved extensive hanging gardens on four storeys of a major construction, including large numbers of mature trees and palms, with lawns and planted borders down to the planting of mature palms on the beach.

Tom now works as a garden, sports field and landscape consultant from his home in The Wirral.

As will be seen from a description of his work, the President considers that he has a debt to RBG Kew. He is particularly influenced by Kewites. It is not possible to mention all but they include fellow students, especially Allan Hart and Mike Clift, who also were of the 1st October 1956 induction: Nigel Hepper, a tutor in 1956 and an influence and a friend for life; Norman Robson – a valued and influential tutor.

Tom is married to Julie and has eight offspring, graduates in almost any subject you care to mention (except botany or horticulture) and eight grandchildren. He is an enthusiastic Rotarian (introduced by Richard Ward, President of the Kew Guild 1998-1999) and will be President of the Rotary Club of West Wirral in 2007-2008. His professional voluntary work includes judging Green Pennant, Green Flag and Green Heritage for the Civic Trust, which he has done for the last eight years. He was Honorary Secretary for the Institute of Horticulture (North West and North Wales Branch) from 1996 to 2006. He was Events Office for the Guild from 1993 – 2003 and then Secretary from 2003 – 2006.

DAVID HARDMAN DMS, Dip Hort Kew, FLS

Vice President 2006 – 2007



David joined RBG Kew in 1992 when he was appointed to the position of Deputy Curator to John Simmons at the Kew site, and since 1997 he has been the Head of Horticulture and Estates Management at Wakehurst Place (previously known as the Deputy Curator). There he is responsible for the day to day management for maintaining the site as a major horticultural attraction encompassing the garden, woodlands, Loder Valley nature reserve and the forestry areas. He has been involved during the planning and construction of the Millennium Seedbank and the landscape restoration of the site upon its completion and now heads the horticultural team that supports this important international conservation project.

He was born in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire to parents who can recall three generations of gardeners. He attended Moseley Hall Grammar School, Cheadle where careers advice suggested he went into banking or the civil service – his Headmaster was not too impressed when told that David had gained a horticultural apprenticeship with Stockport County Borough's Parks Department. Under the guidance of his enthusiastic supervisor, Frank Prime, David gained entry to Kew as a student in 1974. On completion of the Diploma course in 1977 he returned to the Metropolitan Borough of Stockport where he progressed from Horticultural Assistant to Principal Horticultural Manager. During his period with Stockport he helped them to some notable achievements that included winning Britain in Bloom, designing and constructing displays at both the 1984 Liverpool and 1996 Stoke Garden Festivals. He then led a major innovation with the construction of a new Nursery in Woodbank Park. This structure used no glass in its construction, having a twin skin roof of Polyester and PVF with polycarbonate walls. This building won several prestigious awards for its energy efficiency and management systems as well as the teamwork involved.

At this time David also gained a Certificate in Leisure Management at Salford University and the Diploma in Management Studies from Manchester Polytechnic (now Metropolitan University). In 1990 he moved to Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council to take up a post as Parks Services Manager in charge of the Client Section managing an annual budget of £3.5 million.

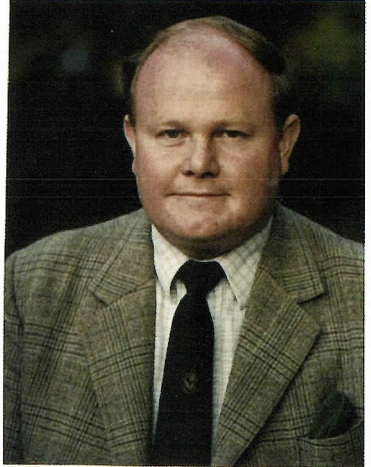
With a wry smile David reflects that perhaps in a way he is fulfilling that career advice "to go into the civil service (Kew) and banking (seeds)"!!!

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

KENWYN PEARSON

New Guild Secretary

After serving an apprenticeship in Horticulture and training at Kew I worked on the New Town Development at Milton Keynes before appointment as Head Gardener to the Cadogan Estate in London, where I was responsible for modernising the Estate Gardens in Chelsea and managing others throughout the British Isles. I re-stocked their gardens after the great storm of 1987, and dealt with the problems caused by Dutch Elm Disease and made the gardens self financing. Since the early 90s I have been self employed.



I have undertaken projects for Taylor Woodrow and restoration of historic landscapes throughout Britain, and carried out work for City and Guilds, particularly in relation to development of Vocational Qualifications. I carry out external examination work for Edexcel, and have been external verifier to many land based colleges, employment organisations and the Prison Service.

I work for the Britain In Bloom contests throughout the South of England and for several charities and am Secretary to a grant making gardening charity. It is a privilege to once again be serving the Kew Guild.

COLIN CLUBBE



Colin Clubbe doing fieldwork in Anegada, British Virgin Islands

I am a conservation biologist and a passionate advocate for plant conservation and enfranchising people in conservation decision-making through education and skills development. 2007 sees the start of my twelfth year at Kew helping develop and deliver Kew's conservation and capacity building programmes.

I started off professional life as an ecologist, having completed a BSc at the University of Birmingham and a PhD at Imperial College London. I taught for several years at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill and made my first professional contacts with Kew – first as a visitor bringing undergraduates biologists to use the collections. I was then

contacted by Ian Leese to help establish an ecology module for the Kew Diploma which I taught as a consultant for a couple of years before going to work overseas. I worked in Florida with an environmental protection/education organization and spent four years at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad. After a short spell working in the School of Horticulture helping to develop Kew's international diploma programme, I started my first full-time contract at Kew in 1995 working in the Education Department as Co-ordinator of Graduate Studies. I became a permanent member of staff in 1999 and moved to the Herbarium in 2001 where I head up the conservation and higher education section.

My main conservation focus is UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs) and I spend a lot of time running projects and workshops in the Caribbean OTs (www.kew.org/science/directory/teams/UKOverseasTerritories/index.html). I'm also heavily involved in Kew's international summer schools and the regional development of this programme (www.kew.org/education/highered.html).

ALEX GEORGE

Alex George was born in East Fremantle in 1939 and was educated at Applecross Primary School, Wesley College, and The University of Western Australia, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1963. To this he added a major in Botany in 1964.

Alex has been fascinated by wildflowers from his earliest years when, just beyond his back gate in Melville, he could wander in orchid-filled bush and climb banksia and jarrah trees. It was not until he began university, however, that he realised that botany would be his career. In 1959 he joined the Western Australian Herbarium while Charles Gardner was still Government Botanist, and worked there until 1981. He then spent twelve years in Canberra as Executive Editor of the Flora of Australia project with the Australian Biological Resources Study. In 1993 he returned to Perth where he has his own consultancy as a botanist, editor and indexer.

Although orchids were Alex's first interest, the whole flora became absorbing for him. Field work took him throughout Australia. He published a new classification of *Banksia* in 1981, followed by a popular book in 1984. The closely related dryandras have also been a major interest, as have the featherflowers and morrisons (*Verticordia*), and currently the one-sided bottlebrushes (*Calothamnus*). His research has resulted in naming many new species and several new genera.

In 1968 Alex was seconded for a year to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO), providing an opportunity to work with specimens collected by early explorers such as Joseph Banks, Robert Brown and James Drummond. The collections, libraries and archives at Kew, the Natural History Museum in London, and other European herbaria are an almost inexhaustible source of information for research. For Alex they stimulated further his interest in the history of exploration and discovery of the Australian flora. A particular interest was the privateer William Dampier who visited north-western Australia in 1688 and 1699 and made the first broad-scale collections and observations on the natural history. In 1999 Alex published a book on Dampier to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of his second visit. He returned to Kew in November 2002 to spend a year as an Associate there while his partner Roberta Cowan was ABLO. Then he was asked to be ABLO for the 2004–5 term and so spent another year at Kew.

Alex's other interests include conservation (he was a member of the Technical Subcommittee of the Conservation Through Reserves Committee in the 1970s), photography, gardening, music, travel, reading and aviation (he held a private pilot's licence for 20 years). In 2000–1 he was President of the Royal Society of Western Australia, a society with members covering all branches of science.

BOB IVISON DMS FILAM (Dip)PRA FIHort Dip Hort Kew

Bob started his horticultural career as an apprentice with The Royal Parks in 1968 followed by the student course at Kew in 1971. On leaving Kew in 1974 he worked in various Local Authorities in and around London culminating in a Head of Service position for the London Borough of Enfield.

After more than 20 years at a senior management level including 15 years as Head of Service. He retired from Local Government in 2005 to form his own company Ivison Consulting. The Company provides strategic and management support to Parks Services and other agencies.

He works independently with a number of Local Authorities in London and the South East advising on Quality Management Systems, specification and contract improvements and management and maintenance improvements.



As a member of the CABE Space's Strategic Enabling Panel he advises Local Authorities on Green Space Strategy development and best practice for the better management of parks and open spaces.

Enfield's Parks Service was central to that Council being awarded Beacon Council Status in 2002 for Improving Urban Green Spaces.

He judges for London in Bloom and also for the Civic Trust's Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Accreditation scheme. He is also a trainer of the Green Flag Award judges.

In 2003 he was made Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and Fellow of the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management. In 2004 he was admitted to the Freedom of the City of London and is a Liveryman of the Worship Company of Gardeners.

MARK SPARROW



Mark Sparrow didn't start his career in horticulture until the ripe old age of 23, trying a number of other career options before settling on his real passion for plants. He got a job in the local park looking after the municipal flower beds, as well as the bowling and putting greens. Luckily after only a few months working in the park his application to Kew for the post of Assistant Gardener in the South Arboretum was successful. He spent three happy years working around the lake and in the Rhododendron Dell. He then transferred to the Tropical Dept. working in the old T Range. It was during this time that he applied to undertake the Kew Diploma, having successfully completed the City & Guilds Certificate in Horticulture and so it was in 1983 that he joined Course 21. Three years went by in a blur but he emerged at the other end, older, wiser, and qualified to apply for the post of Supervisor of the Temperate House. He spent the next thirteen years in this role

during which time he oversaw the construction and planting up of the Evolution House. In 1998 he and his wife Janet decided that it was time for both of them to have a change of career and location, and before their three young children had put down too many roots.

The post of Curator of Horticulture and Botany at Chester Zoo sounded different enough and offered interesting opportunities for career and personal development. So in January 1999 the family moved to the North West of England finally settling in West Kirby (the same town as Guild President Tom Risely) on the Wirral. Chester Zoo, along with many other leading zoos in Europe, has changed markedly in the last 20 years. Gone are the days of the classic stamp collection of animals for the public to gawp at. Modern zoos are primarily conservation organisations and Chester Zoo's Mission Statement is 'To be a major force in conserving biodiversity worldwide' which of course includes plants!

The range of threatened plant species is something that Mark is actively working on to increase and includes involvement in the PlantNetwork Target 8 native plant project. The Zoo supports a large number of conservation projects throughout the world, and recently Mark went to the Philippines to assess and recommend ways of increasing the botanical conservation work they are involved with in this region. One of Mark's other roles is to create landscapes and plant displays that show animals in near natural surroundings. On the 100 acre site he has also developed themed plant displays including a Grass Garden, Roman Garden, Wildlife Garden, Chinese Rock Garden, among others. The Zoo has an extensive range of greenhouses, some of which are open to the public. Here are housed 3 National Collections of Cacti and half of the National Collection of Pterothallidinae orchids.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Kenwyn Pearson, Secretary

The Minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild held on Saturday 9th September 2006 at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Note: Notice of the meeting, agenda and list of attendees and apologies are given as addenda to the minutes.

Tom Risely gave a notice at the beginning of the meeting. The second item on the 2005 AGM minutes – Journal. Because of the delay in publishing the journal, copies were made available for members to view.

Attendance: As per Appendix A.

1-06 Welcome by the President Robert Hebb welcomed members, guests and friends to the 2006 AGM of the Kew Guild.

02-06 Apologies for Absence

The apologies for absence are attached at Appendix B.

03-06 Notice of Deaths of Members

Professor E. A. Bell, former president of the Kew Guild, Henry Bowles, HM Burkill, James Boughtwood Comber, George Nicholson, Roger Mann, Miss Stella Ross-Craig (Mrs Robert Sealy). A period of silence was observed in their memory.

04-06 Minutes of the 2005 AGM

The minutes of the 2005 AGM, held on 10 September 2005 were reviewed.

05-06 Matters Arising

05-06.01 Minute 06-05.11 The Kew Guild Garden. Graham Burgess requested that the official minutes, that the Kew Guild student vegetable garden was not his favourite choice, be deleted. Agreed

05-06.02 The Journal was posted two days prior to the meeting, with Stewart Henchie and Bob Hebb burning the midnight oil, stuffing envelopes to get these in the post prior to the meeting. For those who had not received a copy before the meeting, copies were made available for members to view during the meeting.

There were no matters arising that need to be placed on the agenda for this meeting.

The minutes of the 2005 AGM meeting were accepted and approved. Proposed by Nigel Hepper and seconded by Martin Sands and unanimously agreed as a true and correct record.

RH circulated a report from Pamela Holt, Events officer as to the years' events. (Report printed elsewhere in this Journal - Ed.)

06-06 Retiring Secretary's Report – Tom Risely

Tom Risely thanked members for their continuing support throughout the year.

06-06.01 The Committee met on four occasions in the year and all meetings were well attended and fully minuted. The minutes have been circulated, and are available to all members. In forthcoming years it is proposed that the minutes will be published on the web site. Tom had copies of the last meeting from 19th July if anyone wanted to view them.

06-06.02 The Guild has had correspondence with Jean Bell, widow of Sir Arthur – condolences were sent on behalf of members. All letters and correspondence will go onto the Guild archives. Jean said how much Arthur treasured the Guild and how much he welcomed the support and friendship of other members.

06-06.03 Electronic communication – information made available to members to be supplied by e-mail – especially those from overseas. Tom reviewed the correspondence during the year and had received a letter from:

Paul Sadler (student representative) – Paul is on an Australian travel scholarship at present. He gave some thoughtful suggestions for The Guild.

Nigel Sinnott – who suggested communications would be better via e-mail.

Susan Quigg nee Thomas – sent through a statement of her career and qualifications etc. this will be for inclusion in News of Kewites. She is now in Queensland, Australia.

Brian Lowe – Honorary Member – Brian is wheelchair bound and widowed but would like to come to the Annual Dinner next year. If any members can help or have any suggestions, please let Tom or Brian know.

06-06.04 There has been some confusion of members regarding membership categories. The Kew Guild has expanded the availability of membership for people with Kew connections and the following categories of membership are now established:

Full membership £15 per annum – open to anyone who worked or studied at Kew for a minimum of 12 months (need not be continuous service or paid employment, can be voluntary).

Student Membership – available to all students.

Honorary membership – awarded to those who are not able to take up the offer of full membership.

Honorary Fellows – this will be expanded upon later in the meeting with new Honorary Fellows being introduced into the Guild.

06-06.05 **US Tour** - TR is co-ordinating the trip to the US in October. There are still three vacancies if anyone would like to join in. It is good value for money and there is no profit being made.

The Hon. Secretary's report was proposed by Martin Sands and seconded by Colin Hindmarch and adopted.

06-06.06 Richard Ward commented on how well Tom has coped in his post of Secretary. Bob also praised Tom for his hard work, and went on to say he was proud to be succeeded by him.

07-06 Hon. Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Alsop

07-06.01 Accounts 2005 – unusually the accounts show that there has been more expenditure than income for the Guild this year. The Guild received £1,960 in donations including £1,000 that was generously donated by the Philip and Granville Turley Trust, £500 from Eric Curtis and £350 from the estate of Thomas (Noel) Lothian.

Income in 2005 totalled £18,887, of which £5,902 was from subscriptions and £7,680 from our investments. The Guild invests its funds in the Charities Official Investment Fund. The value of its investments has increased during 2005.

07-06.02 Awards and prizes of over £5,000 were made during the year. This enabled many students to make interesting trips that related to their botanical and horticultural interests and also support other members in the furtherance of their education.

07-06.03 A significant amount of expenditure was spent on the worthwhile activity of the archiving of the Kew Guild's records.

07-06.04 Total expenditure was £30,349 giving a net deficit for the year of £11,462. This has been deducted from reserves. There was a gain on the Guild's investments so that overall Reserves finished at £217,846 as compared with £203,070 at the end of 2004.

07-06.05 If there are any queries regarding the accounts, please feel free to contact Jennifer. Proposed by TR, seconded by AH. Report adopted.

08-06 Hon. Membership Secretary's Report – Stewart Henchie

08-06.01 Membership: 394, 43 staff, 20 students, 1 corporate, 307 ordinary, 18 life and 5 honorary. This figure is slightly lower than last year.

08-06.02 In January every member was sent a form to update personal information for publishing in the journal. There was a 75% return of forms. Of that, 25% didn't sign. This was very helpful for Stewart and he sent his thanks to all who took part and filled in their forms.

Stewart asked members if they had received their copy of the Journal in the post. He requested anyone whose address is incorrect to get in touch with him to change it. There are still some people who pay subscription but do not receive their copy of the Journal because they cannot be identified. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of the following people, please contact Stewart: Philip Astley, Colin Parbery and Richard Ottaway.

08-06.03 Martin Sands asked whether the increase number of circulars is putting pressure on the Guild regarding costs: especially in the light of new postal rates. Stewart requested volunteers who would like to help envelope stuff and help to keep costs to a minimum. Colin Hindmarch suggested that SH put his e-mail address on all mailings. **SH**

Proposed by Colin Hindmarch, seconded by Nigel Hepper. Report adopted.

09-06 Hon. Editor's Report – Jennifer Day

Jennifer Day has retired as Editor, and there is no report. Richard Ward is proposed as Editor for 2006-07.

10-06 Awards Committee Chairman's Report – Allan Hart

10-06.01 The fund for the 2006 Awards had risen to £6,800, an increase of £1,300 from 2005. Ten applications were reviewed, of which seven were awarded grants totalling £3,783.80. The remaining £3,000.80 will be re-invested.

10-06.02 It is worth reporting that two of the applications were considered to be inadequate and not conforming to the Award Scheme requirements and the third did not have the necessary permits to allow her to collect plants and seeds from the wild.

10-06.03 In accordance with the Risk Assessment for the Guild, Susyn Andrews, together with Emma Fox and David Davies are drafting a more detailed clause in relationship to Cites Convention and Kew's own protocols.

10-06.04 The Award Scheme has been asked by the School of Horticulture to contribute to the Ian Leese Memorial Travel Scholarship – notice of this was circulated to the Guild members and with donations received to date the fund now stands at £4,700.00.

10-06.05 The members of the Award Scheme, Allan Hart, Jennifer Alsop, Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Simon Rice, Paul Sadler and Marcella Corcoran, who has volunteered to become Secretary, have agreed to continue if elected today.

Motion proposed by Anthony Ross, seconded by Richard Ward and all in favour. Motion carried.

11-06 Hon. Events Officer's Report – Pamela Holt

11-06.01 The Events Officer's report was submitted in Pamela's absence and was included at Appendix C of the minutes of the meeting on 14th July 2006.

11-06.02 It was noted that Pamela was doing an excellent job, but it would be better to prearrange events at the beginning of the year. This is recognised as a problem, as often events cannot be organised so far ahead – especially with regards to venue booking – as RH has found out when booking the US Tour. Where possible, the events calendar would be put together at the beginning of the year and a programme of events for the year published in advance.

Proposed by John Sales and seconded by David Hardman. Approved.

12-06 Kew Guild Garden – Allan Hart

12-06.01 AH reported, saying ‘why is it taking so long?’ The answer to the question is that there have been lots of meetings, feedback and development. A report has now been produced (with unknown quantities and allowances) and is being refined to allow detailed costings to be made in the next couple of weeks.

12-06.02 Nigel Taylor fully endorsed the garden now it is in its final hurdle – and mentioned that the Director (who is leaving his post in two weeks time) will sign off the garden before he leaves.

12-06.03 Additional money from the Kew Guild garden. The decision will need to be made as to ‘top up’ money from the Guild. It is hoped that the garden will be of high quality. The detailing will be expensive, but it will be a testament to Guild members for years to come. It was suggested that it was far better to wait until 2007 rather than 2006 to make sure the quality is there and it is done right, rather than to rush into doing this at last minute. RH asked for a review of what is included.

Essentially, it is a vegetable garden, using traditional and modern materials. Sited by the proposed Kew Guild Pavilion, the students will have a stake in this. It will have a sustainable and recyclable theme with opportunities for members to sponsor benches etc. There is a competition to design the memorial gate – requirements regarding the size etc., will be made available.

RH mentioned that this is an exciting financial venture for the Guild in a prominent part of the garden, on a theme that is very popular with students and visitors alike. It will become a physical representation of the Guild. Bob thanked AH and everyone involved on all the hard work they have put in. A round of applause was given.

Students will be starting their plots very soon. A query was raised as to the site of the garden. Geometry of site is very difficult, complicated by pergola in the middle which was designed by TR in 1956. Entrance to garden will be beside the bonsai house.

13-06 Retiring President’s Report – Robert Hebb.

13-06.01 Bob reported on the Prizes that were presented to the students during the Diploma Day on 8th September. It was impressive to see achievements of Kew students and it was hoped they will become Kew Guild members. Bob was very pleased that this was the second year in a row he has been able to attend. Sir Peter Crane hosted the event and recounted with humour his involvement with students in the past seven years at Kew.

06.02 Special honours and achievements of members – RH asked to be notified of anyone who has received any special honours during the year for publishing in journal. **RH**

13-06.03 Bob thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year. The Kew Guild has made significant areas of achievement in the following:

13-06.04 The Kew Guild garden. Hopefully construction is to start within a few months.. Allan hart planned and liaised with Kew and students and the finer details of the plans were being discussed.

13-06.05 After an absence of many years, it was a pleasure for Bob to return to Kew four years ago to photograph plant pictures for books and publications. Bob found accommodation for a base and help to take many thousands of pictures for his projects. Only through the help of Kew Guild members has he returned to Kew seven times and taken 1400 photos. Graham Burgess helped get this started. Richard Ward and family were excellent hosts and extended a warm friendship. Stewart and Pat Henchie were thanked for accommodating him at present.

13-06.06 Robert also extended his thanks for help and friendship from the Guild Committee and staff. He was honoured to be President, following Colin Hindmarch who left the Guild with an exceptional legacy with regards to the programmes he initiated. His successful Presidency is a result of carrying forward Colin's initiatives, particularly in the area of strategic planning.

13-06.07 Also during the past year, a most valuable project was completed in archiving the records of the Guild. DH to report.

13-06.08 Archives – David Hardman

The idea of archiving of Guild documents started 5-6 years ago with good intentions, but the project did not get very far. Mandy Ingram, a qualified archivist was employed to undertake this task and there is a written article in the Journal. The project is now complete and there is a catalogue of 65 pages – this will be put onto the web site. The archives are still managed by Kew staff and their archivist. The Guild pays for this. Once items are submitted the Guild will hold on to the papers for 20 years. There are a few details to sort out on timescales, but this is ongoing. Photo albums with pictures are now stored collectively. A CD has been made and will be made available on the web once copyright has been sorted. The Committee extends its thanks to Mandy, who did all the hard work. Please speak to the Archivist if any information is needed, with DH to act as intermediary.

13-06.09 Kew Guild Medal – Anthony Ross

The medal will be presented on a 2-3 yearly basis to those who are deemed to be an outstanding scientist or horticulturalist. Members of the Awards Sub-Committee include the President of the Kew Guild, John Simmons, John Edmundson, Professor Gren Lucas, Dr. Thomas S. Elias, David Hardman and David Cutler. The Committee will choose the first recipient(s). The Guild 'Artist in Residence', Anthony Ross, has designed the medal. A sample was made available.

When Anthony was asked to design the medal he was shocked. DC showed him a sample, which helped. His problem was how do you design something in two dimensions and turn it into a three-dimensional object? A company in Twickenham had helped with the design. Anthony wanted an English design, and he was happy that it had come out quite bold and looked very effective. One lead impression was made available for members to look at. Anthony had not designed anything like this before and he had to make sure it had the right depth of impression. He is very pleased and it is a great honour to have done this.

13-06.10 Anthony also designed the cover of the 2005 Journal, supplied with pictures from RH. Robert extended his thanks for Anthony's hard work and was very pleased at the quality of the photos once they were scaled down.

13-06.11 At the Annual Dinner in May, an award of Honorary Fellow was made. Five people have been elected as Honorary Fellows and more will be introduced today. New members were presented with a Certificate of membership and a copy of 'The Kew Plantsmen'. The President welcomed the Honorary Fellows, spoke a little about their life and career and asked them to say a few words in response. (See Honorary Fellows Report by Allan Hart, page 62)

Derek Edwards was welcomed into the Kew Guild, but had not prepared anything to say. He studied for 44 years and was delighted to be invited into the Kew Guild.

Roy Lancaster said it was a great honour. When he walked in he saw many familiar faces. His first contact with Kew was before he was in the Army in 1956, he made a collection of plants from Malaya to put in the herbarium there. Last years' final year students had a day out in Hampshire and spent time with Roy at his garden. The students gave him inspiration to be part of the Guild.

Ed Wolf left Holland with £1 in pocket. He spent some money on a meal and had 75p left. He met his wife Britta, in Greenhouse number F2 and has a continuing interest in Kew and the Kew Guild.

13-06.12 Editor. The Journal has been distributed. We had difficulty during the year producing this. Our former Editor had had too much on her schedule to get the Journal printed in time for the dinner. It was decided to extend the deadline and we just made it. Jennifer has done an excellent job with the Journal. During her tenure, Jennifer extended the format, introduced colour and maintained a high standard of editorial review. Thanks to her for all her hard work. RW has agreed to take over from Jennifer and RH encouraged members to submit journal entries, high quality pictures and news. RW is to continue the high standards of Journal and the next edition will be printed in time for the Annual Dinner.

13-06.13 The success of any President rests with the hard work of the committee. Robert felt himself an outsider, as it is years since he had had any direct association with the Guild. He was truly impressed with the dedication and loyalty of members. He thanked everyone for their support and dedication, which is all on a voluntary basis. This has been a very happy time for RH as President and asked all members of the Committee to stand and receive thanks from him. A rousing round of applause was given.

14-06 Retiring members of committee

14-06.01 Members are elected for three years – retiring this year are Peter Gasson, Anthony Ross, Mike Wilkinson. Bob hoped to rely on their services and continuing support for the Guild in the future.

14-06.02 Tenure of office – TR as Honorary Secretary thanked Jennifer Day, retiring Editor for her editorship over the past 5 years..

15-06.02 Election of Officers:
Proposed officers for 2006-07:

President	Tom Risely
President Elect	Rebecca Bower (President 2007-08)
Vice President	David Hardman
Hon Secretary	Kenwyn Pearson
Hon Editor	Richard Ward
Committee	Bob Ivison
	Mark Sparrow
	Alex George (overseas)
	Colin Clubbe (Kew)

TR will contact AG and CC to invite them to become Committee members.

RH proposed motion to elect Officers and Committee members, seconded by JA and agreed.

16-06 **Any Other Business**

16-06.01 Kew Guild Medal – the principle of awarding the medal should be approved at this AGM. MS proposed, KP seconded, motion carried.

16-06.02 RW – as 2006-07 Editor of the Journal has suggested obtaining quotes for the printing of the Journal. The Guild has used the same printer for 45 years, but as per Guild rules, it should be put out to tender. Richard made a plea that if anyone knows of any printers who would be willing to quote to let him know at the end of the meeting, in order for him to report to the next committee meeting. Richard asked for articles, news, photos from anyone, as the Journal is ‘you’. Richard expressed his thanks in advance.

16-06.03 Graham Burgess raised the question of the facilitation meeting that took place earlier in the year. A skills database was proposed and should now become a priority of the Guild. RH seconded the proposal and it would be put on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

17-06 **Inauguration of New President**

Robert Hebb had the greatest pleasure to hand the Presidency over to Tom Risely, adding that he could not think of a more worthy person (see photo below). He extended his thanks for all the work Tom had contributed in helping him co-ordinate the forthcoming trip to the United States.

17-06.01 Our new President, Tom Risely thanked RH for kind words and presented him with his certificate. Tom reported as follows:

17-06.02 Notices: There was a problem with the students’ tea – unfortunately they could not do it, but Pat Henchie would take over.

17-06.03 This was a special day - Allan Hart, Mike Clift and Tom Risely were celebrating 49 years and 50 weeks since entering Kew. The social event this evening would be a celebration of that. He added that it was nice to see so many old faces.

17-06.04 Communications with officers – Tom expressed his thanks to Mandy Ingram as the archiving project came out below estimated costs and was exceptionally successful and would help the Guild to look to the future.

17-06.05 As a keen Rotarian – Tom proposed a programme of referrals for members, and vowed to ensure that existing programmes are completed and come to fruition, i.e., the Kew Guild Medal, Garden and any other initiative started under past Presidents.

17-06.06 During his Presidential year Tom would like to make it one for renewal of horticulture in public parks. Public parks have declined since the early seventies and although there has been some renewal in the last ten years, there is still a long way to go. He proposed that the theme for the 2007 Annual Dinner should be public parks, with the principal speaker from that profession. He also intended to make proposals to the Committee for the Guild to support horticultural apprenticeships in public parks with a view to increasing the flow of students from that background to the RBG Kew Diploma Course.

17-06.07 He had worked for many years in the Middle East (there is a single Arabic word for ‘paradise’ and ‘garden’). He proposed that The Guild should promote internship at RBG Kew for horticultural students from poorer Middle-Eastern countries. He had discussed with Emma Fox who added that people will benefit but they can’t afford travel or accommodation. TR will put forward proposals in this light in the next year.

18-06.01 Development of the Guild - for every person qualified for membership only 50% are members. Within a few years of leaving Kew, memberships lapse. We need to find out how we can retain these in the Guild in future years.

18-06.02 Jennifer Alsop stated that legacies have a bearing on what we can do. Stella Ross-Craig has left £350,000 which made a substantial increase in the funds of the Guild. During the next few months the Committee would gather information as to what could and should be done with this money. Jennifer Alsop, as Treasurer, will write to all members to ask for their ideas. From then she could make some recommendations. The Guild must make sure the legal obligations are fulfilled. It would be appropriate for it to be spent on education or travel scholarships, but this is in no way binding.

18-06.03 ML stated that horticulture education is not part of national curriculum. Perhaps target gardens to provide more job opportunities. The Guild need to look into this.

18-06.04 Communication with members should be carried out by e-mail. David Hardman will have a small support team around him to help Chris Weddell operate the web site. This should be made a priority.

18-06.05 Events. An objective for the year would be a programme of events published by the end of the previous year (e.g., for 2007 by end of 2006). This was agreed, but a note made that quite often venues may not be available such a long time in advance. PH to investigate. **PH**

18-06.06 The President paid gratitude to the retiring Director, Sir Peter Crane. He has been immensely supportive of the Guild, and we owe him a lot. He never refuses anything we request him to do and the Guild send him best wishes the future.

17-06.14 The new Director was welcomed on behalf of the Guild. An invitation will be formally extended for him to join us at a future meeting.

19-06 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2007 would be held at Wakehurst Place, on the first Saturday of September.

Appendix A

Attendance

Robert Hebb, Tom Risely, Sara Arnold, Joan Hart, Ian Edwards, June Edwards, Derek Edwards, Martin Sands, John Sales, Mike Clift, T Sutcliffe, Bob Adams, Anthony Ross, Marie Ross, Colin Hindmarch, Valerie Hindmarch, Kenwyn Pearson, David Hardman, Jennifer Alsop, Howard Sheldon, Jean Griffin, Peter Gasson, Norman Robson, Nigel Hepper, Alan Gibbon, J. O. Shea, Mike Lycett, Granville Turley, Eric Grant, Philip Grant, John Gaggini, John Woodhams, Richard Ward, D Hayes, Tony Goodale, Harold Heywood, Collin Clubbe, Bob Ivison, Brita Wolf, Ed Wolf, Graham Burgess, Chris Baylis, Roy Lancaster.

Appendix B

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from:

David Cutler, Emily Leche, Roy Forster, Pamela Holt, Dr Norman Robson.



Above right: Allan Hart with Kew Guild Garden design.
Below right: Anthony Ross, Kew Guild Medal designer.

Photos: Martin Sands

Kew
PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

School of Horticulture

Horticulture and
Public Education Department

**Presentation of
Kew Diplomas and Prizes
2006
Course 41**

Friday 8th September
3.00 pm **Introduction**

Professor Sir Peter R Crane FRS
Director

Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes, Certificates of Training in Botanical Horticulture and Travel Scholarships

by Penelope Hobhouse (read by Nigel Taylor PhD)

Presentation of the Kew Medals

by Penelope Hobhouse (citations by Professor Sir Peter R Crane FRS)

Address by the Guest of Honour

Penelope Hobhouse
Garden writer, designer and historian

Vote of Thanks

Lord Selborne KBE FRS
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Rory Dusoior Dip Hort Kew

4.15 pm **Afternoon tea in the School of Horticulture**

**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW
SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE**

Introduction by Nigel Taylor, Curator

Your Worship, Honoured Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen, may I also welcome you all – it is great to see so many old friends as well as the expectant faces of the colleagues and relatives of today’s graduates and medal winners.

We are going to begin with the presentation of Diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Course 41 of the Kew Diploma in Horticulture. But first, I want to thank the generous sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today, and say a few words about our graduating students.

In particular, I must thank the Kew Guild, whose President, Robert Hebb, is on the platform. The Guild, an association of past and present Kew staff and students, gives several awards today, as well as in excess of £5000 towards student 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. In addition, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Bentham-Moxon Trust and the Merlin Trust, have all given grants to our students and Kew staff this year.

Before mentioning our students’ achievements I would like to draw attention to some important staff details. First of all, we should note that this will be Barbara Hanson’s last Prize Day as a member of the School of Horticulture team – I know that Students and many colleagues will testify what a tower of strength she has been during her years of service to Kew. As we all know, this will be Sir Peter’s last Prize Day as Director, but we do hope he and Elinor will honour us with their attendance on future occasions, if professorial duties at Chicago permit.

Next, and importantly, we should welcome former Diploma graduate and doyenne of the Palm House, Emma Fox, as our new Principal of the School, and also Judy Hancock, who is taking over from Barbara as School Administrator.

In turning to the main business of this afternoon, our graduating 3rd Year Students, it is relevant to note that they are, as usual, a reflection of Kew's international outreach: 2 are from Japan, 1 from Germany, 1 from South Korea, 1 from Spain and 8 from diverse parts of the United Kingdom. They are also a landmark group in being the year that we will remember from the BBC2's first 'A YEAR at KEW' series, where, on the small silver screen, we saw them embark on the Kew Diploma! Three years on, we are all proud to see them graduate, and we are now into series 3 of a Year at Kew, which we expect to be broadcast in the New Year.

An undoubted attraction of the Kew Diploma in Horticulture is that you get opportunities for travel, often overseas:

In their 1st Year this year's graduates went to see the outstanding living collections at the University of Bonn in Germany, where one of the Diploma's former stars, Markus Radscheit, is Curator.

Subsequently, some of their Individual Travel Scholarships included that of Lucy Hart, who went to California to study native species growing in their wild habitats and in cultivation. She visited the Californian Channel Islands and Yosemite National Park, and gained work experience at Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens.

Tom Price went to New Zealand on a botanical study tour, visiting botanic gardens and wild temperate plant communities throughout the country while studying the native flora.

Sara Redstone went on a three-week study tour of institutions in New York and Chicago. Her aim was to investigate the provision of education and interpretation for teenagers – an age group that challenges botanic gardens' educators. She built connections and exchanged information with educators she met, and reported her findings to colleagues in education at Kew.

Masaya Tatebayashi went on a study tour to New York and Denver. He looked at horticultural therapy for young people in difficult situations, helping to establish contacts between Kew and botanic gardens and other organisations in the USA. His subsequent Kew Mutual Society talk was an entertaining as well as highly educational experience and we are all glad, Masaya, that you made the career change from banking to horticulture!

Keiko Uyama travelled to Japan to carry out research into *in-situ* conservation strategies for old trees and plants endemic to Yakushima Island, which like Kew is a World Heritage site. She also learned about the cultivation of the sacred Lotus, a plant that features large in Kew's tropical glasshouses.

Jeeun Song-Dusoir has participated in two of Kew's projects in the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories. The first saw her working in the British Virgin Islands, where she created a design for the Anegada Rock Iguana Facility. Then, as a final year Dissertation, Jeeun travelled to Monserrat in the Caribbean, to help in the design of a Botanic Garden there.

Meanwhile, Rory Dusoier went on a travel scholarship to study the ecology of the Hungarian grasslands, Christopher Ryan travelled to Iran and Irina Noack to China. She has already hosted her Chinese contacts on a visit back to Kew and this is typical of the ambassadorial role that Kew students perform.

Also, as part of their course, our third year Diploma students join the University of Reading's botanical field trip to Almeria in Spain. This year's trip proved to be another very successful experience and I'm pleased to see some of the Reading staff from this trip with us in the audience today.

Sadly, for some at least, there is another life and career beyond Kew, and the immediate futures of some of today's graduates include that of Tom Price, who is taking up a senior horticultural position at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden, while Jim Cable is joining the staff at the Chelsea Physic Garden; Rory Dusoier is taking up a head gardener position in a private garden and Vicky Davies will be joining a trainee manager programme in commercial horticulture. Our two Japanese students, Masaya Tabtebayashi and Keiko Uyama, will be returning home to Japan, but I know that this will not be without some yearning for more time at Kew – and, Masaya, please note, you can't be a student forever! Jeeun Song-Dusoier is currently a full-time mother, while Phil Kennedy is planning to be self-employed, starting his own garden maintenance business. This leaves 5 graduates who are taking up permanent staff positions at Kew, spread across all of the Sections in HPE, namely, Sara Redstone, Irina Noack, Carlos Magdelana, Christopher Ryan and Lucy Hart.

We wish all of them the best of careers and those who are staying will have the undeniable pleasure of telling future students just how hard the course used to be! And not forgetting those comments like, "you need to improve your time management skills".

Oh, and I must not omit to draw your attention to another of Kew's lesser known roles, that of bringing plant lovers together. Two 3rd Years, Rory Dusoier and Jeeun Song, were married in August 2005 and are now the proud parents of baby Arthur.

Finally, on behalf of the whole organisation, I must thank all of Course 41 for the immense contribution that each of you has made to Kew during the past three years. In spite of all the watering, weeding, edging and mulching, you have remained a good-humoured group, fun to be with, supportive of each other and of Kew. You have been excellent ambassadors for us both at home and abroad and on my 'Back-to-the-Floor' sessions in the Gardens I have enjoyed working with each of you and learned to appreciate your diverse talents and humour.

Kew will always remain open to you as a resource, and we encourage you to keep in touch with us through membership of the Friends of Kew and the professional fellowship of the Kew Guild. 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."

Now, to the prizes themselves – I would like to invite our Guest of Honour, Penelope Hobhouse, to make the presentations. I shall first read out the awards, followed by the name of the person who is to receive them, in alphabetical order:

The Kew Diploma with Honours

JIM CABLE

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

The Kew Diploma with Credit

VICKY DAVIES

The Kew Diploma with Credit

RORY DUSOIR

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

The Kew Diploma with Honours

LUCY HART

The Kew Diploma with Credit

PHIL KENNEDY

The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travel 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 to Mauritius);

The International Plant Propagators Society Award, The Landsman's Bookshop Prize for the best landscape design project;

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize, (joint winner), donated for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final year landscape design project;

The Kew Diploma with Credit

CARLOS MAGDALENA

The Prize for the best vegetable plot, that is for obtaining the highest marks in that project, and the Kew Diploma with Honours

IRINA NOACK

The Paul Temple OBE Prize, sponsored by the international landscape designer, who is in the audience today, for the best overall performance in landscape design;

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize, (joint winner), donated for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final year landscape design project;

The Nigel Hepper Cup, presented by a Kew botanist, in the audience today, who has a long association with the Kew Diploma course. Mr Hepper has asked that the cup be given in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments;

The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize, (joint winner), sponsored by the Kew Guild in memory of the famous botanical artist and given to the best practical student overall;

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

The Kew Diploma with Honours

TOM PRICE

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 awarded by the City of London Livery Company, to the person who has done most for the Royal Botanic Gardens during the course, which also recognises the top student position;

The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize, (joint winner), sponsored by the Kew Guild and given to the best practical student overall;

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

The Ian Hudson Prize for Ecology, for outstanding results in this subject, and donated by the lecturer of the course;

The Kew Gardener Arboricultural Prize, sponsored by Dan Slack of 'The Kew Gardener', himself a Diploma graduate;

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

The Kew Diploma with Honours

SARA REDSTONE

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 the extensive areas of bedding plants. Mr Larkbey has asked that the Cup be awarded annually to the best practical student in the School as a whole;

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

The Peter Cantor Memorial Prize donated by Vivien Cantor in memory of her husband, to the person who has done most during the course to make the desert more productive;

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

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

The Kew Diploma with Honours

CHRISTOPHER RYAN

The Kew Diploma with Credit

JEEUN SONG-DUSOIR

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

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

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

The Kew Diploma with Honours

MASAYA TATEBAYASHI

The Kingdon-Ward Prize, given by Winifred Kingdon-Ward in memory of her brother Frank, the famous plant collector, to the student attaining the highest marks in their final-year dissertation;

The Kew Diploma with Honours

KEIKO UYAMA

That concludes the presentations relating to Third Years. We turn now to the other awards.

The Professor Keith Jones Cup, donated by a former Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory to the person who has given the best 'item of interest' talk to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society.

Last season's Kew Mutual Improvement Society weekly lecture programme was organised by several second-year students. The Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize is presented to the student who has done the most to organise the lectures. As Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society this student is also the recipient of the Sir Joseph Hooker Prize. This prize is presented on behalf of the Director in memory of his famous predecessor and augmented by a cup donated by Mrs Hazel Hyde, former School of Horticulture Administrator. This second year student is also one of the recipients of The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship for his proposal to travel to Madagascar to work on a Kew collaborative project involved in the conservation and restoration of littoral forests.

Unfortunately our prize winner, **DANIEL HAYNES**, is unable to be with us today, but he has asked for fellow student **FALKLAND VANS LITTLE**, to collect the prizes on his behalf.

The David Dalziel Travel Scholarships are awarded for travel project proposals that Diploma students submit and mostly then undertake during their 2nd year of studies. These scholarships are kindly donated each year by Mr Dalziel who lives in Florida. Besides Daniel Haynes, the other five David Dalziel Travel Scholarship winners are:

DAN LEIGHTON for his Travel Scholarship to 'North Vietnam to study *Primula* and *Pleione* spp. in their native habitats';

SIMON RICE for his Travel Scholarship Proposal to the Seychelles 'to study the cultivation and propagation of the endemic *Medusagyne oppositifolia* and to repatriate plants from Kew grown in the Micropropagation Unit';

EMILY WATERS, who has just this week returned from her travel Scholarship to the Amazonian Rainforest of Ecuador;

SILVIA VILLEGAS for her Travel Scholarship proposal to Mexico to study *Pinguicula* and cactus species in their native habitats. Sylvia is unable to be with us today.

The final David Dalziel Travel Scholarship is awarded to **KATRINA HERIAN** for her Travel Scholarship proposal to study 'The flora of wetland habitats in Britain and their re-creation'. Katrina is also the recipient of The Plant Identification Tests Prize, which

is donated by the Students' Union to the person with the highest marks overall in these tests. She is receiving this prize due to her extraordinary record of maintaining a 100% score for her plant identification marks, for the second year running. This is a truly remarkable achievement! Congratulations, Katrina.

The Margolas Study Tour Award, provided by the Margolas Trust in recognition of the conservation value of a project, is awarded to **JIM HANDLEY** for his proposal 'to study the threatened endemic flora of Ascension Island', one of the United Kingdom's Overseas Territories.

The Institute of Horticulture Prize sponsored by the Institute is awarded to the person gaining the best overall performance in the first year

JANE GLEESON

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

JAMES BEATTIE

Now we move on to awards made to staff:

The John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships are available to horticultural staff at Kew and Wakehurst Place, from a bequest of Mr Scott-Marshall, who was formerly editor of 'Gardeners' Chronicle'.

This year Travel scholarships were awarded to **BETH BARBER** and **STEPHEN ROBINSON**. Unfortunately Stephen is unable to collect his prize.

We now move on to the presentation of certificates to Rotational Trainees. This practical horticultural training programme gives a broad experience in the diverse areas of horticulture covered at Kew. The trainees are called 'rotationals' because they rotate around the 3 principal Gardens sections, namely the Great Glasshouses, the Arboretum and Hardy Display, spending a year in each.

The Certificate of Training in Botanical Horticulture

NEIL BARRY

STEVE ELLIS

ALINA LOPATIS



DAVID ALICHA
4248



JOSEPH ATKIN
4237



LAUREN CARRUTHERS
4243



CHRIS COTTERELL
4242



ALWYN CRAVEN
4239



EMMA CRAWFORTH
4236



SAM CROSSFIELD
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CHRIS FLYNN
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PATRICK HAYES
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MEI LENG LIM
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MATTI NISSALO
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CRAIG RUDMAN
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COURSE 44



Outgoing Course 41 with dignitaries

THE KEW MEDAL

The Kew Medal is awarded annually to those whose achievements, contributions, or services to the gardens at Kew and Wakehurst Place are considered of outstanding merit and deserving of special honour. The Medal struck in silver-gilt, was first awarded in 1980, and is inscribed "For Merit". The face design illustrates the Palm House (built 1844 - 48) with a spray of Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Para Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) leaves above representing both the knowledge and work of the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens. The name of the recipient is engraved on the reverse of the Medal, together with the year of the award, and it is encircled with vine leaves and a crown signifying Kew's links around the world.

Dr William Derek Clayton

As a member of the Herbarium staff for over 30 years Derek specialised in the family Gramineae and rose to the position of Deputy Keeper. He retired in 1989 and since then Derek has continued to work as an Honorary Research Fellow. Derek has served Kew and the global plant systematics community with distinction. Since his retirement Derek has spent the bulk of his time developing the World Grass Species Database and its sister resource the Grass Synonyms Database. These two databases were finally amalgamated as GrasseBase in 2006. Without Derek's dedication and application this vital resource would never have materialized. The Kew Medal is awarded to Derek in his 80th year for his dedication and invaluable contribution to botany at Kew.

Pat Gleave

As a member of staff Pat has worked for over 19 years since the infancy of the Building and Maintenance Department. Pat is a tireless worker for whom nothing is ever too much trouble. She has been a great advocate and ambassador for Kew and in her kindly sympathetic way she has dealt with the most sensitive of issues, whether it be dealing with grieving people wishing to donate a bench for a loved one or arranging the scattering of ashes ceremonies. Pat has also worked hard in her own time to raise funds for wheelchairs for Kew. It is therefore fitting that Pat should be awarded the Kew Medal for an exceptional contribution and service in her role for the Building and Maintenance Department and Kew.

Richard Lewis

Lou, as his friends know him, has worked at Wakehurst Place for over 40 years. Lou is one of those people who quietly gets on with the job often working behind the scenes and outside normal working hours he carries out the kind of jobs that are beyond his horticultural duties. His assistance with the Building and Maintenance Department on estate matters over the last 20 years has contributed to the smooth running of the whole Wakehurst operation. The Kew Medal is awarded to Lou for lifelong commitment and personal dedication to the gardens and estate at Wakehurst Place.

Elinor Hamer-Crane

Elinor has made an impact in a very personal way to the staff at Kew and the wider community who she has reached either through her volunteer activities or on a day to day basis as the Director's wife. With her genuine interest and caring nature Elinor finds time for people in her busy schedule. She has always paid a particular interest in the welfare of the horticultural students and has been on hand to offer support and comfort which was absolutely invaluable this past year. As a volunteer Elinor has a fun and sometimes mischievous personality making her the perfect companion when helping with the orchid festivals and other events. The Kew Medal is awarded to a special Director's wife, for her generous contribution of her time and endearing personality which has touched so many at Kew these past 7 years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PRESIDENT!



Following the 8th December Committee meeting, first year students and Committee members adjourned to the Coach and Horses, where Father Christmas alias Editor Richard Ward presented President Tom Risely with a birthday cake.

CONGRATULATIONS EMMA!

Congratulations to Emma Fox, Principal of the School of Horticulture, and Paul Pollard, past student, on the occasion of their wedding on the hottest day of the year, 20th July 2006, at Sunninghill Church, Berkshire which was followed by a reception at Great Fosters, Egham. They 'had a fantastic day with many of our fellow course 34 students in attendance as well as a lot of Kew staff (both past & present).'



Paul and Emma's thank you card:

To the Committee of The Kew
Guild

Thank you all so much for
your generous wedding
present. The clock makes
a fantastic addition to our
kitchen / breakfast room and
ensures we are never late
for work!

all our love

Paul + Emma (Fox)

KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, FRIDAY 19TH MAY

by Pamela Holt and others

Although the booking was made in September 2005 for Saturday 20th May 2006, the Guild was informed only a few weeks beforehand that a booking made in April took priority. Thus the dinner was brought forward to the Friday to enable the preferred venue of the Orangery to be utilised. Whilst this change in date did allow some to attend who might otherwise have been unable to, others I know were disappointed. Notwithstanding, fifty three diners sat down to a splendid meal in the good company of the Guest of Honour John Simmons with excellent Guild fellowship in the capable hands of our president Bob Hebb. Kew students were made most welcome at this annual prestigious event with Kewites generously supporting their raffle to assist the annual study tour to Spain.

President's remarks

The President, Robert Hebb, and his wife Winnifred, were escorted to the head table by the MC, Richard Ward. Already seated there were the chief guest and speaker for the evening, former Kew Curator John Simmons, along with Rebecca Bower and Wienna Ward, wife of the MC.

The President said the Grace, and after dinner he proposed the Loyal Toast to The Queen and thanked the caterer and her staff for the presentation of a fine meal. He responded to the Toast to the President, given by Graham Burgess (below), by thanking the members for their presence and by recognizing Immediate Past President Dr. Colin Hindmarch for the great legacy of new projects he had left for this years' Kew Guild Committee to work on. The President said his remarks to follow would outline the significant progress the Committee members have already made with new projects this year.

The president recognized Landscape Architect Allan Hart, who served as the Guild's liaison with Kew staff and students for the new Kew Guild Garden. Schematic plans for the garden had been completed and approved by Kew staff and the Guild. Committee member Stuart Henchie represented the senior curatorial staff of the Garden in consultations about the plan. Working drawings were underway and Kew would soon advertise for bids from contractors, with a completion date in time for the AGM in September. The garden will contain the student vegetable plots and be located at the Jodrell Laboratory end of the Natural Order Beds. Important amongst the garden's several features will be a tool house with a green roof and covered area for interpretative signage that will explain the work of the Guild to the public. Allan was asked to stand and receive the enthusiastic thanks of the members for his important contribution to the work of the Guild.

The President then recognized David Hardman, who had supervised the cataloguing, reorganization and protection of the Guild's considerable documents, photographs and mementos and their integration into the Kew Archives system. A professional archivist had been hired by the Guild, and the work was now complete, along with printed guidelines for officers and members to follow when submitting archival materials in the future. David was asked to stand and receive the warm thanks of the members for his important contribution to the professional work of the Guild.

Next, the President recognized Past President, Dr. David Cutler, who had formed an international committee he will chair, which is to recommend the recipient of the new Kew Guild Medal. The medal will be presented annually, along with a cash award, to a distinguished scientist or horticulturist for specific accomplishments the Guild wishes to recognize and publicize. Artist and Committee member Anthony Ross has designed the medal and is working on its production with the manufacturer. David was asked to stand and receive the appreciation of the members for the important contribution he was making to the international stature of the Guild.

The President announced that the October Kew Guild Meeting and Tour in the Mid-Atlantic region of the USA had 16 members signed up; enough to make the trip go. There was space for only four more members. The President thanked the Secretary,

Tom Risely, for the assistance he was giving to coordinate matters on the British side, and asked him to stand and receive the thanks of the members.

The President thanked the Treasurer, Jennifer Alsop; the Secretary Tom Risely; and the Events Coordinator, Pamela Holt for their especially hard work. He thanked the entire Kew Guild Committee for their loyalty and lively discussions at the past several meetings, and asked them to rise and receive the appreciation of the members for all their work.

The President announced the news of a substantial six figure sum left to the Guild by the late Miss Stella Ross Craig, the well-known former botanical artist at Kew; and also a notice that the Guild will be the beneficiary of the residue of the estate of the late Mr. James Redman in Canada. He emphasized the continuing need of funds by the Guild as it expands its activities in granting research and travel awards, prizes, and now actual garden areas at Kew. He urged those members so disposed to remember the Kew Guild in their estate planning.

The President apologized for the lateness this year of the Kew Guild Journal, and announced that Richard Ward had volunteered to resume the editorship next year, and that he was looking for a computer literate assistant to help with the work. He then congratulated Rebecca Bower for receiving the OBE in the New Years Honours list, and went on to present Kew staff member Mr. Harvey Groffman with the Long Term Service Medal and Certificate of the Royal Horticultural Society, in recognition of forty years uninterrupted service to a single employer.

The President announced nominations for the succession of officers of the Guild: Tom Risely is to be President in 2006-2007, with David Hardman as Vice President, and Kenwyn Pearson as Secretary. Rebecca Bower is the nominee to succeed to the Presidency in 2007-2008, and has accepted the nomination. At the AGM last September, the members voted that (now outgoing) Kew Director, Professor Sir Peter Crane would be President in 2008-2009, Kew's 250th anniversary year.

The President concluded his remarks by thanking the members for the tremendous hospitality and wonderful support he had received during his several past visits to England, and he commented upon the great privilege and honour he felt it was to serve as President of the Kew Guild. He then proposed the toast to "The Kew Guild and our guests".

Later in the evening, the President introduced the chief guest and speaker, Mr. John Simmons. He also presented the George Brown Award to Jill Cowley, and inducted Mr. John Melmoe into Honorary Membership in the Guild. Others to receive honorary fellowships at the September AGM are Tim Smit, Roy Lancaster, Derek Edwards and Ed Wolf. The President asked past Presidents of the Guild, and then overseas members and guests, to rise and be recognized by the members. He presented speaker John Simmons with a gift from the Guild, and lastly he thanked several people whose hard work had made the evening such a success. The latter were Events Officer Pamela Holt, Secretary Tom Risely, MC Richard Ward and his wife Wiena, and photographer for the evening, Martin Sands.

Toast to 'our President' proposed by Graham Burgess

'I consider it a great honour to toast our President but before I carry out that symbolic act with you what else can I say?

The name President is symbolic and although many have various ideas as to what it means all agree it is a position of importance and one to look up to. Symbolism surrounds us and is an important part of our lives. This room, the Orangery, has a symbolic structure in that it is so many white slabs wide and so many long. The numbers are not accidental. In one direction they move fibonacci wide in even numbers and in the other fibonacci wide odds. The ancient symbolism is odds are male and all evens are female. The two exist in unity to symbolise what is needed for growth.



Our President is a male I am sure, and he is not an architect so I move to what I think is a more appropriate ancient symbol, a tree. On your tables are images of a symbolic tree. It is the Tree of Life from Herod's palace in Jericho. Could this symbolically help us in our understanding of this President? Well it has 15 fruits and that is the number of The Green Man. Bob has not always been a stout and established tree.

I remember when he came to Kew as I did in 1966. Bob was one who in the tradition travelled from afar. In the USA he worked at Longwood Gardens and the University of Rhode Island. He spent 6 months working in what was one of England's most famous nurseries at John Waterer Sons and Crisp at Woking.

If you look at this tree you will see it has suckers. Are they symbolic of us as we entered into this world? If we spell the word 'succours' I think yes. The sucker leaves are not very big and there is no substantial trunk, but they are well-rooted and so we were. This species is undefined but that does not matter it is what it represents symbolically. Kew welcomes a wide range of variation and provides a habitat that allows each to reach its optimum genetic potential. As I look round this room I see new suckers and some pretty well developed and fine specimens. We are here however to celebrate the type species called Bob Hebb.

In 1968 with his Kew Diploma in his hand he returned to the States and took up a post as a pruner at The Arnold Arboretum. He shaped trees there and shaped his own life-tree for one year before he was promoted to Assistant Horticulturalist. The garden was formed in 1872 from the estate of a man called Arnold, a whaling merchant. From its inception the first director Sargent ensured that it was one of the key places on earth to send new collections. During Bob's period of office the garden celebrated in a substantial way its centenary. After 6 years at The Arnold Arboretum Bob became Director of Horticulture at The Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum of the New York Botanical Garden, Millbrook, New York. Mary Flagler Cary's grandfather was one of the founders of the Original Standard Oil Company and Mary donated much of her wealth to a wide range of causes, some deeply involved with conservation.

The Ponderosa lemons grown there are bigger than grapefruit and possibly as big as the fruits shown here on the tree of life. The arboretum also has a deer-grazing garden where one can see the sorts of plants the deer do not eat.

After 10 years at the Mary Flagler Cary Arboretum Bob branched out yet again, this time to take on the post of Executive Director of the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in New York. The fact that he was awarded a Silver Medal from The Massachusetts Horticultural Society for leadership in American Horticulture and Development in 1983 was a sign and symbol of his true value and substance being recognised. This garden has an emphasis on education and that covers all age groups. Bob retired from there in 1992.

The symbolic tree has 15 fruits and so far I have mentioned only a few. In Bob's tree hidden amongst the branches there are many achievements. He has written books such as *Low Maintenance Gardening*; *Shade Gardening* and the *North Eastern Garden Book*. He has been Chief Consultant to *Time Life Books* and *Sunset Books*.

From the earliest days of his developing career he felt the touch of a choice climbing plant, as it was his wife Winnifred who approached him with a passion-flower plant. A snake was involved as in another symbolic story connected with the great tree of life but I will leave them to tell you that tale.

Bob is now a garden consultant and a garden and plant photographer. I know he started taking pictures when he was at Kew and his ambition is to build one of the world's largest collections of plant photographs. He has become a man of great stature and his canopy spreads across the very Atlantic Ocean. As a President he will never be remote and he will be an ongoing example to those who want to reach for the sky.

I am now going to ask you to reach, not a great distance, for your symbolic vessels and in a combined symbolic reaching for the sky please toast 'Our President.'

Address by chief guest John Simmons to Kewites

'When I was close to retirement I recall stopping early one warm, sunlit morning to talk to a student about her work in the order beds. She had obviously been having thoughts about my impending departure and postulated cautiously "Now you are going everyone is focussed on the changes to come, but when you have gone they will miss you, and", she continued, "when you are dead -" she stopped, slightly embarrassed!

Returning to Kew to speak for the first time in eleven years I am also put in mind of some of my relatives who live in Perth, Western Australia. A very distant relative had expressed a wish to have, after his death, his ashes scattered over his beloved home state. My cousin duly took her late Uncle's ashes up in a light plane intent on fulfilling his last wish - but she had not thought it out, and when she tried to scatter his ashes out of the 'plane's window, the inevitable happened, for every time she tried, the ashes blew back in all over the respectful mourners. At this she lamented in her best 'strine' "The silly old b..... keeps coming back!"

So I can now thank Bob, our President, for my resurrection, and take this chance to reflect for a while on who we are, and why so many Kewites have, are, and will in the future, be successful with their lives and career achievements.

I used to think that much was due to the ratio of professional staff to students – I think it was about 10:1 in my day – and that this close contact with so many talented people from many different disciplines was a major influence. Doubtless that is still true, but my perspective has changed, and I realise that there is something even more powerful, but hard to define, other than perhaps in the phrase ‘the spirit of the place’. Over the past decade, as I have developed the arboretum at Castle Howard in Yorkshire, I have become very conscious of the influence of that estate, with its 300 year history, on its family, and its effects on their lives and decisions.

I recall Mark Flanagan, now of Windsor, but then heading up the garden at Wakehurst, struggling to define the spirit of that garden, which he thought essential to the understanding of how it should be developed after the Great Storm. Certainly, I was always conscious of the need to know how an organisation had evolved, in order to understand where it was going. But I was so close to Kew that I took its spirit for granted.

And when you come to work or study at Kew, you quickly become part of its family, particularly if you have the prerequisites of enthusiasm and a desire to learn. You absorb its values in science, education and culture, and without realising it; you then acquire, as in a marriage, a great and complex ancestry, stretching back for three centuries and more. The ‘more’ relates to pre-royal Kew. Once, the late Duchess of Badminton, who was a keen gardener, took me to see a painting in her house of a seventeenth century family standing in front of their house (now Kew Palace) at Kew, and she was very proud of this ancestral connection.

For those not familiar with this area’s earlier history, in the 17th Century the Capels came into ownership of the Kew property by marriage to the daughter of Richard Bennett (who then owned the Dutch House later to be known as Kew Palace). Sir Henry (later Lord) Capel lived in the nearby White House, and the foundations of this later much extended house are now marked on the sundial lawn following a recent investigation for a Time Team programme. Sir Henry was an enthusiastic gardener who founded Kew’s links with exotic plants by having an orangery and myrtetum and importing rare plants. The Capel family kept the property until leased by Frederick, Prince of Wales in 1730.

In the eighteenth century the royal family employed many talents. Frederick’s mother, Queen Caroline, for example used Bridgman’s landscape skills, though her grandson (George III) later used Brown’s less sensitive capabilities to destroy her garden, but fortunately left his mother’s (Princess Augusta’s) garden largely unscathed so we can now dine in her orangery.

We are thus surrounded by a history of the lives and work of famous and talented people. Banks drove our strong connection to Australia and then to Empire generally, and many of the then newly introduced plants were grown in this building. In the similarly, dynamically driven, Hooker botanical era of the nineteenth century, this building became a museum (that was in 1863) displaying many aspects of the world’s

economic botany, but particularly collections of timbers, cabinet and furniture woods from the Great Exhibition. When I was first at Kew, Sir George Taylor converted it back to its role as an orangery, in time for Kew's Bicentenary. But the dampness provided for the citrus increased damage to the building from dry rot, and, through other evolving roles, today it has yet another function.

Thus, returning to my theme, it is this brilliant amalgamation of so many talented minds, overlaying from century to century, that has created today's Kew, and given it such a positive spirit.

Thinking of another spirit, I lived from 1964 in Temperate House Lodge, a Nesfield Gate House (that is W. E. Nesfield, the son of the landscape designer). The Ruined Arch is partly in its garden, and I loved the thought of the Royal flock of merino sheep, which were eventually sent to found the Australian sheep industry, using it to go between paddocks. Though I suspect this story is apocryphal. The lodge was once lived in by Raffill (now commemorated by the seedling magnolia hybrids he raised), and because he lived there into his 70's and died soon after leaving, stories about his ghost soon arose. At that time we had our own small team of directly employed night constables who knew Kew well. One evening one of them related to me in considerable detail, his experience of seeing Raffill's ghost near King William's temple.

Unwittingly my family then contributed further to the legends, for one evening, as my then youngest two children had not returned from their wanderings in the Gardens, and it was getting dark, my wife went to look for them. She had had an accident that day, and had damaged her ankle so was in her dressing gown (coincidentally she has again damaged her ankle but is now in a plaster and thus apologises for not being here this evening). She found the children, who went on ahead, and was then hobbling back alone through the Ruined Arch, when a night constable hove into view. But the sight of this hobbling ghostly apparition in white proved too much for him, and he quickly reversed his bike and rode off in the other direction.

In 1621, Joshua Sylvester wrote in his poem 'The Garden' "The world's a garden, pleasures are the flowers". As with our President and his wife, Winnifred, we have through Kew, bonds that reach around the world of plants, especially with the many who have trained and worked here, and absorbed the spirit of Kew. Often diploma course lecturers would mention their pleasure in teaching our students saying, by comparison to undergraduates elsewhere, ours were enthusiastic, committed and eager to learn. My own links with our President go back to his 'bushy-tailed' student days when Winnifred also worked in the Herbarium. And over the years our paths have often crossed, as when Bob was setting up the Cary Arboretum in New York State and participating in USA/USSR plant collecting exchanges. It was Bob who introduced me to Longwood, and later, in Virginia, I was pleased to see Winnifred's friendly face at a lecture I gave at Williamsburg.

Working with plants and gardens as here in a botanical institute that is driven by scientific values, gives a life of never ending discovery, an enjoyable rewarding life, and, through Kew, lifetime links that bind a shared and rich experience. Some say life is a quest for happiness, and happiness to me seems to be connected to creativeness, be it for us in design, in original research, or in growing a rare plant.

In a garden, particularly my own, I am mentally in a world apart, so it is amusing at times to see how others see us. Many years ago I had been working with the Madrid botanic garden and as a consequence was visited at Kew by a Contessa (de Casa Valdes) who lived in Madrid and had an interest in historic gardens. Her husband accompanied her, but he was having chemotherapy and, not feeling too well, asked if he could rest in my office. Later that day I learnt from my secretary that some BBC people had arrived with a query and she noticed them looking intently into my office. The door was ajar and within they could see an elderly gentleman quietly snoozing in a chair. But she did not dissuade them of that image which they took to be the Curator at rest! Well it was in Descanso House, and *descansar*, in Spanish, means rest.

So, understanding the spirit of the place and knowing yourself, are two keys to a happy and successful life. And, for the future, I will leave you with a Chinese proverb:

‘If you need an extra day, get up at dawn three times running.’

Toast to absent friends proposed by Guild Student Representative Paul Sadler

‘Mr President, ladies and gentleman and fellow students.

I think it is quite apt that as probably the youngest serving Guild Committee member here tonight, I give this toast to absent friends. When asked to give this toast I asked myself what I could say in the allotted time, apart from the obvious. A quick search on the internet produced 323,000 results, 99% of which related to weddings - not much help there then!

I would like to introduce you to my fellow students Daniel Leighton, Simon Rice, Miranda Kimberly and Katrine Herian.

The School of Horticulture has been through a difficult time in the past year with the sad loss of Ian Leese who guided and inspired so many of us. Emma Fox has very ably stepped in even with what seems a permanent building site around her. This building work will hopefully finish once the Kew Guild-funded student vegetable plot project is finished.

Below: from left, Bob and Winifred Hebb; John Simmons, and Rebecca Bower, President Elect.

Right: from left, Paul Sadler, Student Rep; Richard Ward, MC.

Next page: Dinner guests.

Photos: Martin Sands





All the students would like to thank the generosity of the Kew Guild, not only for our introductory meal and the meal tonight, but the funding of many travel scholarships through which we have the opportunity to meet so many knowledgeable and highly respected professionals. It is this last fact that gives those starting out in horticulture such a great opportunity to expand their horizons. Lastly, before it becomes too late and not fashionably late, the part I am really here for, please rise and raise your glasses and join me in a toast to 'absent friends'.

KEW GUILD EVENTS 2006 - Date Order

by Pamela Holt, Honorary Events Officer

Trentham Gardens, Saturday 6th May

Beginning with a welcome, coffee and cake, the small but enthusiastic group of Kewites met in the Italian Gardens at 10.30am. Unbeknown to the events officer who wrote originally to the Gardens Manager, our group was singled out by head gardener Marcus Chilton-Jones for a fascinating tour due to the fact that he recognised my name on the Guild headed note paper! (It is both a humbling and proud feeling to see ones ex-students do so well in their chosen career.)

The 750 acre parkland and mile long lake were originally laid out by Capability Brown, but Nesfield added the Italian Gardens with Sir Charles Barry creating the formal gardens for the Duke of Sutherland. Indeed the Countess of Sutherland was the owner when I worked in the Trentham garden centre prior to entering Kew.



Left - Right: Marcus Chilton-Jones, Colin Jones
Pamela Holt, Barbara Ravenscroft, Alan Ravenscroft
Peter Barnes, Chris Barnes

Today Trentham Leisure is a joint venture between St. Modwen properties PLC and the German wine and leisure entrepreneur Willi Reitz following a period of dereliction. Their aim is to create the best gardens in Europe with an ambitious revitalisation project costing around £100 million. HRH Prince Andrew formally opened the restored Italian Gardens which have a contemporary feel through the modern planting design of



Detail of scroll planting in Italian Garden

Tom Stuart-Smith. The back bone of his design, the rivers of Staffordshire are overlaid in *Penisetum* amongst the seventy thousand perennial plants. The 100,000 *Tulipa* and *Allium* bulbs flowering at the time of our visit will be superseded in late May and June by four thousand bearded *Iris*. Estonian workers supervised by Marcus were responsible for the majority of the fine plantings seen. Based on those at Versailles, the magnificent orange tree tubs costing £800 each are crafted in French boxwood on a cast iron frame. The side banks in the Italian gardens are the work of Piet Oudolf who is also working on the Eastern Pleasure garden at the far end of the lake, due to open in May 2007. The original design was modified at the suggestion of the Gardens Manager Michael Walker owing to the proximity of the River Trent and flooding implications. Fifty per cent of this area will now be taken up with: a naturalised water meadow, water features, 35,000 perennials and summer bulbs in a tapestry of planting, labyrinth of green paths, and an aerial platform.

A fine specimen of *Wollemia nobilis* discovered and planted by David Noble on 25th April 2006 was greatly admired. It will compliment the many fine trees on the estate. From the bird hides in the woodland walk with its very natural man-made cascade to the model back gardens which children can explore, Trentham is a place for everyone. The Barfuss or bare foot park is a first in Britain for young and old alike to experience textures by walking along a pathway of sand, mud and even fir cones to finish with a foot shower. Another first located at the far end of the lake, is the 60 acres of Monkey Forest where visitors walk amongst 140 Barbary macaques roaming free. A very enjoyable visit concluded with afternoon tea being taken in the elegant garden centre.



Looking up steps to the chapel, from the Italian Garden.

All photos: Colin Jones

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum, Sunday 4th June

Curator and ex -Kew student Wolfgang Bopp gave an excellent introduction to the 180 acres of rolling Hampshire countryside which the distinguished plantsman Sir Harold Hillier established in 1953. This magnificent collection of over 42,000 plants from temperate regions around the world grow in a mixture of formal and informal landscapes. Administered by Hampshire County Council since 1977, the grounds hold 11 National Collections and a visitor and educational pavilion opened in 2003.

We were blessed with a warm sunny day as our tour progressed from the renowned winter colour garden through the Arboretum, noting the mowing regimes which draw visitors down the slope or into the lake area. Many interesting sculptures enhanced the sylvan setting. The Himalayan valley was a picture with *Primulas* leading up to Jermyns house where Wolfgang drew our attention to the magnificent double herbaceous border before concluding at the childrens' educational garden area.

A superb lunch followed in the beautiful surroundings of the gardens well designed restaurant where much animated discussion took place. The remainder of the afternoon saw individual forays into favourite sites before the day was rounded off with a sumptuous Hilliers cream tea.



Left - right: Wolfgang Bopp, Curator; Shirley and Gren Lucas; Colin Jones; Roger Davidge; Pamela Holt and Allan Hart.

Photo: Mike Clift

AGM Soirée, Saturday 9th September

Following the AGM, many Kewites and their guests present celebrated 50 years since graduating from Kew and enjoyed refreshments in the School of Horticulture whilst chatting over old times and viewing Diploma student presentations.

An explanatory tour of the recently completed Wolfson wing of the Jodrell Laboratories was valiantly undertaken by Peter Gasson who was not expecting such a large animated group! The elegant curving structure covering the site of the old Alpine house blends well with the existing building, helped by the retention of mature *Eucalyptus* trees.

Next it was all aboard the Kew Explorer for a 35 minute tour of the gardens complete with running commentary, an eye opener for many. Returning to the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Kewites were held spellbound by the wonderful illustrated talk given by Jo Thwaites detailing the Kew Palace restorations.

The evenings festivities took place in the Herbarium refectory thanks to Allan Hart's organisation of a special 50th Anniversary to draw together those Kewites who entered or graduated from Kew during the years 1955-1958. The planning of the event began in February 2005 when Allan wrote to almost 50 members to see if they would be interested in attending an event during the following year. He also asked if anyone knew of the whereabouts of some 30-odd former members who were at Kew during this period. As a result, 3 were welcomed back into the fold - Joe McCracken, Peter Dunn and Ray Horsfall. Here was Kew fellowship at its best with a superb buffet supplied by local caterer Philip Crowther, drinking - rather restrained given the occasion! - and merriment to make an evening to remember by the 60 or so members and partners.

It was a very good result combining the AGM and 50-years-on celebration. The 2007 AGM will be held at Wakehurst, and would be a great venue for another group wanting to meet for a certain anniversary. Who would like to volunteer to organise such an event? Why not contact Pamela Holt/Allan Hart for guidance?



Eastern USA tour, 5th -19th October
Compiled by Mike Clift

Bob Hebb, when he was Guild President in 2005/6, proposed to lead a group of Kewites to visit some of the gardens, arboreta and horticultural showplaces in the Eastern United States. He drew up a complete package and costed the trip for a maximum number of 20 persons and details were mailed to all Guild Members. In the event this failed to attract sufficient Guild members and a few 'outsiders' were invited to join the group. It was decided to proceed with the 17 participants.

Several of us collected at an early hour at a cloudy Heathrow Airport on the appointed day. The London Group consisted of Nick Boyes, Mike Clift, Jill Cowley, Jean Griffin,

Allan and Joan Hart, Pamela Holt, Margaret Johnson, Robin Lack, Tom Risely, Wendy and Martin Staniforth.

The now standard security checks took a long while prior to moving to the departure lounge for a further long wait. Some hours later, after an uneventful flight, we arrived at Washington's Dulles Airport at 20.12 GMT. That was 3.12pm local time. After another long wait while the routine checks and fingerprints were taken, and having retrieved our luggage, we were permitted to enter the US. We finally emerged into a bright sunny Washington afternoon to be met and welcomed by Winnifred and Bob Hebb and Kevin Wah. Then a drive into Central Washington to the Hotel.

Later we assembled to meet the rest of the group who had arrived from other destinations. Sandra Leche from Chile, Jim and Valerie Mitchell from Melbourne, Australia, Bill Bessler from Spain and Philip Wilson from Manchester.

While both countries are considered to speak the same language, differences were soon apparent. I failed to see any sign "Toilet", so enquired, only to be directed to the Rest Room! Later, in a lift, I noticed "No strollers". Did that exclude us? No, that's a baby carriage. At a restaurant we enquired what was for pudding? Sweet? Do you mean desserts! Horticulturally we had to get used to Sycamore not being an Acer, but *Platanus occidentalis*. Chestnuts were Buckeyes, but fortunately still *Aesculus*.

Bob had almost promised that the weather would be fine and sunny and the temperature might even be 80 degrees! He did add, 'bring a brolly, but only just in case'.



(Clockwise from below left)
Cactus at the nursery;
Cirrhopetalum at the nursery;
the pool in the USBG
Conservatory (US Botanic
Garden); the new National
Garden at USBG



Our first visit was to the production Nursery of the US Botanic Garden. In welcoming us Ray Mims hoped that we appreciated the weather! It was pouring with rain! They supply the plants for their other section which is right in the centre of Washington and is adjacent to the Capitol. At the nursery we were

impressed with their collection of orchids; many were in flower and contained several that were new to us. We were told they have one of the largest collections in the States. The collection of cacti, climbers and many shrubs in pots and containers was also impressive. Later we visited the Central Washington section. This part is open to the public. Here our hand and camera bags were scanned. This then became quite a

standard routine. After a good look around the Conservatory and the amazing collection of plants there we went outside, (still raining), to see the newly opened National Garden. The newly planted contents of this garden are, logically, all American plants. There was a good collection of plants and many were known to us as they are

listed in many catalogues in this country. There were, as expected, many species, but also a surprising number of named clones. On the labels we noted that together with the botanical name the plant's common name was also listed in the same print size. It will be interesting, when this garden is revisited in the future to see how the plants and garden are developing.



Above: The group at North Carolina Botanic Garden;
Below: Insectivorous plants

Later we visited the North Carolina Botanic Gardens. The contents of this garden were again all native plants, but native only of North Carolina. When the size of this state was mentioned many could not easily accept that it could be 500 miles wide. The eastern border is the Atlantic coast, while the western limit is in the Appalachian Mountains. There was a great contrast in the size and diversity of the large number of plants assembled here. One section was just of insectivorous plants. This garden was located in a very natural rural setting, which was such a total contrast to the other Botanic Garden in Washington.



a problem caused by an Adelgid in North Carolina. This is causing havoc with the deaths of many Tsugas and pines in that state. He commented that we would see the results caused by this pest within a few days. The results were awesome. There were many dead trees, bare areas on the hillsides, but many still stood as leafless specimens. We can only hope that his aim to find a resistant clone is successful.

When we visited the U S National Arboretum, which is also in Washington, we met Dr John Hammond, the Acting Director. He mentioned

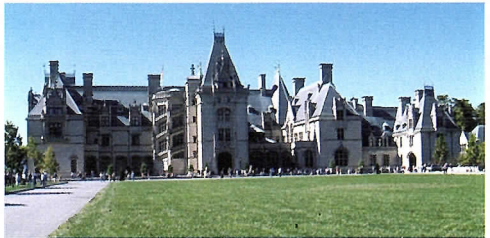
On our visit we visited three large estates, Biltmore, Mount Vernon and Longwood. Biltmore is billed as the largest home in the U S. George Vanderbilt obviously wanted to impress all who visited this estate. To get to the house the drive winds uphill for some miles, until the ground eventually levels out and the tree lined entrance reveals this French inspired mansion. Only the buses, which shuttle visitors to the house to and from the car parks, are allowed at the front of the house. It is on such a scale as to be possibly described as massive. The rooms are also huge, as was the dining table in the hall. It was mentioned that when the large conservatory was being built it was decreed that it must not be visible from the house. Apparently the foundations had to be lowered several feet to comply with this order. The views from around the house to the mountains are stunning. This is naturally a much visited residence.

Mount Vernon was the home of one of America's founding fathers, George Washington. He acquired this estate in 1754 and created his home here for many years after that. The construction of the house is on a very different size and scale to Biltmore and is situated beside the very wide Potomac River and it is now maintained as a record to George Washington and of his time here.

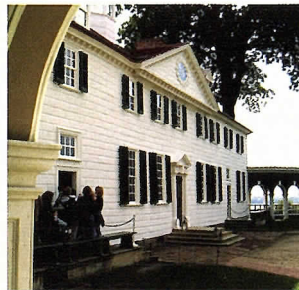
The other Estate was Longwood, which has just achieved its centenary. This was then bought by Pierre Dupont from the Pierce Family and he then started to develop and extend the gardens. His successors today still decide the aims and the development of the garden. This was a fascinating visit and we were shown much of this incredible garden. In this country, if we saw a plant of *Paulonia imperialis* in a garden we were doing well, but at Longwood there was an avenue of them! One will happily recall the neat Italian garden and the lake area and the effort that is involved in creating the displays in the conservatory is enormous. They now employ one person to plan the future displays and I think this person said that she is now working on the displays for 2008! The changes to the display houses are made very often. Fortunately they have a considerable amount of glass to utilise to cultivate what is required. The Conservatory here and its contents were just exceptional. It was interesting to note how much Chrysanthemums are used for bedding schemes in the U S. These were seen in central Washington, Biltmore and



Above: Adelgid damage on The Smokey Mountains;
Below: Biltmore Mansion



Left: Longwood Gardens, in the Conservatory;
Below left: Longwood Gardens Glasshouses;
Below: Mount Vernon House



Longwood. The Chrysanth display and festival which was due a few days after our visit to Longwood must have been quite a colourful sight. The glimpse of the soon - to - flower suspended balls of "mums", in the conservatory was incredible (next page).

It was good to meet Patrick Nutt again at Longwood. It was when he was Guild President in 2001 and on his return journey to the States after the AGM and a talk to the students at Kew that the atrocity now referred to as 9/11 occurred. His flight was turned back and he was forced to spend some days at Butlins at Bognor Regis before he completed that journey.

When we reached Raleigh we visited the two very different Arboreta there. In both some large very colourful butterflies were observed, together with a large caterpillar. These, we were informed, were two parts of the life cycle of the Monarch butterfly (right). After our return here there was an article in the Independent concerning the migration of this particular butterfly. It migrates between Mexico and Canada, a journey of some 3000 miles. The latest project, it was stated, is to tag some of the butterflies and then monitor details of their flight pattern. We were also informed that the caterpillars depend on Asclepias as their food source – certainly a long distance traveller.



One point which surprised many of the party was that many of the organisations we visited had only a very limited number in their paid, permanent staff. Much reliance was put on the volunteer workforce for a very wide range of essential activities. Perhaps I have been retired too long to know whether this is part of the labour profile here. Who was it who said ‘what happens in America today will be introduced here before long’?

On our Journey we visited 18 very different locations and everywhere we were very warmly welcomed. We must have travelled some 1800 miles and saw only a small portion of that country over the pond. One feature which surprised me was the sheer number of trees that occupy the landscape in all of the States we drove through.

One result of having fewer members than intended allowed 10 passengers per mini-bus, which was a very comfortable number.

Having survived this expedition, it is appropriate that we congratulate and thank Bob for having had this incredible idea in the first place and for leading our group so brilliantly and effectively. Perhaps we should now absolve him from any responsibility concerning the weather! Our thanks go also to Winnifred, who so often was the whipper-in of our stragglers and kept us to the schedule, and to Kevin for his assistance

and advice. We must remember that they drove us everywhere, particularly when in the mountains in such appalling visibility. Tom also deserves our thanks. He handled all matters at this end and suffered some financial worries, which became apparent as the trip evolved. We became quite a close group. Thanks to all. It is an understatement, but it was a great experience.

Our thoughts now turn to the next visit. To Australia in 2008. Plan to go?

Glasgow weekend, 25th-26th November

On a cool blustery but dry morning a keen band of Kewites were greeted by ex-Kew student Louise Bustard and Kewite David Menzies at the entrance to Glasgow Botanic Gardens, Kelvinside. The present site was purchased in 1842 with funds raised by The Royal Botanical Institution of Glasgow (formed by Thomas Hopkirk) and Glasgow University. Today being administered by Glasgow City Council, entrance to this readily accessible botanic garden is free.

Strolling up to the graceful curvilinear iron and steel construction of Kibble Palace we could see why this grade 1 listed glasshouse deserved the three year restoration programme. Originally erected on John Kibble's estate at Coulpport, Loch Long, the engineer and entrepreneur was invited to move his glass palace to the botanic gardens in 1871. The palace was dismantled in May 1872 and moved by raft up the river Clyde to Glasgow where it was enlarged on re-erection, and completed in 1873. With its marble statues by Scipio Todolini, luxuriant ferns and camellias, the Kibble Palace has hosted concerts and speakers such as Disraeli and Gladstone.

The official reopening was not due until early December so we were fortunate to have Louise – the Education officer at the botanic garden – conduct us around the splendid interior. She explained how the £7million renovation was funded by Glasgow City Council, Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. This enabled Shepley Engineers to transport the dismantled palace to their South Yorkshire facility at Shafton for renovation and reintroduction of lost decorative sections. This was accomplished using early photographs, some taken by Kibble himself and original drawings. Laser surveys ensured that the glasshouse was reassembled exactly as before. New additions include aluminium and glass that meets the current health and safety standards plus an innovative method of lighting. Using reflective discs suspended above the plantings and pool lights minimises the use of cabling and excess attachments which listed buildings forbid. Most of the central dome area had been replanted with only one Tree fern casualty in the national collection! An orchestra pit originally sited beneath this point was discovered during the restoration work. The naturalistic carnivorous plant display in one of the side transepts was greatly admired as was the Canary Islands flora sited in the other.

The group were shown the old rail station below the gardens which we could look down into. After steam, this line was never electrified so is now an obsolete relic of its former glory. Progressing through the herb beds and chronological beds we had a splendid view from an elevated section beneath a giant flag of St. Andrews. Once inside the glasshouse range, Louise came into her own as she wittily and informatively explained and directed our gaze to the wealth of plants displayed within the various

sections. The numerous explanatory labels and humorous information charts are a labour of love prompting many members of the public to ask for their own copies to take home. All too soon it was lunch time and after thanking our excellent guide, making arrangements to meet up for an evening meal, the group split up for the afternoon.

Glasgow is fortunate in having a wealth of Art Galleries, Museums and interesting places to visit which are free of charge. Many made a trip to the recently re-opened Art Gallery and Museum at Kelvingrove which had also undergone a three year restoration. The Natural History and Childrens' sections were particularly noteworthy. That evening in a fine French restaurant discovered by our president Tom Risely, wine and conviviality flowed. Some were able to stay until Sunday, a brilliant sunny day, prompting a return to the botanic gardens for some, visits to the transport museum, art galleries, the cathedral, Provands Lordship-the oldest domestic house in Glasgow, or the People's Palace for others.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2006

The Award Scheme Sub-Committee for 2006 was composed of Allan Hart (Chairman), Jennifer Alsop (Hon. Treasurer), Marcella Corcoran (Hon. Secretary), Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Emma Fox, David Hardman and Chris Kidd, with Simon Rice and Paul Sadler as student representatives. Stewart Henchie again advised on the eligibility of all applicants, who need to meet the basic criteria of having been a member of the Guild for at least twelve months.

The Funds available for allocation were as follows:
(NB. Only the interest from investments is used)

Dallimore – arboricultural	£1,000.00
Redman – travel	£1,700.00
Arnold – nursery work	£ 220.00
Turner – uncommitted	£ 310.00
Philip and Granville Trust – uncommitted	£1,000.00
General – uncommitted	£2,400.00
Centenary Appeal – uncommitted	<u>£ 170.00</u>
	<u>£6,800.00</u>

This is an increase of £1,250.00 over the amount for 2005. The Chairman had written to Granville Turley to thank him for a most generous donation, and his continued support of the Award Scheme. At the meeting in March 2006, £5,500 was to be allocated, with the remaining £1,300 left for distribution at the July meeting. Applications were down to eight, and six were successful. There were no applications from older members, and this is regretted.

Awards:

Jim Handley	£ 700.00	Redman
Daniel Haynes	£ 500.00	Redman
Katrine Herian	£ 333.80	Arnold/Centenary

Miranda Kimberley	£ 600.00	Dallimore
Paul Sadler	£ 600.00	Dallimore/Redman
Simon Rice	£ 600.00	Philip & Granville
Total awarded	<u>£3,333.80</u>	

This total increased the amount available for distribution at the July meeting to £3,466.20.

Jim Handley – Study of endemic and introduced flora – Ascension Island;
 Daniel Haynes – Conservation and restoration of littoral forests – Madagascar;
 Katrine Herian – Plant Network Conference 'Sustainability of Horticultural Practices';
 Miranda Kimberley – Study of Amazonian (Ecuador) endemic plants;
 Paul Sadler – Horticultural methods and management techniques – SE and Western Australia;
 Simon Rice – Study of endangered endemic *Medusagyne oppositifolia* in the Granitic Seychelles.

Two submissions were considered to have been inadequately researched and prepared, and therefore no awards were given.

The second tranche of available funds was approved at the meeting held on 13 July 2006.

An award was made to:

Renata Mazzini - Attendance at the Brazilian National Congress of Botany
 £450.00 Philip & Granville/Centenary

A further application was rejected for failing to provide evidence of written permission to collect plants from the wild – CITES Agreement and RBG protocols – or written evidence of support by RBG specialists. (The remaining funds were therefore carried over for distribution next year).

The application form has been amended and is now in a new format and available for down-loading from the Guild website. For those without internet facilities, paper copies can be obtained from Allan Hart. The Guild is extremely grateful for the expertise and commitment of Susyn, Emma and David Barnes, who have together produced such a well-presented and professional document.

The Ian Leese Memorial Travel Scholarship:

The School of Horticulture wishes to promote a Student Scholarship in memory of Ian Leese. The Scholarship will be administered by the Award Scheme Sub-Committee. The School had raised some £2,700 when the membership was circulated with details in August 2006. Subsequent donations from those listed below, raised the total to £6,481.00 in December 2006:

Martin Abrahams, Peter Barnes, Ted Baverstock, Stephen Bristow, Ernest Chantler, Harold Dally, Horace Eaton, John Eccles, Derek & June Edwards, Trevor Elton, Linda Fellows, Sylvia Fitzgerald, Pat Gleave, Michael Godfrey, Allan & Joan Hart, Nigel Hepper, Stan & Iris Hitt, Colin Jones, Roy Jones, Jane & Adrian Lovett, Gren Lucas,

Simon & Emma Owens, Allen & Penelope Paterson, Diana & Roger Polhill, Laura Ponsonby, Kate Richardson, Tom & Julie Risely, Brita von Schoenaich, Frank Senogles, John Simmons, Alan Titchmarsh, Granville Turley, David Walker, John & Joan Woodhams and Tom & Davina Woods.

The Appeal is still open and further donations would be welcomed.

The Award Scheme continues to enjoy dedicated and highly professional members on the Sub-committee, to whom I, and all Kew Guild members, are indebted.

Allan Hart – Award Scheme Chairman

LAVANDULA RESEARCH IN AUSTRALASIA

by Susyn Andrews

Following from the publication of The Genus *Lavandula* by **Tim Upson** and myself in May 2004, I was invited to give two keynote talks to the New Zealand Lavender Growers Association Conference in late August 2005. As it would be midwinter there, I decided to follow up on my ongoing research into the history of lavender in Australia and New Zealand.

I arrived in Auckland on 23rd August and spent the following day at the Auckland Museum Herbarium checking out their *Lavandula* material as well as looking through their nursery and seed catalogues.

The conference started on the 25th at Te Awamutu. I presented two keynote papers – ‘Lavender growing in the Northern Hemisphere – from a commercial and Cottage industry perspective’, which was a joint paper with Simon Charlesworth, and ‘Misconceptions and problems in cultivated *Lavandula* classification’. Both were extremely well received. Then I took part in an open forum alongside Virginia McNaughton, author of ‘Lavender, the grower’s guide’ and holder of the National Collection of *Lavandula* in the South Island; Noel Porter, a natural product scientist from Crop and Food Research, Lincoln, as well as John Turner of Hill Laboratories. The next day, Virginia and I led discussions on internationally accepted field varieties and cultivars, the cut flower and bunching trade, as well as what cultivars are best used locally for culinary use.

For me, the conference was also an opportunity to see old friends and people who I had long been wanting to meet. The delegates were a great bunch, all of whom were committed to lavender. The selection of topics was immensely useful, both for the beginner and for those with more experience. It was particularly noticeable how everyone was willing to listen and learn.

On the 30th August I flew into Christchurch to stay with Virginia. I spent many hours trawling through her collection of herb-related books. I also visited the Avice Hill Arts and Crafts Centre to consult their library. Avice Hill (1906 – 2001) was one of the foremost herb growers and collectors of her day. Some time was spent at the Allan Herbarium on the Lincoln campus, where I went through most of their *lavandula*

material. Of particular interest were the specimens that WR (Bill) Sykes collected in 1964-5 from Avice's lavender herb garden.

I flew to Australia on 4th September and based myself at the herbarium and library at RBG Sydney, looking through their historic material. I also paid a flying visit to Paradise Plants, Kulnura to see their lavender trials. Then on to Melbourne where some time was spent in the RBG Herbarium and library and Larkman Nurseries at Lilydale and the Yuulong Lavender Farm outside Ballarat.

The Plant Biodiversity Centre (formally the State herbarium), which lies within the Botanic Garden, Adelaide, was my final stop. Having gone through all their *lavandula* material I ran out of time in their library. It was a horticultural treasure trove of books and nursery catalogues. I also went through all their accessions of *lavandula* with **John Sandham**, their Collections Developments Officer and a former Kew Student.

I finally flew back to London on 18th September, laden with books, papers, notes, lavender artefacts etc. and a whole host of memories of people and places. I would like to thank the Kew Guild Award Scheme for the grant which enabled my visit to take place.

ASCENSION ISLAND

by Jim Handley

When I learnt that I had to plan and possibly follow through a travel scholarship proposal my mind raced with ideas and destinations. Initial thoughts included Australia, America, Bhutan and New Caledonia. How I ended up in the middle of the South Atlantic on a dormant volcano I cannot say but I can say it was everything a scholarship should be.

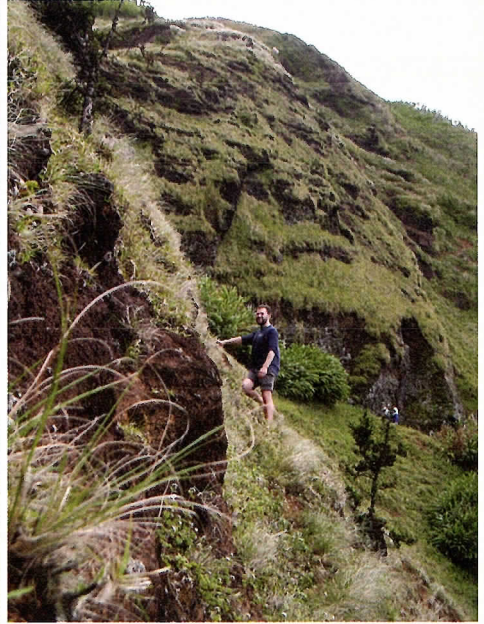
Situated over 1500km from the nearest continental land and less than 100km from the Mid Atlantic Ridge, it was with some trepidation that I left Brize Norton airfield to spend three weeks on the isolated volcanic island of Ascension. With an area of 97km², Ascension Island is a place of unique beauty, ranging from the bluest ocean through golden sand and volcanic desert to a lush cloud forest.



Stedson and I collecting spurge seed

The purpose of my scholarship was to provide me with an opportunity to work with and learn from dedicated conservationists dealing with endemic plants in their natural habitat. As Ascension is a UK overseas territory I worked closely with staff of the UKOT programme based at Kew. One of our aims was to increase communication between them and the islands conservation group to ensure the best future for the islands endemics.

Tara George, Ascension's conservation officer, pointed out the impact of invasive species on the island's landscape as soon as we left the airhead. Mexican Thorn, *Prosopis juliflora*, can be seen throughout the landscape, an accidental introduction some thirty years ago. During this time it has colonized vast areas of the lowland regions, causing habitat loss for the island's endemic spurge, *Euphorbia origanoides*, and decreasing nesting sites for migrating green turtles.



Left: The summit of Green Mountain; Right: Looking for *Sporobolus*

Ascension has six surviving endemic plants all of which are threatened to varying degrees from habitat loss, predation and infrequent rainfall. In addition to the spurge these include *Pteris adscensionis*, *Marattia purpurascens*, *Sporobolus caespitosus*, *Xiphopteris ascensionense* and *Asplenium ascensionis*. I helped Stedson Stroud, assistant conservation officer, monitor populations and collect seeds and spores from these plants during my visit. Particular attention is being paid to the *Pteris* and *Euphorbia* as these are most at risk at present.

A nursery was set up two years ago to enable the propagation of the threatened plants and to date it has been a great success. Stedson, after rediscovering *P. adscensionis* in a secluded ravine, has increased the world total from fifty to 500 plants. I helped to clear vegetation and dig planting holes for some of these plants in reintroduction sites on the summit of Green Mountain, the island's highest point.

This scholarship was an invaluable experience for me and I feel privileged to have seen and worked with such rare plants. I would like to thank everyone who played a part in getting me to Ascension and I hope through this short report that I have expressed the success of the trip in thanks for the generous bursary awarded by the Kew Guild.

**PLANTNETWORK CONFERENCE ON 'SUSTAINABILITY OF
HORTICULTURAL PRACTICES'**
19-21 April 2006
 by Katrine Herian

This three-day conference in Harrogate focussed on environmental issues pertinent to the sustainable management of botanic and heritage gardens. The conference was organised by PlantNetwork and supported by the RHS with Matthew Wilson, curator of the nearby RHS Garden Harlow Carr, giving the opening address.

Over the following three days twenty short presentations were made on a range of topics including implementing environmental management system ISO 14001, carbon-conscious building design, water framework directive, organic soil management, biomaterials, and developing more sustainable planting.

I had gone to the conference to develop my understanding of some of the environmental issues that are central to horticultural practice today, and to gather information and contacts to share with students back at Kew.

The first presentation considered the issue of sustainability itself and why we should care. Though difficult to define, the underlying principle of sustainability is the conservation of natural resources for the benefit of future generations, with our role as stewards of this precious inter-generational equity.

The most thought-provoking presentation, given by Professor James Hitchmough, focussed on more sustainable horticultural planting. He made the memorable observation that we're living in the twenty-first century but gardening in the Edwardian age. For more than twenty years his research interests have focussed on the ecology, design and management of herbaceous vegetation. He has been researching into the capacity of individual species to persist in a plant community and 'manipulating ecological levers' to more sustainable planting. This has been done by increasing the density in multi-species prairie vegetation up to 100-400 plants per square metre whilst maximising regeneration from within the community.

His criteria for planting public landscapes centres around maximising their attractiveness and capacity to support wildlife, as well as maximising ecological processes. This has resulted in the establishment of planting by sowing which facilitates high densities and by managing weed seeds through the use of sand and burning. He mixes both native and non-native plant communities.

A fellow colleague in the Department of Landscape at Sheffield University, Dr Nigel Dunnett, gave an interesting talk on water management in gardens and public landscapes. He looked at strategies that coped with both drought and deluge through 'Green Roofs & Rain Gardens'.

It was an intense three days crammed with stimulating talks and punctuated by visits to Harewood House Gardens, Harrogate Valley Garden and RHS Harlow Carr. One improvement to the conference would have been allowing time for discussion immediately after each presentation. This would have facilitated important questions being raised and debated in an open forum.

With over 80 delegates attending it was a great opportunity to make new contacts as well as meet old friends. There was time in the evenings to mull over thoughts from the day in good company or engage in a competitive round of darts with RHS staff in the local pub.

I returned to Kew with information and contacts to pass on and would recommend that students look out for future PlantNetwork conferences. Finally, I would like to thank the Kew Guild for the generous support that allowed me to attend.

FIELDWORK IN THE ECUADORIAN RAINFOREST

by Miranda Kimberley

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Kew Guild who funded the majority of my expedition to South America. In August 2006 I travelled to Ecuador with a fellow Kew Diploma student, Emily Waters. Our main aim was to undertake fieldwork in the rainforest.

We were extremely lucky to visit a habitat that is under threat from oil companies, loggers and the desires of some of the indigenous inhabitants to join the commercial world. The deforestation of the Amazon region is a tragedy recognised worldwide.

We flew to the Oriente, the Amazonian region of Ecuador, to the east of the Andes. We arrived at Coca, a small but bustling oil town on the Rio Napo, a tributary of the Amazon. There we met Darwin Garcia, who organises field trips with the Universities of Manchester and Glasgow.

We felt that the adventure had truly begun when Darwin drove us downriver in a motorized canoe. On the riverbank there were masses of tropical plants, yet there were few that were familiar to us, apart from the beautiful purple flowers of the Jacaranda tree. We arrived at the camp four hours later, with bottoms sore from sitting on wooden seats and legs wet from jumping out of the canoe to help push the boat through the rapids.

At the fieldwork station we joined seventeen students, eight staff, two cooks and local guides. Within the camp clearing were four main buildings: the sleeping quarters, with hammocks strung up everywhere, the kitchen building, the laboratory with power generated by solar panels and the comfortable toilet facilities, where bullet ants waited to bite sitters!

We were staying on land owned by the Payamino, an indigenous tribe of Quechua hunter gatherers. We had the privilege of interacting with members of the community and I attempted to communicate with my pigeon Spanish. We spent two and half weeks botanising, taking walks accompanied by local guides and put our systematic botany education to good use, learning to decipher the difficult keys we found in the floras, one of which was in Portuguese! By the end of the first week we began to recognise plant families though it was often not possible to identify plants to genus or species level.

We began to observe the ecology of the forest; for instance the hordes of leaf cutter ants removing pieces of leaves from trees and carrying them to their fungal gardens underground. David Campbell, a tropical botanist from Grinnell University, Iowa, joined us in the second week. He introduced us to concepts of alpha and beta diversity, poor nutrient recycling in rainforest soil and the emergence of pioneer tree species such as *Cecropia* and *Pourouma* in light gaps.

I was sad to leave the rainforest. I had been expecting a scary, uncomfortable few weeks but instead I had an amazing educational experience. I am truly grateful to the Kew Guild for helping me to take this trip of a lifetime.



**THE BRAZILIAN
NATIONAL
CONGRESS OF
BOTANY
(Gramado, Rio
Grande do Sul State,
Brazil)
57th Edition, 4th – 12th
November 2006
by Renata Mazzini**

The National Congress of Botany is the largest meeting of its kind in Brazil. Although the theme of the congress this year was “Biodiversity: Conservation and Use”, there were lectures and conferences on many plant-related subjects: morphology, palinology, genetics, evolution, systematics and ecology, among others. As different

lectures happened at the same time, I concentrated on horticulture and landscape design – paths that I am interested in pursuing, and botanic collections – relating to my present work. Brazilian native flora with ornamental potential was most discussed, as well as their propagation techniques and conservation status.

There are two main kinds of habitats in Rio Grande do Sul State: Atlantic Rainforest and Grassland. The congress was held in Gramado, which region is a transition between the two habitats mentioned above. There are tropical and temperate plants living together, including the Brazilian conifer *Araucaria angustifolia*. As part of the congress’ activities, I had the opportunity to visit one of the national parks located about 130 km (80 miles) from Gramado, the Serra Geral National Park. I visited the largest (7 km/4.4 miles long) and the highest (around 1100 m/3550 feet high) canyon

of that area, the Fortaleza Canyon. The whole canyon set forms the largest canyons in Brazil. I saw many native plants flowering at the time of our visit: *Calibrachoa* sp., *Gunnera manicata* (its huge leaves could be well seen into the distance, growing on the canyon walls), *Petunia altiplana*, *Sisyrinchium* sp. (see photo below), *Oxalis* sp. and many of the bright red flowers of the orchid *Sophranitis coccinea* (see photo below). There are over a hundred endemic species catalogued for that area, including the endemic *Baccharis uncinella*, which I had the opportunity to see growing among many other *Baccharis* species.



As I had planned, I presented two projects. One about the bromeliad genus *Alcantarea*, which I started while a second-year student at Kew, and completed especially for the congress. The other one was about my present job, the TaxOnline Project – Network of Biological Collections, Paraná State, Southern Brazil. I was able to meet many researchers and establish some useful contacts. In particular, I met a bromeliad expert who gave me valuable suggestions about how to improve the *Alcantarea* identification key. During the lectures on botanic collections, I heard about problems and problem solving processes that others had gone through. This has helped me to improve the development of the project that I am working on.



It was the first time that I have taken part in an event like this. The atmosphere is very special, with so many professionals wanting to meet others and learn about the paths that the Brazilian research is taking. I am very grateful to the support from the Kew Guild which enabled me to witness and contribute with my work at the largest botany event in Brazil!

A COMBINED HND AND FOUNDATION DEGREE IN ARBORICULTURE AT MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

by Alex Piddington-Bishop

Whilst undertaking the Kew Diploma course (1998-2001, course 36) there was a great opportunity to increase my knowledge towards the care and management of woody plants. This opportunity was expanded in various ways, from working within the

arboretum units and the opportunity to work with the tree maintenance team across the gardens. The dedication and enthusiasm practised by these teams assisted me in deciding to pursue a combined HND and Foundation degree in arboriculture at Myerscough College, part of the University of Lancashire. I started the course in the September 1998, one week after completing the Kew course. Again the course provided a combination of lectures, coursework and practicals towards the management of trees within an urban environment.

One important aspect of the course was the industrial experience year with a chosen employer. For many who had very little day-to-day hands on arboricultural experience, that included me, it was a vital necessary requirement. For the year I worked with F.A Bartlett Tree Experts, Springfield, Virginia, approximately 20 miles from Washington D.C.

Working in the United States provided an insight into tree care management, plant health care and woody plant identification. The Bartlett office where I worked employed approximately 12 staff and five tree sale representatives who would engage the customer with arboricultural services, these comprised of general pruning and removal of trees but also a broad range of tree and shrub care management, such as crown support systems using cables (the U.S is reluctant to use 'cobra' that is commonly seen and used at Kew), soil management by decompacting the root zone within the canopy scaffold with a tool called an air spade- this commonly used within the United States and is gaining momentum across Europe. Further soil management included applying programmes of fertilizer and mycorrhizae to the root zone, whereby the tree system can benefit from increased levels of nutrient uptake, particularly phosphorus, drought tolerance and water absorption. Bartlett customers also had the choice, if required to have trees and shrubs undergo plant health care checks (Integrated Pest Management, IPM). This comprised of regular monthly inspections for pests and diseases, with the required applications of either pesticides or fungicides. Many of the applications were by aerial sprays via high-pressure hoses connected to spray trucks, but technology is rapidly moving towards the application of fungicides via small insertions through the cambium and individual canisters are pushed into the insertion around the diameter of the tree stem, with the fungicide transported by the xylem. As an individual employee with Bartlett Tree Experts I was involved in all of the operations that the Springfield office undertook, from hands on climbing and pruning to driving trucks undertaking regular IPM visits and it was a challenging and varied experience.

After completing the arboriculture course with success I decided to complete the Honours degree in Landscape Management. Having a broad range of knowledge from horticulture, arboriculture and landscape management will provide me with the opportunities to communicate, discuss and resolve problems confronted within urban park and landscape management. Many would say that after completing the Kew diploma, this was a backward step, but for me I was building and expanding upon education, which I require for a rapidly changing industry for now and in the future. I appreciate the financial support Kew Guild gave for my application.

SEYCHELLES REPORT

by Simon Rice

Four weeks in Seychelles may sound like a paradise vacation, but while 500m up a granite cliff I didn't much feel like relaxing! The main focus of my trip was to increase Kew's understanding of a rare and unusual plant known colloquially as 'The Jellyfish Tree' *Medusagyne oppositifolia*. In my first year as a student at Kew, I had been introduced to it by V. Sarasan of the Micropropagation unit, and became intrigued by the story of its conservation at Kew, and by its unique heritage. At that time I wrote a report detailing its propagation at Kew, and in so doing came into contact with some of the people who were working on its in-situ conservation in the Seychelles. The Meduse is one of the rarest plants in the collection at Kew; rated critically endangered by the IUCN. It was clear to me then that our limited knowledge regarding the type of environment in which this plant grows had greatly hindered the success of our efforts towards its conservation. When in my second year I was required to develop a proposal for overseas fieldwork, Seychelles and the *Medusagyne* became the obvious choice.

Along with looking at the habitat of *Medusagyne oppositifolia* or the Meduse as it is called in Seychelles, I was able to bring with me 15 young plants that had been grown on from Micropropagation at Kew. Preparing the plants and the paperwork for the trip were my main worries in the 48hrs before leaving but there was no need however as I had few problems coming through customs when I arrived in Victoria, the capital of the largest island, Mahe and I was met by staff from the National Botanic Garden (NGB) there who whisked the cargo of precious plants away to be checked and cared for. I planned to visit 3 islands during my stay, Mahe being the first, and I spent my first day with Denis Matatiken the director of the NBG. He took me to the Biodiversity centre at Barbarons. This is where the conservation work of the Ministry of the Environment is actually done. It is a facility with shade and propagation houses, where the rare and endemics Seychelles flora is nurtured and grown on and where the plants from Kew were to grow on until their future is decided.

The Meduse grows at about 500m on granite cliffs overhanging the ocean. It is a beautiful scenic place, though not many people venture there as the route is not marked and is unstable under foot. The first time I was able to go into the forest to see it was with a group from the Botanic Garden on a trip to check the quantity and health of the wild plants. It is a species that in the wild looks chlorotic, leaves are sparse, yellow with brown damaged parts on many leaves. They had just finished flowering and were laden with fruit – these give the species its common name; they look like so many tiny jellyfish, or perhaps tiny upside down umbrellas. The seed is thought to be dispersed by rain, though most of the seedlings do not survive, this being one of its limiting factors.

We saw only a few plants at each of four locations, and several dead ones. There is no regeneration of the plants in the wild and they were all of a similar age. Perhaps in the future the young plants brought from Kew will be able to replace some of the plants being lost in the wild, but before this much work has to be done. At least the genetic diversity is preserved. By seeing the plants growing in-situ recommendations can be made as to how we might better manage and grow this species at Kew.

I am indebted to the Kew Guild Award Scheme for helping fund this educational visit.

BOTANIC GARDENS AND WILDFLOWERS OF AUSTRALIA

by Paul Sadler

The opportunity to visit Australia from August to September 2006 was made possible through the generosity of a Kew Guild Award along with the RHS, Bentham & Moxon Trust and Merlin Trust. The trip primarily involved visiting various national parks and botanic gardens with the aim of widening my horticultural knowledge and experience. This would enable me to pass on first hand knowledge on plants and horticultural techniques as well as many other learning experiences.

My first stop was at the Royal Botanic Garden Cranbourne where I was able to see the newly constructed botanic garden. I had two days experience here working with the grounds team and nursery with the highlight being a bush tour on the wild part of the site that had good early flowering *Caladenia* spp.

My next stop was the Grampians National Park with Neville Walsh from RBG Melbourne. There was an excellent array of flowers - even 6 months after forest fires (Jan 2006) had destroyed over 50% of the park. The new epicormic growth on the eucalypts was interesting to see along with the *Xanthorea australis* and *X. minor* - flowering prolifically after the fire due to the fire-initiated release of the gas acetylene, which stimulates the growth of the flower spike. My final day in the park was highlighted by *Correa lawrenceana* (below) flowering in abundance on Mt William.



stump of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*.

I returned to Melbourne and began a 3 day placement at RBG Melbourne based around the nursery. I carried out cutting propagation of some of the endemics I had collected whilst in the Grampians as well as working in the garden. The undoubted highlight was the Ian Potter Foundation Childrens' Garden. This encourages children to explore plants through play and had many interesting features including an amazing 8,000 year old fossilized

From Melbourne I left for Perth, where Alex George (former Australian Botanical Liaison Officer), who I had met through the Kew Guild, proved an excellent host. A day was spent at the Darling Scarp where Alex used his encyclopedic knowledge to tell me what the plants were and how they were named.

A short trip north was made for a trip into various national parks. This included Mt Leseur National Park, Badgingarra National Park, Nambung National Park (The Pinnacles) and Yandin Lookout where the *Angiozanthos*, (New Director of RBG Kew, Prof. Steve Hopper, is the authority on this genus), were flowering prolifically.

I returned to Perth, and spent the last part of my trip at Kings Park Botanic Garden. A range of organized tours and activities were laid on for me, the highlights being a trip to the vernal pools at Brixton Reserve, a talk on the (world renowned) micro propagation unit and a tour through the bush where the trigger plant, *Stylidium repens* was flowering early.

Overall, I had a great variety of experiences bringing me into close contact with different aspects of horticulture. I was also able to accompany widely respected botanists into the field, giving me invaluable experience and knowledge of the endemic wildflowers of Australia.

THE KEW GUILD HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

by Allan Hart

In 2005 the Kew Guild decided to promote an additional category of membership for those people, both professional and academic, who are not eligible to become full members of the Guild. It is seen as an opportunity for the Guild to both recognise and welcome into the Fellowship those who are distinguished in their own field of expertise and who would add lustre to the Kew Guild.

The Fellowship will include those who have worked in Horticulture and the Botanical Sciences, including, but not exclusive to:

Research, publishing, botanical artists and photographers.
 Conservation and landscape management.
 Landscape architecture, reclamation and garden design.
 Horticultural industries - plant breeding, nurseries and construction.

Fellowship of the Kew Guild will be exclusive and limited to 25 at any one time. The Fellowships are administered by the Awards Scheme on behalf of the Guild and the presentation of new Fellows is made at the Annual Dinner.

The Kew Guild is delighted to welcome the first recipients:

Derek Edwards

Derek obtained qualifications from both Pencoed and Wales College of Horticulture before working as a Field Trials Officer with MAFF and Pan Britannica Industries. A change of direction followed as Technical Sales Engineer with British Overhead Irrigation in Europe, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea and Sabbah.

Derek is a member of the Institute of Horticulture and the Institute of Management, and has been honoured with the award of the Harlow Carr Medal for services to the horticultural industry.

Derek founded the firm of 'Inturf' which has specialised in the large scale production of prescription turf, grown on the local sandy, stone free soils, or on manufactured soils which are site specific. Inturf has been a long term supplier and installer for the All England Club, Wimbledon, and the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff, for which Derek

devised a system of grown turf in transportable trays, enabling the whole pitch to be removed outside during concerts etc.



The development of the Big Roll Turf Installation Machine, enables large areas of turf to be quickly and efficiently laid with instant stability.

Participating in education in turf science and the presentation of technical papers have played an important part in Derek's working life. Much time is spent with horticultural students and providing sponsorship for Askham Bryan and Bishop Burton colleges in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

Roy Lancaster



Commenced his horticultural career with the Parks Department, Bolton, Lancashire, progressing to a studentship at the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge. Joining Hillier and Sons of Winchester, he rose from catalogue compiler and horticultural botanist, to become the first curator of the Hillier Arboretum, during which time he played a major role in the preparation of 'Hillier's Manual of Trees and Shrubs'.

Roy Lancaster is currently the Vice Chairman of the RHS Floral B Committee and received the Society's Gold Veitch Memorial Medal for Services to Horticulture. This was followed in 1988 by the Society's highest award – the Victoria Medal of Honour. He is presently a freelance writer, lecturer and broadcaster, and a regular panel member of BBC Radio 4's 'Gardeners Question Time'. A fellow of the Institute of Horticulture, he was one of the first recipients of the Institute's Award for Outstanding Services to Horticulture. In 1999 he received an OBE for Services to Horticulture.

John Melmoe



John Melmoe gained a Diploma in Landscape Management from Merrist Wood Horticultural College, followed by a four year period as commercial landscape manager with Comtec (UK) Ltd. Then came a two-year contract, managing erosion control projects in Gabon, Tanzania, Singapore and Malaysia. During this time he was commissioned to implement research projects for CIRA and the Overseas Development Agency.

In 1984 John joined Willerby Landscapes Ltd. as Director of Contracts Management, overseeing multi-million pound landscape projects at Canary Wharf - London Docklands, Scottish Equitable Headquarters - Edinburgh, Blue Water Retail Park and TAG McLaren Headquarters in Woking, all of which have set benchmarks for quality of both plant material and its installation. Many landscape schemes require vast amounts of

plant material, often only available in small numbers and of variable quality - and to ensure quality control John established Willerby's own plant nursery and a unit for containerisation of large trees for all year round installation.

John Melmoe has literally transformed the landscape industry with his organisational and management skills, complemented by the many innovations he has made to increase the efficiency of the business. At the same time he has created very cost-effective projects, with an emphasis on quality control and very high standards on all aspects of installation and construction. This has resulted in Willerbys receiving no less than two Principal Awards and two Awards from the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI). His staff, at all levels, are encouraged to develop their horticultural and management skills with further education courses at Merrist Wood and other centres of excellence.

Tim Smit

Tim Smit was born in Scheveningen in Holland. Educated in Britain, he gained a BA in Archaeology/Anthropology at Durham University. Whilst not from a 'traditional' science or horticultural background, he has used skills, knowledge and enthusiasm gained from the music industry as a composer/producer - to increase greater interest and awareness towards the fields of science. This has been achieved through his leadership in the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project, which have attracted massive new audiences.

Tim Smit is the Chief Executive and co-founder of the Eden Project. This pioneering scientific foundation transformed a former china clay derelict mining site, using new technology and stunning architecture, into a trail blazing social enterprise. It is helping to change peoples' perception of the world's environment, as well as playing an important role in local regeneration by sustainable means.

Tim Smit is a member of the Cornwall Gardens Trust and Patron of the Urban Parks Forum, amongst many other appointments. In January 2002 he was awarded a CBE in the New Year's Honours List.



Ed Wolf



Ed gained a Diploma in Horticulture, Aalsmeer College of Horticulture, Holland, before entering into a trainee-ship with Thomas Rochford Ltd and then with Longman's Florist in London.

Ed started 'Indoor Garden Design' in 1975. The company is now recognised as one of the UK's leading interior landscape companies, renowned for its provision of high quality service with an inspired approach to design. This approach has gained several BALI Awards, as well as helping to retain many blue-chip clients, some of over thirty years standing.

Ed Wolf's ethos is to offer a high standard of support to his staff, with in-house training and encouragement to attend horticultural institutions, such as Capel Manor, and Business Management courses. He is also used to providing fees to enable staff to enjoy extra mural activities, such as photography, silver-smiths classes, yoga, etc. which he is convinced contribute to maintaining a balanced, interested and motivated work-force.

In addition, Ed Wolf is a great supporter and patron of the arts, particularly modern studio ceramics, many of which are displayed in the firm's conference room.



Left - Right: Past President Bob Hebb, Sue and Roy Lancaster, Derek and June Edwards, Ed and Brita Wolf, and new President Tom Risely.

KEW'S NEW DIRECTOR

Reprinted from 'Kew Scientist' Oct 2006 Issue 30, by kind permission of the Editor

On 19 May 2006, the Trustees of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, announced the appointment of Professor Stephen D. Hopper as the next Director. Steve Hopper assumes the Directorship in October, taking over from Professor Sir Peter Crane who leaves Kew after seven years to become the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor at the University of Chicago. Steve Hopper, previously Foundation Professor of Plant Conservation Biology at the University of Western Australia, has an international reputation in plant science and conservation. His research experience includes evolutionary,



systematic and conservation studies on Australian plants, evolution of Mediterranean-climate plants, pollination ecology and a collaborative international programme on granite outcrop floras. He is the author of more than 200 publications, including eight books, and is currently developing and testing a new hypothesis about the evolution and conservation of biodiversity on the world's oldest landscapes.

Steve is a passionate conservation biologist and has been engaged in practical plant conservation for almost 30 years. For seven years he was Director of King's Park & Botanic Garden in Perth, followed by five years as CEO of the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority, a Western Australian Government body run, like Kew, by an independent board. Steve has a proven track record in attracting funding to the organisations for which he works, and he successfully managed stakeholder relationships through a period of change and development at King's Park & Botanic Garden.

This experience, together with his strong background in science and plant conservation, will be invaluable at Kew. He said, "I am delighted to accept the post at Kew. With its worldwide profile, important national and local presence, and rich diversity of botanical and mycological programmes, Kew is superbly placed to speak for, inspire and demonstrate best practice in plant conservation – the basis of life on earth and one of the world's greatest challenges." Lord Selborne, Chairman of the Kew Trustees, said, "We are fortunate to have found in Stephen Hopper an unusual combination of excellence in plant science research and conservation, coupled with in-depth experience of managing a large and complex visitor attraction. We look forward to working with Professor Hopper in the years ahead and especially the planning leading up to Kew's 250th anniversary celebrations in 2009."

In July 2006, Peter Crane and Steve Hopper visited the Secretary of State for Defra, David Miliband. As the outgoing and incoming Directors of Kew they made a detailed presentation of Kew's role and value, emphasising the need to support both Kew's science work that addresses a changing environment and the visitor side of Kew that engages public understanding.

NEW VISTAS AND HERITAGE GALORE AT KEW

by Bronwen Davies (see photo)



2006 heralded an exciting year at Kew with many new ventures celebrating Kew's rich heritage including significant royal celebrations, renovations, new structures, arrivals and departures of key staff. There were four important new attractions to admire on a visit to Kew from early Spring: a new glasshouse (the first in 20 years); a new bridge (Sackler Crossing on 16 May), a newly renovated Royal Palace and fantastic vistas from the top of the reopened and much lauded Pagoda. Kew enjoyed the most successful January on record with visitors up by an impressive 19% on 2005.

Rebecca Bower, (who once served as Honorary Treasurer for the Kew Guild) and Kew's Head of Finance received an OBE in the New Year's Honours list. Another member of staff to be acknowledged was Pat Smallcombe who received an MBE. Pat works in the Arboretum section – near the mount around the flagpole – a flagpole savaged by woodpecker activity and condemned as unfit in November

2006. Pat's first foray at Kew was in 1964 and he believes he is now the longest serving member of staff (he plans to retire in May 2007).

Kew's 12th Orchid Festival (entitled Orchids in Art and Design) set up shop in the Princess of Wales conservatory and behind the scenes preparations began in earnest in January, with plans for over 40 types of cultivated orchids and 20,000 cut flowers to adorn the 12 climate zones. Visitors of note included Baroness Thatcher who wanted to see Kew's popular festival in person. An unusual simultaneous gathering of 17 London mayors left the Vista editor scratching her head to come up with a collective noun for such a group – *mélange* of mayors? *meld* of mayors?

On 10 March, the top floor of the Pat Brenan Suite in the Herbarium was filled to the rafters with friends and colleagues wanting to wish orchid specialist Dr Phil Cribb well at his retirement party. The food by staff is legendary at these affairs. Impressively Phil has published 30 books and over 350 papers during his career.

Unwanted visitors

In March, bird flu caused widespread public concern and Kew issued advice on preventing infection. Kew runs a very successful volunteer programme headed by Belinda Parry and in the summer 330 volunteers removed *Smyrniun pefoliatum* from Kew's natural areas.

Celebrating innovative design

In National Science Week (13-17 March) talks by the curators of the alpine collection elucidated how the stunning design by Wilkinson Eyre Architects makes the new Davies Alpine House the best possible environment for alpine plants. It subsequently won the RIBA (Royal Institute for British Architects) award on 22 June "For a small building, it takes a powerful form". Kew was delighted to welcome Michael Palin as he officially pronounced the Davies Alpine House open (in acknowledgment of Bolton Wanderers' director Edwin Davies' generous donation).

DNA discovery

The discovery of a new genus (rather than species) is a major scientific find. *Dransfieldi micrantha* was discovered in Indonesian New Guinea and named in honour of Dr John Dransfield, a world authority on palms and the recently retired head of Kew's palm research programme. "I was perplexed by this palm when we found it in the forest." Bill Baker explained "but it was only with the help of modern DNA methods that we realised how unique and special it is." Celebrations and departures Summer time heralded the staff party and Summer Swing. It was also Professor Peter Crane's informal departure after seven years of leading RBG Kew. An entertaining video (filmed jointly by the BBC team and Andy McRobb one of our resident photographers) showed staff being quizzed, on amongst other things, what type of animal they likened the director to: answers ranged from a badger, a cheetah, to a cross between a bunny and a bear. Bill Baker pondered aloud: "Now, what sort of animal has a moustache?"

Having successfully completed the New Wolfson wing of the Jodrell (impressively on time and budget) another key member of staff's departure was Mike Bennett's retirement from the Jodrell on 6 August, after nearly 19 years at Kew. At a series of comprehensive tours to staff around the new extension he said "Please come and visit us. We like to talk. It's the way we all learn. If you want to talk to someone about your research then at Kew we're really fortunate because they are probably here on site already." Mark Chase was appointed the new Keeper of the Jodrell.

Vistas

People were able to puff up the Pagoda (closed since 1975) and scrutinise the changing landscape from on high when it reopened its doors and visitors climbed the 253 steps as part of the Heritage Festival running throughout the summer months at Kew. "Another tall building my husband has dragged me up – but the views are great despite the rain!"

Four opportunities for Midnight ramblings at Kew (for 8-11 year olds) fed young imaginations over the summer and autumn months as RBG Kew trialled a new way of attracting, educating and inspiring children to learn about botany, horticulture and science in fun and interactive ways. The sleepovers proved to be a great hit and plans for 2007 include extending the range of dates and activities.

Walking in someone else's shoes

Learning at work day at Kew and Wakehurst on 25 May was an opportunity for over 60 staff to choose from one of 20 different learning experiences on offer. These ranged from listening to the Science Audit presentations, helping in the Micropropagation unit, Mounting unit, Spirit collections; working on the Palm House bedding, and helping deliver education at Wakehurst.

Animal kingdom

There were some firsts at Kew in 2006 in terms of visitor experiences. As part of the Heritage Festival, Kew recreated elements drawn from George III's menagerie which he had kept at Kew. Visitors were once again able to admire examples from the animal kingdom: wallabies and black merino sheep at the western end of the Gardens. Five wasp spiders were found at Kew and flourished over the summer at Kew. The first was found in London in 2002.

Royal visits and flying visits

Security was very strict in anticipation of a visit on 21 April of HM The Queen as she celebrated her eightieth with a private birthday party with her family at the newly restored Kew Palace, culminating in an evening fireworks display. Staff could enter their name into a raffle and thus a lucky few were also able to participate in this prestigious and historic visit.

Meanwhile other visitors were making themselves at home as it came to the attention of Ken Murphy that a roost of bats (the only true flying mammals) had set up home in

the Minka house – they are brown long-eared bats (*Plecotus auritus*) and are the second most common and protected species.

Adding to the mix

On 19 May, Kew's new director was appointed: Professor Stephen Hopper (a plant conservationist biologist from King's Park in Perth, Australia, who some staff already knew from his visit with the Science Audit in 2001). In October staff got their first chance to meet him en masse in the Nash Conservatory: he asked for our forbearance in learning our names but promised to take a daily constitutional with his wife each morning around the Gardens (and is keeping to his word). Steve's response to becoming director of RBG Kew was "I'm still pinching myself".

Switched on – The wonders of technology – media stars

For the first time anyone surfing the web could access Kew's centralised Herbarium Catalogue. This enables users outside of Kew to access full-screen images of Kew's herbarium specimens from the comfort of their own home – www.kew.org/herbcat. In September TV viewers could switch on to watch *The Trees that made Britain* hosted by Kew's arboriculturists Tony Kirkham and Jon Hammerton. There were a total of 8 programmes which aired on BBC 2.

Art at Kew – new ways of looking

In the Cambridge Cottage Gallery an innovative exhibition entitled *Artists' Kew* housed newly commissioned art works for sale, which will help fund Kew's art and conservation works. By contrast Kew has probably the world's largest collection of botanical art and both displaying and granting access to this huge collection public is problematical. A brand new botanical art building to be called the Shirley Shirwood Gallery, adjacent to the Marianne North gallery, will display highlights from the Library, Art and Archives. The foundation stone was laid in late summer.

New beginnings

As the year came to a close, Steve Hopper sought collaboration with staff and a range of key stakeholders, asking for their views on what words and objectives should be included in a new mission statement for RBG Kew. A friendly debate ensued and opinions were gleaned from the full range of communication channels: meetings, emails, an Intranet poll and some brainstorming exercises chaired by Steve Hopper and run by Roger Joiner. The result was announced in early January 2007; to inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life.

At the end of 2006, Kew had in place a new director, two new Trustees appointed by Defra, Professor Sir William Stewart and Mr Marcus Agius, a new keeper of the Jodrell, a new glasshouse, the Jodrell wing extension. Major plans are underway for both a new Art Gallery, a permanent Treetop walkway and rhizotron, and Herbarium and Library extension. Its brief is to house the next forty years worth of storage for Herbarium specimens, a Library accessible to all users, and space for staff and visitors to research and work. Lots of hard work and collaborations have meant that plans have come to fruition with many exciting projects to look forward to in 2007.

2006 – ANOTHER RECORD YEAR AT WAKEHURST PLACE

by David Hardman

In the first months of 2006 it seemed that the prospects for the year ahead weather-wise might just be a continuation of the last. January proved drier than the previous eight and caused us real concern for our collections should the trend continue. A hosepipe ban remained in force throughout the year but despite all these challenges we ensured our plants survived. Now looking back on the year it was not so much the drought but more the fact we had the highest average annual temperature ever recorded raising the threat of global warming! (See table).

Whilst the temperatures were the highest recorded so were our visitor numbers. In April we saw our greatest number of visitors at Wakehurst Place in a single month ever 50,571 people passed through the Visitor Centre in April. Additionally June, July, November and December also proved to be record breaking months. By 31st December some 433,140 people had visited Wakehurst Place to enjoy the garden and the activities we had provided.

Events

These are well established in the calendar – the **Bluebell weekends** this year, on 22/23 April and 6/7 May, included Saturday walks through the best bluebell woods and then on Sunday minibus tours with wheelchair access, around the estate to take in other bluebells.

The three **Autumn Colour weekends** on 14/15, 21/22, and 28/29 October were well attended but the delayed autumn had an impact on the breathtaking autumn tints normally expected in mid October.

We also continued our regular tours that allow visitors to see the Loder Valley Nature Reserve, every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday afternoon or take one of the Daily Garden tours at 11:30am & 2:00pm when they can find out a little more about the history of the estate and seasonal plants of interest.

On a sunny 20th July we had an amazing day with specialist interests for visitors when we hosted the **BBC's Antiques Roadshow** team to the gardens to film a programme scheduled for showing in February 2007. The anticipation was high as visitors queued with their different sized packages hoping that they were holding something that would turn out to be of great value. The organisation and preparation to mount such a show required a full week's support from the Logistics Team in advance of filming, then many volunteers to manage and steward the expectant visitors.

8,378 budding artists of all ages got the chance to showcase their talents during October, on three **Big Draw** Saturdays and three days of half term. Children and adults participated in a range of art activities around the gardens, drawing inspiration from the natural beauty of the surroundings. Visitors used natural materials from the grounds to create artworks and helped make a huge montage of the Mansion by drawing sections of the view.

Sheep at Wakehurst

The new members of staff, of the four legged variety, in the form of a small flock of Southdown sheep proved a big hit with visitors especially near the Millennium Seedbank. The sheep are a mix of Southdown shearlings and older ewes and came from a farm on the slopes of the Sussex downs and flood meadows of the River Ouse at Offam, near Lewes. Southdown sheep are a very sturdy breed and renowned for their thick fleece. These diligent and committed grazers helped us manage the herb-rich meadows of the Loder Valley Reserve and some other areas of grassland throughout the estate as they can prove more effective than mowers and strimmers. In the Loder Valley Reserve, the meadows are managed in the traditional way to increase plant biodiversity. A simple system of cutting and removing the vegetation reduces the soils nutrient levels and enables less vigorous species to thrive. Grazing will help this process by creating more opportunities for seed to get to the soil and germinate.

The redeveloped Oaks re- opened

This area has been known for many years as the Oaks and gets its name from the avenue of oak trees that run from the crossroads to the Visitor Centre. During the spring the old Schools Entrance was closed whilst the Logistics and Gardens Unit teams landscaped the area creating a new entrance, paths and an amphitheatre. A new, improved gateway was built to give a better welcome to our many thousands of younger visitors to Wakehurst Place. A stunning greenwood oak gazebo (named the Granary), was installed in the public car park as a focal point. Built by members of the Conservation and Woodland unit the new structure provides much-needed shelter to our volunteers as they wait to greet school parties. Students will now disembark their coach, stand on the 'seed' then walk along the 'stem' path to gather on the 'starflower'. In and around the Oaks we began the process of developing the area to work more creatively with young people exploring the wonder, relevance and variety of plants. The first of these is the grass amphitheatre sculpted into the hillside to be used for story telling and performance. This winter Garden staff will complete the planting of an attractive screen of native trees and shrubs to encourage wildlife and hide the fences and toilet block.

Bird watchers paradise

Our Wild View festival gave a wonderful insight into the habits and activities of some of our shyer creatures. Buildings on last year's success visitors were able to follow all the action through the bank of monitors in the visitor centre which relayed images from the nest cams. The buzzards which constructed their nest in the canopy of a fir tree in Sheepwash Wood last year became known to thousands after their TV appearance. We edited over 50 hours of recorded footage to make a short film telling their story and the film was shown between April and June.

This year we focussed our cameras on the wildlife of the two conservation reserves — the Loder Valley and the Francis Rose Reserve where we completed an exciting project to construct an oak, timber-framed observation hide in Tilgate Wood. The new Francis Rose hide provides splendid views over Ardingly Reservoir, a great venue to quietly observe all the wildlife action as well as the opportunity to learn how Wakehurst's management of this ecologically sensitive area aims to protect our rare native plants

and animals. Visitors gain access via a raised boardwalk from the south-west corner of the Wetlands Conservation Area to a formerly restricted area of the Francis Rose Reserve — our unique haven for endangered mosses, lichens, liverworts and filmy ferns. Tilgate Wood is home to an array of wildlife and over fifty species of birds are known to breed in the wood including woodcock, kingfisher and tawny owl. Other visitors include osprey, common tern and hobby.

Unexpected arrival – a Bee orchid

It grows on chalky downland so why a Bee orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) appeared outside the visitor centre was a conundrum. The orchid flowered under a massive beech tree nestling in wood bark on a base of rich humus mulch. How it got there is a complete mystery but a seed may have come in with some mulch used in the re-planting of the area following the opening of the new entrance. But why it has grown so well remains a puzzle. The bee orchid is so-called because it mimics the appearance of a female bee to lure males which fertilise it from fruitless mating attempts. The Seedbank team are working with English Nature collecting seeds from some rare UK plants which are under threat and among these are some of our beautiful wild orchids.

Starfruit re-introduction at Greenham Common

On 28th November 2006, horticultural and seed bank staff joined staff from Plantlife, Natural England and West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils to try and secure the future of one of the UK rarest plants. The *Starfruit* (*Damasonium alisma*) a beautiful aquatic herb, is critically endangered. It flowers from June to August and is found at muddy pond margins where the water level fluctuates naturally. The species has star-shaped fruits and blunt, heart-shaped leaves. Greenham Common in Berkshire had a high profile during the Cold War when peace protests were directed against American cruise missiles based at this former air base. However, the site is being gradually restored to a natural habitat and provides ideal growing conditions for Starfruit because it has a number of ponds which are used regularly by cattle, and their trampling of the pond margins creates ideal conditions for the species. The first mission was to assess the suitability of five specially selected ponds around the site. It was decided to sow Starfruit seeds directly into two of the ponds, plant seedlings into two other ponds and use a mixture of seed and seedlings at the fifth. Over 300 seeds and 60 seedling plugs were planted throughout the day the seeds and seedlings originated from seed collections saved within the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place some years ago under a programme sponsored by Natural England. The seedlings were grown by Wakehurst Place Nursery especially for this work. The hope is that this introduction will secure a population of Starfruit in the wild and ensure its long-term presence within the UK's flora.

New name – new challenge

The Nursery Unit was re-named the Plant Propagation and Conservation Unit to signify a new era, with clear focus on conservation and education. Jo Wenham was appointed as the new Unit manager and her first main project is to coordinate seed production from the 1,100 rare and endangered species in Kew living collections ensuring they are stored in the Millennium Seed Bank.

The project is exciting and challenging and its success will insure the long-term future of Kew's wonderful living collections and contribute to the conservation of our rare and endangered species. Ultimately, the project aims to produce seed from endangered species held in other living collections world-wide and will multiply small seed samples of endangered species received by the Seedbank from its network of international donors. It will also focus on backing-up the 13,550 bankable species growing in Kew's living collections. Practical collecting started in June and 20 species, including three conservation species, have been banked, other plants targeted for future collection have been labelled in the glasshouses and gardens.

New leader for SCD

Dr Paul Smith took over from Roger Smith as leader of the Seed Conservation Department and leader of the £80m Millennium Seed Bank Project. Paul is a specialist in ecology and plant diversity in southern, central and eastern Africa. He has extensive experience in ecological surveying, botanical inventory, vegetation mapping and monitoring, including GIS and remote sensing.

For **Professor Sir Peter Crane's farewell**, Wakehurst staff held a stoolball challenge match between a Rest of the World XIV and the Directors XIV. This unique Sussex game proved an exciting match and suitable finale with the Director's XIV just winning by six runs. Between innings spectators and players were treated to a gourmet style buffet, some wondered how the players were able to move afterwards!

Winner of West Sussex design award

Wakehurst Place took first prize out of 27 nominations in the commercial category of the West Sussex County Council Building Design Awards with its Stables Restaurant, a modern addition to a Grade II listed building. The Stables restaurant and Seed Café now serve a range of dishes all with a strong emphasis on locally-sourced ingredients with many products from the south east.

Wollemi Pine

The remarkable Wollemi Pine, *Wollemia nobilis*, is now available to buy in the UK in association with RBG Kew. Nearly 2 years ago, 15 Wollemi Pines were planted in secret locations at Wakehurst to test how the trees, discovered in Australia, would fair in the UK climate. The Wollemi Pine, the ultimate survivor, has proven to be hardy so far and versatile in cultivation. Each tree was planted in identical conditions and without any form of protection to help it, in what was one of the coldest winters for many years. The species demonstrated resilience and appear to have endured these temperatures without any detriment to their growth and apical shoots.

The release of the Wollemi Pine is an innovative case study for the world on how to protect and ensure the long term survival of a threatened species through public participation. Growing the Wollemi Pine in homes, gardens and parks throughout the world is an important step to help conserve this unique and endangered species and it is one way that anyone who wishes to care for a Wollemi Pine can participate in the global conservation effort.

Each Wollemi Pine comes with a stylish pot, information booklet, care label, sachet of mycorrhizal ‘friendly’ fungi to help growth and also a certificate of authenticity to prove that the owner has purchased a piece of genuine Jurassic history. A royalty from the sale of each Wollemi Pine in 2006 was donated to Kew to help fund vital-work in conserving other plant species around the world on the brink of extinction.

Bulb planting for new display

During autumn 100,000 snowdrop bulbs were planted beneath the oaks outside the Visitor Centre to brighten up and form a new seasonal feature, earlier in the year 20,000 cyclamen had been added to those planted last year. The purchase and planting of the snowdrops was possible through donations to the Foundation and Friends commemorative gifts scheme, which enables people to remember a loved one or someone special, at Wakehurst Place through the sponsorship of bulbs.

St Paul’s Cathedral display

To promote sustainability and the MSB Project, a team from Wakehurst installed a living plant display to support interpretation boards at St Paul’s Cathedral. The display of large trees was on site for over 3 months and included plants with bible links. The challenging conditions and restrictions within this important building should not be underestimated and your writer was deeply involved in ensuring its success.

Christmas

At Wakehurst, the ‘big switch-on’ of the UK’s largest Christmas tree is always special and was undertaken by BBC TV South East’s Beverley Thomson on 1st December. Our Carol Concert for all the family on Friday 15th December proved to be the most popular evening ever with well over 2,500 people attending.

In concluding last year’s report I mentioned the filming at Wakehurst Place of Ken Branagh’s “**As You Like It**”. I can report that some fortunate staff attended the ‘Cast and Crew’ preview screening of the film at the National Film Theatre on Sunday 24th September. It is a fascinating film and is a spectacular record of the many locations used during filming and it will certainly be something to look out for when it is released in the UK early in 2007.

Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2006

	2006 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals Calendar year
Month's total rainfall (mm)	23.9	67.4	65.9	68.7	112.8	23.9	22.9	73.4	73.2	142.5	87.5	142.5	904.6
Compare 2005	49.6	29	57.5	36.8	37.4	18.1	72.2	53.6	30.6	109.6	63.6	53.6	611.6
2004	125.8	33	44.3	81.7	44.8	28.6	61.3	97.9	26	145.2	34.9	67.3	790.8
{2003}	114.1	37.6	18.9	37.3	54.3	38.0	87.0	47.9	6.6	51.8	141.1	94.0	728.6
2002	102.9	109.9	56.8	41.3	139.3	61.1	83.6	47.4	39.3	83.0	186.2	168.7	1120
(2001)	(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)
{2000}	{ 83.0 }	{ 123.9 }	{ 22.5 }	{ 123.9 }	{ 120.1 }	{ 14.9 }	{ 47.5 }	{ 38.6 }	{ 137.3 }	{ 288.7 }	{ 222.0 }	{ 202.5 }	{ 1336.9 }
{1999}	{120.8}	{ 8.35 }	{ 40.2 }	{ 56.5 }	{ 33.7 }	{ 60.5 }	{ 10.2 }	{ 117.5 }	{ 152.7 }	{ 66.8 }	{ 36.4 }	{ 165.8 }	{ 869.45 }
Rainiest day (mm)	8 th	19 th	29 th	9 th	7 th	12 th	22 nd	23 rd	13 th	6 th	19 th	6 th	
	7.4	19.9	16.6	20.6	21.4	12.9	5.8	28.8	20.0	33.0	14.3	24.1	
Rainless days	12	14	19	16	14	20	18	11	14	9	11	12	
Highest Max Temp	10.5°C 18 th	10.4°C 13 th	12.7°C 26 th	21.6°C 21 st	27.8°C 4 th	31.7°C 12 th	37.6°C 19 th	27.6°C 5 th	30.2°C 11 th	21.3°C 16 th	13.7°C 13 th	11.6°C 4 th	
Lowest Max Temp:	1.1°C 27 th	-2.6°C 2 nd	1.8°C 16 th	8.3°C 4 th	11.9°C 21 st	14.4°C 14 th	18.8°C 22 nd	15.2°C 12 th	17.2°C 22 nd	13.1°C 31 st	7.1°C 6 th & 21 st	2.2°C 21 st	
Highest Min Temp:	6.9°C 19 th	4.1°C 15 th & 16 th	8.3°C 26 th & 27 th	8.4°C 26 th	11.7°C 4 th	16.6°C 12 th	17.2°C 19 th	17.6°C 7 th	16.1°C 5 th	15.0°C 10 th	10.8°C 15 th	9.8°C 14 th	
Lowest Min Temp	-4.8°C 25 th	-4.2°C 10 th	-6.3°C 2 nd	-1.8°C 6 th	2.9°C 30 th	3.7°C 1 st	9.5°C 14 th	7.5°C 30 th	7.6°C 8 th	3.8°C 27 th	-1.8°C 2 nd	-5.2°C 20 th	
Nights - air temp below freezing	13	14	15	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	7	
Windiest day	27 th NNE 24mph	20 th NNE 28mph	28 th SW 33mph	3 rd NW 25mph	19 th & 20 th SW & W 27mph	22 nd WNW 20mph	10 th & 15 th SSW & N NE 19mph	4 th NE 22mph	4 th W 23mph	2 nd WSW 29mph	26 th S 27mph	3 rd WNW 33mph	

A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF THE KEW GUILD MEDAL IN 2006

by Anthony Ross

I was greatly honoured when past President Colin Hindmarch asked me if I could design a gold medal for the Kew Guild. It was not until I began to think about how to turn a flat design into a three-dimensional object that I began to panic!

To gain some inspiration I went to see the collection of medals at the British Museum and I was particularly impressed with those produced in Florence at the time of Michelangelo. I also went to visit a local manufacturer who had a good selection of sports medals, Masonic medals etc. but none in silver gilt or of the quality required for the Kew Guild. Fortunately, I had previously seen some good examples of silver gilt medals produced for the Royal Horticultural Society and also those of the Linnaean Society which gave me a good basis on which to proceed with my design. This was to be based on the Kew Guild coat of Arms on one side and on the reverse side on the circumference of the medal an arrangement of the leaves of *Ginkgo biloba*.

The Kew Guild committee approved of my somewhat primitive cut and paste photocopy presentation - I mean real cutting with scissors and pasting with glue! The next thing was to get some advice from the manufacturer - Classic Miniatures of Twickenham who eventually produced an extremely good quality medal of which I feel the Guild can be justly proud.

HALF AN ANSWER TO MYSTERY ARCHIVE ITEMS

by F. Nigel Hepper

In the Journal of 2005 on page 412 there are two photographs of items found in Kew Guild archives: "someone might recognise them and perhaps know their relevance (if any) to the Guild." Yes, I recognise the stamp. It was reproduced in the 1964 Journal Vol. VIII No LXIX p.449. Frank Ballard wrote all about it in connection with the Hercules statue situated in the Palm House Pond. It is an informative account thanks to the researches of my former colleague in the Herbarium Dr H. Heine.

THE AUSTRALIAN BOTANICAL LIAISON OFFICER SCHEME

by Alex George

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, hold very significant resources consulted by botanists from the world over. These include herbarium collections dating back several hundred years, a comprehensive library, a large living collection, and a large archival collection. The herbarium at Kew holds the largest set of historical Australian collections, due largely to the fact that until 1853 there was no herbarium in Australia. Collectors brought or sent their specimens to Europe and, with the strong British connection, most ended up in Britain. The Natural History Museum also has a large set, and other important sets are held in herbaria at Cambridge University, Paris, Florence and Vienna.

Many of Kew's resources are unique or include, for example, literature difficult to locate and/or study elsewhere, and hence there is a steady stream of visitors and inquiries. The concept of having liaison botanists at Kew to handle inquiries (previously by mail, now usually by email) goes back to the early 20th century. The aim is twofold: to relieve Kew staff of the task and so allow them to give full attention to their own duties, and to provide opportunities for botanists from elsewhere to gain experience working in a large organisation.

During the past century, Kew has seen several botanical liaison botanist schemes under which visiting taxonomists spent long periods based in the Herbarium. Most significant have been those involving South Africa, India and Australia. Early in the 20th century, staff members at Kew also acted as liaison botanists for several countries or regions, such as 'West Africa'. The South African scheme operated from 1919 to 1995, ceasing due largely to the very unfavourable exchange rate that made it unacceptably expensive to base a botanist at Kew for long periods. Both the Indian and Australian schemes remain operational.

Following long correspondence between the then-Director Sir Arthur Hill and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Melbourne in the 1930s, the Australian Government decided to support a liaison botanist and the first, Charles A. Gardner from Perth, arrived at Kew in March 1937. Originally it was seen as a two-year term, but the Second World War intervened and the second ABLO, Cyril T. White from Brisbane, served only six months. Because of the difficulty in finding accommodation near Kew in the post-war years, the scheme did not resume until 1949. The next two officers each served about two years, but since then it has generally been a 12-month appointment. For some years there were also gaps between appointments but, since the late '60s, the scheme has operated fairly regularly, usually with a short overlap period so that the incumbent can explain procedures to the incoming person. Typically an ABLO has been at around the mid-point of their career, but a few have been younger or older.

The CSIR (later CSIRO) managed the scheme through its Standing Committee on Agriculture until July 1980 when it was transferred to the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS), Canberra. ABRS works in close conjunction with the Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) in managing the scheme and in selecting officers. The scheme is now covered by a recently-signed memorandum of understanding between Kew, ABRS and CHAH. Most ABLOs have been from the major Australian herbaria but one has represented the Australian Antarctic Division, one Murdoch University, one the Australian Biological Resources Study, and one was unattached at the time of appointment. The current officer, Juliet A. Wege, holds the 50th term as ABLO. Just one botanist, the author of this article, has held the position twice.

The main tasks of the ABLO are to service botanical inquiries from Australian and New Zealand sources, to liaise with and draw upon the specialist knowledge and skills of staff and to assist staff in botanical matters relating to Australia. Secondly the ABLO may pursue personal scientific research which usually is taxonomic. While most time is spent at Kew, the work involves frequent visits to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington and usually visits to other British and European herbaria.

On return home each ABLO must provide a detailed report on the work accomplished. Several early officers did not do so, but some 30 reports are held by the Archives at Kew.

In the Herbarium the ABLO was for many years accommodated in one of the wings close to the family in which his or her research centred. Since the 1980s, a small library of frequently-used Australian botanical literature has been built up (saving visits to the main Library) and a binocular microscope was also acquired. There is also a holding of current correspondence files. In 1998, therefore, a small office was allocated to the ABLO on the top floor of Hunter House. It is intriguing to think that the ABLO now occupies a building constructed decades before European settlement began in Australia!

On return home most ABLOs have made full use of the experience and knowledge gained at Kew, in their research and in curatorial and administrative roles. The contacts made, both with Kew staff and visitors, stand them in good stead over the years. Most ABLOs look back with affection at their time at Kew. The experience gained, the friendships made and the knowledge taken back contribute to making it a highlight of a career.

A list of ABLOs with their dates at Kew is given below. Currently I am preparing a book with a full history of the scheme, an essay on each ABLO, and an essay on the scheme from Kew's perspective. I would be glad to hear from any members who have photographs or interesting anecdotes of any of these botanists.

Chronological list of Australian Botanical Liaison Officers

Employing herbaria are given in brackets by their standard abbreviations. Those who have passed on are indicated by the symbol †.

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|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. †Charles A. Gardner (PERTH) | March 1937 – January 1939 |
| 2. †Cyril T. White (BRI) | March – October 1939 |
| 3. Mary D. Tindale (NSW) | June 1949 – October 1951 |
| 4. †Nancy T. Burbidge (CANB) | November 1952 – 1954 |
| 5. †Patrick F. Morris (MEL) | March 1956 – 1957 |
| 6. †James H. Willis (MEL) | April 1958 – June 1959 |
| 7. †Hansjoerg Eichler (AD) | June 1961 – September 1962 |
| 8. †Laurence A.S. Johnson (NSW) | October 1962 – December 1963 |
| 9. †Stanley T. Blake (BRI) | March 1964 – May 1965 |
| 10. Michael Lazarides (CANB) | July 1965 – October 1966 |
| 11. Arthur B. Court (MEL) | late 1966 – October 1967 |
| 12. Alexander S. George (PERTH) | December 1967 – January 1969 |
| 13. Donald J. McGillivray (NSW) | January 1969 – March 1970 |

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 14. †John Carrick (AD) | 1970 – 1971 |
| 15. Leslie Pedley (BRI) | May 1971 – April 1972 |
| 16. George M. Chippendale (FRI) | early July 1972 – July 1973 |
| 17. Helen I. Aston (MEL) | July 1973 – September 1974 |
| 18. Donald F. Blaxell (NSW) | 1974 – 1975 |
| 19. †Andries [Andrew] Kanis (CANB) | September 1975 – 1976 |
| 20. †John R. Maconochie (NT) | 1976 – 1977 |
| 21. Bruce R. Maslin (PERTH) | 1977 – August 1978 |
| 22. Rodney J.F. Henderson (BRI) | August 1978 – September 1979 |
| 23. Munir Ahmad Abir (AD) | September 1979 – August 1980 |
| 24. M. Ian H. Brooker (FRI) | August 1980 – August 1981 |
| 25. Michael D. Crisp (CBG) | September 1981 – 1982 |
| 26. Rex B. Filson (MEL) | 1982 – August 1983 |
| 27. Surrey W.L. Jacobs (NSW) | September 1983 – August 1984 |
| 28. Nicholas S. Lander (PERTH) | September 1984 – August 1985 |
| 29. Clyde R. Dunlop (DNA) | August 1985 – August 1986 |
| 30. Gordon P. Guymer (BRI) | August 1986 – September 1987 |
| 31. Judith G. West (CANB) | September 1987 – September 1988 |
| 32. Karen L. Wilson (NSW) | September 1988 – September 1989 |
| 33. Terry D. Macfarlane (PERTH) | September 1989 – September 1990 |
| 34. Gregory J. Leach (DNA) | September 1990 – August 1991 |
| 35. Philip S. Short (MEL) | September 1991 – August 1992 |
| 36. Peter H. Weston (NSW) | September 1992 – August 1993 |
| 37. Laurence W. Jessup (BRI) | September 1993 – August 1994 |
| 38. Barry J. Conn (NSW) | September 1994 – August 1995 |
| 39. Robert O. Makinson (CANB) | September 1995 – September 1996 |
| 40. †Donald B Foreman (MEL) | September 1996 – August 1997 |
| 41. Kenneth D. Hill (NSW) | August 1997 – 31 August 1998 |
| 42. Alexander R. Chapman (PERTH) | 2 September 1998 – 31 August 1999 |
| 43. Robert J. Chinnock (AD) | 1 September 1999 – August 2000 |
| 44. Rodney D. Seppelt (Australian Antarctic Div) | September 2000 – August 2001 |

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 45. Neville G. Marchant (PERTH) | September 2001 – February 2002 |
| 46. Peter D. Bostock (BRI) | March – November 2002 |
| 47. Roberta A. Cowan (Murdoch University) | December 2002 – November 03 |
| 48. Annette J.G. Wilson (Australian Biological Resources Study) | December 2003 – October 04 |
| 49. Alexander S. George (unattached) | November 2004 – August 2005 |
| 50. Juliet A. Wege (PERTH) | September 2005 – August 2006 |

KANICHIRO (KAN) YASHIRODA – KEW STUDENT, BONSAI SPECIALIST, PALM COLLECTOR
by Richard Kernick

“Never be in a hurry... It is the hands which must do the learning, slowly and repeatedly until they can think for you.”
Handbook on Bonsai: Special techniques



Kan displaying two of his miniature bonsai

Since starting to look after the Bonsai collection at Kew, I have revised and reread many of the publications that I have collected over the years. I have always preferred, where available, “original” texts (i.e. those written by Japanese nurserymen and bonsai practitioners) and this led to me dusting off an old copy, published in 1960, of *Bonsai: Japanese Miniature Trees* by Kan Yashiroda.

I was surprised to find a reference on page thirty-eight of this volume to Kan having spent some time during his youth as a student Gardener at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew:

*“I can vividly recall how in the days when I was a young student gardener at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, I admired a magnificent flowering specimen of *Davidia involucrata* near King William’s Temple. ...I drank in the beauties of this extraordinary tree and thought what a fine bonsai could be made of it”.*

I was determined to find out more about Kan's time at Kew, and what became of him in the following years. The results of this research follow.

Kanichiro (Kan) Yashiroda was born on 13th July 1901, and appears to have spent his youth living in Kagawa prefecture of Japan. Kagawa occupies the north-eastern part of the mountainous Shikoku Island, facing the Inland Sea, and is the fourth biggest island of Japan. It is surrounded in the north and east by Honshu, the Japanese mainland, and to the west by Kyushu Island. It faces the Pacific Ocean in the south.

Kan's interest in gardening and trees may have been prompted by his father, Sadataro, who was involved in fruit growing. He appears to have made an early decision to follow a career in horticulture, spending three years in Hyogoken Agricultural School between April 1916 and March 1919 studying Horticulture, Botany and 'Field-practice'. The Agricultural school has run courses continuously since it's founding in 1897 to the present day, and currently teaches around 950 students.

Following Kan's graduation from Hyogoken Agricultural School he went on to spend a year working in the Horticultural Department at the Kagawa-ken Agricultural experiment station, between April 1919 and March 1920. The Agricultural experiment station also still continues its work to this day, researching ways of improving crop production and planting technology, and having more recently diversified into biotechnology.

In his application to work as a student gardener at Kew, Kan mentions that he has been working in his father's garden and orchard from the time that he left Kagawa-ken Agricultural experiment station "to this day" (May 18th 1923). This was excepting a period between December 1921 and April 1923 when Kan carried out his military service.

Kan's application to work at Kew was not without a few hiccups, some of them due to the time delay involved in the international postal service. Kan originally wrote a letter requesting an application form and "*a historical record of the garden*" on January 8th 1923 – this letter was received nearly 40 days later at Kew, on 18th February 1923.

On May 19th 1923, he wrote again: "*I beg to hereby enter my application...*". He enclosed testimonials from the Director of Kagawaken Agricultural experiment station and the President of Hyogoken Agricultural School. He declares that "*...my studies have all been toward this goal and I beg you to look with favour upon my application*".

Kan now appears to have been left in a state of limbo for a while; he wrote again on 10th October 1923, (his letter was received on 5th November) requesting application for admission as a student. This was followed by another letter to the Kew Director sent on the 24th August 1924, received 23rd September. This was a request for "*application for admission as probation*". A small pencilled notation on the bottom of this letter reads "*Accepted 27/6/23*".

A letter from the Director dated 29th September 1924 shows that Kan's perseverance had finally paid off. He acknowledges Kan's letter of 24th August, responding:

"I think you cannot have received my letter sent at the end of 1923, in which I said that I was prepared to admit you as soon as you could come to Kew".

Kan responded with a letter to A. W. Hill, the then Director, dated 16th November 1924, which was received on the 15th December. In it he declares that he is *"...delighted at the appointment"*, and was planning to sail on the Kashima-maru out of Kobe, March 10th of the following year. He also mentions that *"It is very troublesome to obtain passports in my country my long delay is caused by this fact"*. A quaintly worded medical certificate was enclosed, declaring that Kan is of *"... sound physical health and shows no sign of organic disease or abnormality"*.

Kan wrote one further letter before leaving Japan dated 26th March 1925, received 16th April 1925. His travel plans had changed slightly; *"I will sail for England on the Kashima-maru a N.Y.K. [Nippon Yusen Kaisha] steamer from Kobe on 29th inst. arrive the Victoria Dock on 16th May"*. He was finally on his way, having written his original request for an application form more than two years earlier.

He was to endure a voyage of more than six weeks before facing more problems before his arrival at Kew. A telegram, marked for the attention of the Director, was received on the 18th May 1925. It read:

"Yashiroda arrived from Japan our steamer Kashima-maru refused permission land by immigration officer on grounds coming this country for employment telegraph position Yusenkai Fen"

A letter was also despatched from the London branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha shipping company on the same day, received at Kew on 19th May 1925 – Yashiroda was soon to arrive. They were pleased to learn that Kew had succeeded in arranging with the Home Office for Mr. Yashiroda to land in England, and that they had *"telephoned our dock representative to request Mr. Yashiroda remain on board the ship tonight and travel to Kew in the morning"*.

Very little detail survives regarding Kan's time at Kew. His service record shows that he stayed for just over a year, starting on 19th May 1925, a leaving on 22nd May 1926. His staff record simply shows him as having worked in "tropical" for the entire duration of his visit. In a later correspondence with Dent Smith of the Fairchild Botanic Garden, Kan explains that he worked in the Palm House. He returned to Japan with a sterling reference, signed by both the Curator and Director on the 24th May 1926:

"...he applied himself diligently in learning and discharging his duties, and gave complete satisfaction to those under whose supervision he worked. He also proved himself to be an excellent cultivator, intelligent, industrious, punctual, and careful in carrying out the work for which he was made responsible."

When Kan returned to Japan, he was to begin a project that would appear to be his life's work; The Yashiroda Junkaen, or Acclimatization Garden. It was situated near Tonosho town, on the westerly tip of Shodo Island (Shodoshima – see map below). In an article appearing in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record in 1957, mention is made of the Acclimatization Garden having been established "some 30 years" ago; Kan must have started work on the garden soon after returning from Kew. In the same year an



article was printed in 'Principes', the journal of the Palm Society, in which Kan describes the garden as "*A non-profit garden for our family, [it] has the largest number of genera and species of mature palm trees grown out of doors in Japan*".

Kan now disappears from view for a number of years. He is known to have submitted an article to *Gardener's Chronicle* in 1930 regarding the Japanese technique of growing chrysanthemums in the 'cascade' style. Many growers were encouraged to try this technique, amongst them one of Kan's student contemporaries at Kew, Mr. T. H. Everett. Other successful attempts were made at Missouri Botanic Garden, Utrecht Botanic Garden and closer to home; a display was created during November 1930

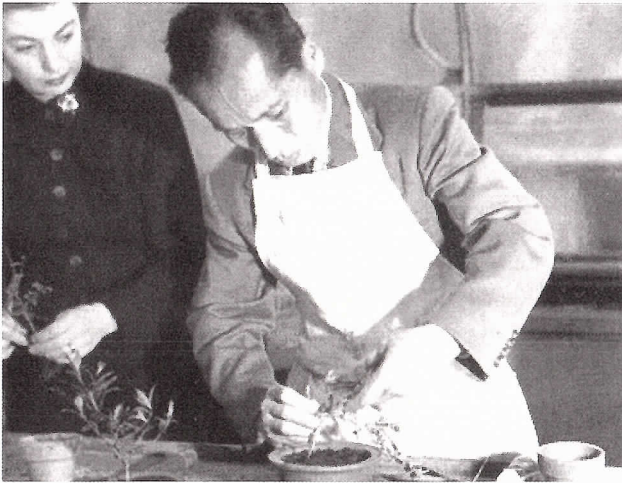
at the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall.

The years of the Second World War do not appear to have been kind to Kan and the Yashiroda Junkaen; when discussing his palm collection with Dent Smith in 1956 he explains "... during the war time I was obliged and forced to destroy most of them." Again, in his article for *Principes* he mentions "*During the miserable years of the forties, I was obliged to cut down and clear away many rare trees and some of the commoner kind. The seeds of many of those plants are not yet again procurable.*" It is not clear how the destruction of his collection could have aided the Japanese war effort. Incidentally, the *Kashima-maru* on which Kan sailed to England in 1925 was pressed into service as a troop carrier during the War. In 1943, it was torpedoed and sunk in the South China Sea.

In 1950 he would contribute an article entitled "*Notes on Varieties of Camellia Sasanqua*" to *The American Camellia Yearbook*. Kan is next seen as the guest editor of the seminal *Brooklyn Botanic Garden Handbook on Dwarf Potted trees – The Bonsai of Japan* (published 1953). The director of the Garden, Dr. Avery, had been receiving a number of letters each week regarding the then virtually unknown cultivation techniques required to care for bonsai. Many other letters were sent during the occupation of Japan by US Army personnel inquiring how they could arrange to bring bonsai back into the States. Quarantine rules made the import of such trees virtually impossible, but many so-called 'rucksack bonsai' were smuggled home. As the queries continued to flow in, Dr. Avery realised there was a need for a handbook on the subject.

Dr. Avery sent letters out to several well-known and highly respected horticulturists at different public gardens within the USA, stating the growing interest and demand for a book on the subject. All of his correspondents advised against the idea. Avery decided to ignore them, and invited Kanichiro Yashiroda to be the guest editor.

From his vantage point on Shodo Island, Kan invited amateur and professional Japanese bonsai practitioners to write for the proposed handbook. He laboriously translated their articles into English, and sent the manuscript and photographs to Brooklyn Botanic Garden late in 1952. *Bonsai - Dwarf Potted Trees* was published as the autumn 1953 issue of *Plants & Gardens*. It was an overnight success, and for a few years the only readily available English-language guide to the subject in America. *Handbook on Bonsai: Special Techniques*, a companion volume (also edited by Yashiroda) was released in 1956.



Yashiroda demonstrating his bonsai skills at The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens during the 1950s

In 1954 the Brooklyn Botanic Garden educational department set up a beginners' course in bonsai, presented by Dr. Avery and Frank Okamura. Nearly a hundred people from all walks of life initially attended. In the spring of 1955 Kan was invited to Brooklyn Botanic Garden as part of a short-term fellowship, with the intention of teaching his skills to the students. A "Life" magazine pictorial from this period shows nine photos of Yashiroda and his students at work.

The following year he was

to take on 99 students, and was awarded the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens Forsythia Award in recognition of his "*world-wide plant interests and his interpretation of the horticulture of his native Japan to the Western World*". By 1970, some five thousand students would have graduated from the Garden's series of bonsai classes.

Whilst in the States, Kan is known to have visited the gardens at the Arnold Arboretum and the Rotchester Parks. I am curious to know if he saw, whilst visiting the Arnold Arboretum, the Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection. By their own admission, the collection was at a low point during the 1950's and early 1960's; the knowledge required to look after the trees was not readily available at that time. The collection had shrunk from the original donation of thirty-nine trees to twenty-seven by 1962 (fifteen of the original trees survive today). I assume Kan was made aware of the collection, I wonder if he was consulted regarding their health and maintenance?

So, we come full circle, back to where I began; Kan's 1960 book *Bonsai, Japanese Miniature Trees—Their Style, Culture and Training*. It is a clearly written, 166 page hardback book with 117 black & white photographs and a number of illustrations. It displays Kan's encyclopaedic knowledge of bonsai, but is simply written; he never claims to be anything other than an amateur. In the foreword to the book, he thanks "noted bonsaimen" Kenji Murata, Kyuzu Murata (Author of *Four Seasons of Bonsai*,

who was born a year after Kan) and F. Takayama for their assistance in producing the book. On page 63, he writes:

“A combination of the painter’s eye, the poet’s imagination, the designer’s precision, the sculptor’s skill and above all a feeling for the plant, as well as a knowledge of how to dwarf the plant, is essential before a successful bonsai may be formed. Naturally, the more one knows of the last, the easier it will be.”

Interestingly, one of the untitled photos in the back of *Bonsai, Japanese Miniature Trees* shows two small children examining a collection of “mame” or miniature bonsai trees. By comparing this image with those accompanying the article in the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record, I discovered that the children are Kan’s youngest son Toshiaki and daughter Mie – the miniature trees are Kan’s own, the only reference I have found to him owning a collection of bonsai.

My final reference to Kan Yashiroda comes from the “Old Kewite” listings in the Kew Guild Journal; he was listed almost every year from 1927 to 1982, when I presume he died. Sadly, I do not believe The Kew Guild journal ever printed an Obituary. In 1954 and 1955 he is not listed – presumably due to his fellowship period at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. All of the listings show his address to be Tonosho-Kyoku (the nearest town to the Yashiroda Junkaen) apart from the initial one in 1927, when he was still at Fuchisaki-mura, his family home.

In memory of this “old Kewite” and early spokesman for the art of bonsai, this autumn I intend to propagate cuttings from a *Davidia involucrata* tree that grows close to the bonsai display house. I’ll endeavour to see if a bonsai tree can be made from this species, something I’m not sure Kan ever managed to do.

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‘Principes’ (the journal of the International Palm Society)

Vol. 1, No. 2 January 1957. Pages 61-65

Arnoldia – The Magazine of the Arnold Arboretum

Vol 64, numbers 2-3 (2006) - The Larz Anderson Bonsai Collection

Shodoshima map supplied by <http://www.japanforyou.com/>

Kan Yashiroda / Dent Smith correspondence supplied courtesy of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden Archive, Dent Smith collection.

About the Author

Richard Kernick is a fairly recent addition to Kew, having been employed as their first Bonsai Specialist in 2004, taking over the care of the Bonsai Collection from the Alpine Department. Coming from a “hobbyist” background, he continues to maintain his own personal collection of trees, some of which have been in his possession for almost 20 years. Whilst working at Kew it has been his pleasure to work extensively with Nobuyuki Kajiwara, an acknowledged expert in the field of bonsai growing.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS

Four of the five Committee meetings during 2006 were personally chaired by President Bob Hebb of Richmond, Virginia, USA! Many items of importance to members were discussed - editorship, budgeting and indexing of Journals; links with Royal Parks Guild; tours to USA and Australia; bequests and legacies; insurance and risks register; rules amendments; membership; Guild events; Award Scheme applications; Kew Guild Garden; archives; Kew Guild medal; Students' Union; trusteeship/charity commission; Kew Guild room; members' skills database; Guild website; Honorary and Associate membership; George Brown Awards and accounts auditing. Contact the Guild if you want to be pro-active!



Nearest corner going clockwise: Paul Sadler, Student Rep; Jennifer Alsop, Treasurer; Peter Gasson; Dr David Cutler; Stewart Henchie, Membership; Bob Hebb, President; Tom Risely, Secretary and President Elect; Mandy Ingram, Archivist (visitor!); David Hardman, Wakehurst Head of Horticulture; Brian Nash; Mike Wilkinson; Pamela Holt, Events Officer; Graham Burgess; Allan Hart, Award Scheme Chairman; Nigel Hepper; and Richard Ward, Editor. Photo: Martin Sands.

BURTON

by Graham Burgess

Plants are sorted into families and so are you and I. This is a story about a very special name - Burton.

James Burton, born in 1788, was an architect and one very interested in Egyptology. Decimus Burton (born in 1800) was co- designer of the Palm House at Kew and was so named by his Dad because he was his **10th** child. Another Burton, Richard, is probably more famous than Decimus for he translated the Karma Sutra and The Perfumed Garden. We can only guess at the influences that inspired these people but the fact that James is buried under an Egyptian style pyramid hints at a great Egyptian influence at that time. The ancients were fascinated by the concept of number and all even numbers were female and all odd ones male. **18** is the number of Isis, the Egyptian creative goddess.

Decimus was given his first job as an architect by his architect father at the age of **18**, in **1818**. This was at The Holme in Regents Park, London, England. Numbers were to influence Decimus through his architectural works and if you keep your eyes open and count, your visit to Kew will be very interesting.

In **1844** it was considered a good time to renovate Kew. There was a significant planetary alignment in that year and maybe that was why Decimus was commissioned at that time. His aim was to celebrate Kew so he went to the very entrance to Kew in the north to draw some key lines.

Kew Bridge ran exactly north south and on the Kew Green side of it stood an old benchmark. He drew a line **20** degrees west of it and this line cut through the centre of the Palm House to be. Then he applied his protractor once again and drew a line at **10** degrees for his name and thus positioned the centre of the Temple of Aeolus, originally designed by William Chambers. Decimus re-positioned it to fit in with the new geometry, and even within that building we can find lots of special numbers. Another line from the centre of the Palm House passes through the bottom left hand corner of the ordnance survey map to an obelisk north of the Kew observatory. This was built in 1797 for The King,, who then owned Kew, to plot the transit of Venus. Throughout all this time the sun continued to pulse every **11.1** years. It still does and it has long been called the cyclic number of the sun, the period of sunspot activity.

Having positioned the centre of the Palm House, he extended the construction to provide a tropical habitat for Curator John Smith's plants. Smith had already contacted Richard Turner, an architect engineer, who had built several glasshouses and wide spanned railway stations. In spite of Smith's protestations Decimus gained overall control of the design so the resultant construction combined the symbolic design skills of Burton with the engineering and design skills of Richard Turner. If you stand and look at the palm house you will see how he has combined in the number of giant panels **10's** and **11's**. The same key numbers of multiples of **11** and **10** applied to various measures determine the length, height and width of the building also of the Campanile on the other side of the lake near the new shop. This is a chimney designed so as to interfere as little as possible with the beautiful design of the glasshouse and which conceals, in an ornamental way, the heating boiler chimney. This is on the opposite side of the lake because Decimus did not want the chimney to visually impair the

symmetry of the glasshouse and of course the smoke was less likely to dirty the glass. Even at low level there you will find 11 occurring in the brick courses.

Have a walk inside the glasshouse and count the numbers of cast iron panels that allow the rainforest torrents to fall through and which allow the heat to rise up. Each one has 15x15 holes the number 15 being the number of Osiris and The Green Man.

You may have already entered Kew by the main gate and not sensed the special welcome there. Either side 10 panels of fine wrought iron railings, Decimus embraces us. In each panel 18 crosses and as if to give us a clue of things to follow the 11th spearhead to the right in the first panel on the right is lower. Having welcomed us we may walk beneath 10's and 11's as we enter this place of great scientific structure, and care for The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. As you walk towards the Orangery, count the number of windows in the old Tropical Aroid House on the right.

The Orangery now provides refreshment but it was originally built to grow plants. The inherent design is interesting. Male and female is needed to grow most creatures and many plants so the design is built around this in a numerical way. The white slabs are not square. One side is 24 inches female and the other is 25 inches male. Count the



number of slabs across the Orangery and the number along the length. It is 12 one way and 68 the other. Start with the first even number 2, add 2 to make 4, add 4 to the previous number (2) to make 6, add the previous two numbers $2+4+6 = 12$. That's the number of slabs in the width.

Now go to the long side and start again with the first odd number 1. Double it to make 2, two plus 2 is 4, $4+2$ is 6, $6+4$ is 10 (here we go on Fibonacci, a numbering system at the centre of all plant growth); 10 plus 6 is 16, 16 plus 10 is 26, 26 plus 16 is 42, 42 plus 26 is 68 and the number of slabs along the long side. It is 25 feet male by 136 feet female.

Continuity of design is often of proven benefit so it is not surprising that Burton applied similar thought processes when years later he designed The

Victoria Gates. You may have noticed the **18** diamonds in the Victoria Gate near the shop possibly celebrating the young and beautiful 24-year-old Queen of that name who donated extra land to Kew Gardens. She died aged **81**, as did Decimus. He died in the year **1881**.

Richard Burton, who went to prep school in Richmond upon Thames, celebrated Arabia. If you have time today or on another day, visit the tomb. Decimus' father is buried under a pyramid in Lytham St Anne's whilst Richard lies within a striking tomb at St Mary Magdalen Catholic Church in North Worple Way, Mortlake, London, SW14, less than a mile from Kew Gardens (see photo).

In this fine old churchyard we see many beautifully carved gravestones, all in their original positions and over on one side sheltering by the boundary wall an amazing stone Bedouin tent. Around the top of the tent we see **15** stars and crescents hinting at another religion and again the number of Horus.

Two buildings, one a great glasshouse and another a stone tomb but both connected by a common name, an interest in Egypt, and numbers.

SECOND WORLD WAR PAINT ON KEW ROAD TREES

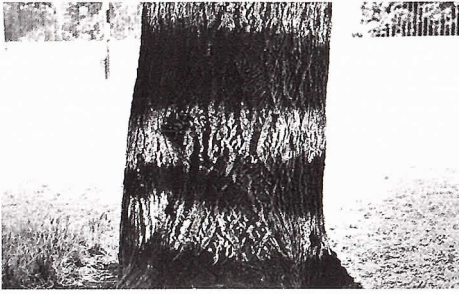
by F. Nigel Hepper

Most Kewites will have used Kew Road during their time at Kew, but I wonder how many noticed the bands of white paint on the tree trunks. During the Second World War street lighting was cut off or reduced to a minimum in order to black-out London from enemy bombers. Street furniture such as lamp posts and trees presented a night-time hazard for vehicles and pedestrians, so horizontal and vertical bands of white paint (or lime-wash) were applied up to waist level.

According to Richmond Council, the last time any painting was done was early in 1945, and the Kew Road trees may have been painted any time before that from 1939 - which is now over sixty years ago. When I worked in the Herbarium I lived in Richmond and cycled along Kew Road, and in 1958 I photographed some of the tree trunks showing white. These were of sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), horse-chestnut (*Aesculus hippocastanum*), ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*); black walnut (*Juglans nigra*); Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*), *Prunus* 'Pissardii', false acacia (*Robinia pseudacacia*), rowan (*Sorbus araucaria*), and common lime (*Tilia vulgaris*). The London planes (*Platanus x hispanica*) were already almost clean-stemmed as the bark flakes off.

I re-photographed those still showing white in 1979, at least 34 years after their last painting. In 2006 I again photographed several horse-chestnuts, a Turkey oak and numerous common limes which are still showing white, over 60 years after painting! It shows how careful one has to be with paint and other damage to tree bark as it may last for decades. Several photographs were published in the *Arbicultural Journal* 1981 and 2007, and I am grateful to its Editor for permission to reproduce some here for Kewites who may not have access to the *Arbicultural Journal*.

Below left: Norway maple, *Acer platanoides*, 2 Aug. 1958, showing paint applied before 1945; and right: the same Norway maple, 1 Nov. 1979



Below left: Turkey oak, *Quercus cerris*, 1 Nov. 1979; and right: The same Turkey oak, 15 July 2006



Below left: Common lime, *Tilia x vulgaris*, 2 Aug. 1958; and right: Another Common lime, Jan. 2006



**TEXT OF REMARKS GIVEN ON TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2006 AT
THE GARDEN PARTY IN THE TEMPERATE HOUSE BY
PROFESSOR SIR PETER CRANE MARKING HIS TENURE AS
DIRECTOR OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW (1999
- 2006), RESPONDING TO A SPEECH OF THANKS BY
MR. MARCUS AGIUS**

Marcus – thank you for your very kind words.

Speaking for myself – and also I think for our entire family – all I can say is that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to be able to lead Kew over the last seven years. For me personally it has been a dream fulfilled.

I must also say that it has been hugely enjoyable and extremely stimulating to work with you, your predecessor Richard Laphorne, and two marvellous Chairs of the Kew Board of Trustees, Michael Blakenham and John Selborne. Kew is enormously fortunate to have such dedicated and committed volunteers working on its behalf.

And I'd like to take this opportunity too to thank all of you who have – in some way – helped Kew over the past seven years – from direct financial support, to simply offering a word of guidance or encouragement at just the right time. We get strong support from Government – and the people who work here and at Wakehurst are hugely committed – but the help that we have received from you over the last seven years has made all the difference – to strengthening our science, to increasing the impact of our conservation programmes around the world, to raising our profile, and to increasing the enjoyment and enhancing the experience of the nearly 2 million people who come to Kew and Wakehurst every year. The results are clear for all to see.

In terms of highlights, I need only to mention:

- The Millennium Seed Bank – now working with partners in nearly 50 countries around the world with the long-term preservation of the most endangered and most important plant species globally;
- the 360,000 children who visited Kew and Wakehurst last year – all of whom came in free, and who now enjoy the new activities and facilities especially designed for them;
- securing the World Heritage Site status – which preserves the outstanding universal values of this site, allows us to highlight our heritage – and at the same time provides the framework in which we can improve the facilities for visitors, the collections and for science. The Davies Alpine House, the Sackler Crossing, the Wolfson Wing of the Jodrell Laboratory, and the new Wing to the Herbarium and Library complex that is now under construction, are all important steps forward.

These are just some of what has been done to ensure that Kew remains the pre-eminent, authoritative, centre in the world for studying, conserving, using and enjoying the great variety of plant life on this planet.

And for me it is also important that Kew is now working increasingly with the Corporate Sector – this helps us have a direct conservation impact on the ground – and at the same time we can give something back in terms of encouraging the kind of ongoing learning that we all need as we grapple with the key questions of how to live our lives sustainably on a finite planet.

The chance to lead Kew has brought many rewards – both personal and professional over the past seven years – but one of them has been the opportunity to meet, to get to know, and to work with all of you. Thank you for your passion for Kew – it has been a huge privilege to have been able to share in that passion.

Finally, I just want to say that like many of you I have been associated with Kew for a very long time. As a teenager I can remember being given my first scientific reprint during a visit to the Jodrell Laboratory. I then spent a summer here as an intern in 1974. I've now been here as Director. The one thing that I can promise you is that my association with this truly unique and marvellous place won't end now.

On the contrary, I look forward to joining your ranks as a volunteer and supporter – to help Kew do more and do it better – both in the UK and overseas.

The future of plant diversity is in our hands – and it goes without saying that if you don't look after plant diversity you don't have a hope of looking after the animals.

The challenges are enormous. Kew is making a difference. I hope that we can continue to work together to ensure that Kew remains – for ever – the global leader in saving the world's plants for life.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2006

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Thank you to those Kewites who responded to my letter requesting personal news. The following notes are in alphabetical order.

Jane Bonney

Most Kewites will remember me as Jane Reynolds from Course 28. In 2004 myself and partner Will decided that it was time to change our way of life. We sold our flat, gave up our respective jobs (in my case after seven years as working as Head Gardener at The Holme in Regents Park), left London, bought a narrowboat in which to cruise around the country and got married (I am now Mrs Bonney – see photo). During the 18 months which followed we travelled around most of England's Inland Waterways, covering about 1200 miles, visiting lots of places en route and having lots of adventures. However in October 2005 we decided that the time had come to go back to the real world so we took a mooring and I started applying for jobs.

In February 2006 I was taken on as Head Gardener at Doddington Hall, a privately owned Elizabethan mansion about 4 miles outside Lincoln. The Hall has never been sold in its 400 year history and retains many of the original features including, walled gardens and some ancient sweet chestnuts. There is a knot garden with spectacular iris displays, lots of topiary and a grass maze as well as many interesting trees and shrubs.



We have arrived at a time of great change as the Hall is transferred from father (Mr Anthony Jarvis) to daughter (Mrs Claire Birch) and her husband. The kitchen garden is being restored and another gardener has been taken on for this project which frees me up to renovate the lawns and herbaceous borders. A new restaurant and farm shops will be open in summer 2007. My husband secured employment as a Police Community Support Officer for Lincoln Constabulary and works nearby in Gainsborough. Ironically during our travels the North East of England was one area we had omitted but we instantly fell in love with it and now we have brought our boat up here so we can explore the local countryside by water. We have come a long way, both physically and metaphorically, from our lives as they were two and a half years ago.

Congratulations to **Rebecca Bower** on her being awarded an OBE “for services to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew” as Finance Officer. Rebecca was also Kew Guild treasurer for many years and is President Elect of the Guild so we are all the more delighted that she has been given this well-deserved award.

Professor Sir Peter Crane has stepped down as Director and handed over to Steve Hopper (q.v.). As busy as ever up to the last day one of his final acts was to approve the design of the new Kew Guild Garden. He has taken a professorship in Chicago. Kew Guild thanks him and his wife for the tremendous service they rendered Kew, and wishes them well for the future.

Eric Curtis (1956), lately Curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, has written a book *The Story of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens*, ISBN 1 902831 94 2, Argyll Publishing 2006. It was launched at the Gardens in the restored Kibble Palace on the 12th November 2006.

David Cutler is to be congratulated as President of the Linnean Society of London for 3 years from May 2006.

Charlie Erskine emailed the Editor to say ‘I still keep in close contact with the world of horticulture as a member of the RHS Hardy Tree Shrub Committee and most years a member of the judging panels at out of town RHS Shows. As a Trustee I make frequent visits to the Batsford Arboretum in Moreton-in-Marsh – excellent Magnolia and

Japanese Cherries in the spring and superb autumn colour in mid to late October. I also travel north two or three times a year to attend trustees meetings at the Howick Arboretum which is near Alnwick. The arboretum was officially opened by Roy Lancaster in April 2006. The Howick Arboretum has one of the finest collections of documented trees and shrubs in the UK.

I continue to be heavily involved in various projects as a member of the Rotary Club of Twickenham upon Thames. Over the last six years I have been leading a group of members in the propagation and growing on of plants for the club's stall at the Twickenham Fair which is held at the end of May each year. The plant stall is now the biggest single fund raising event in the year.' cmerskine@ukgateway.net

Tricia Fisher (née Turner) writes: When I read about other Kewites there is so much horticultural achievement that I feel I am sadly lacking. My time at Kew was short, but sweet. In 1972 I had a most difficult decision to make. Stay at Kew and launch into micro propagation, possibly moving to Wakehurst Place, or marry an Army Officer I had met whilst reading Horticultural Science at Reading University, and move to Germany. I chose the latter. We have now been married for almost 35 years and have two daughters (aged 29 and 26), one being born in Germany. Several of our earlier postings were to Germany (Bielefeld and Munster). When we weren't allocated a Quarter with a garden, I managed to persuade the Commanding Officer to let me grow vegetables in his Barracks, which conveniently had a source of horse manure! We also had two rather exotic tours. When the children were young we were in Cyprus for two years (Jan 82 – 84). This I loved. Profusion of wonderful wild flowers. Magenta gladioli (*G. segetum*) were the 'lilies' dominating the cornfields. Cyclamen (*C. persicum*) grew everywhere, including out of bare rock, and anemones (*A. coronaria*) abounded. Finding the red ones was as exciting as finding a 4-leaf clover. The 'naked man' orchids caused some excitement too! Within days of the first rains after long hot summers the fantastically scented narcissus (*N. tazetta?*) appeared. The list is endless. I took hundreds of photos throughout the year from Jan – Dec but they have never found their way into an album! We spent two years in Zimbabwe (Apr 88 – 90) and had great opportunities to explore tobacco and cotton farms and tea plantations. However I found it more difficult to explore with my camera. One early morning I found a road lined with Jacaranda trees in full bloom. The sky was blue, the road another blue, covered by the fallen blossom. Until then I was unaware the road housed the Secret Police. We were held in our car at gunpoint for quite a while! There was nothing however to mar my pleasure on some excursions into the country, finding things like wild flame lilies (*Gloriosa superba*), and also the baobab trees.

For the last 16 years we have been in the UK. Our house is in Suffolk and here I worked for many years as a school biology lab technician. Now we also have an army flat in Kingston, as Andrew is commanding army recruiting in London, from Horse Guards. How convenient that is for me to frequently visit beloved Kew!

Over the last 35 years I have maintained good friendships with Alan Stuttard and John and Joan Woodhams. Very recently I made a donation to the Kewensia Archives of 70 of Mac's (E W Macdonald) cards, one of which he put up at the beginning of every week, for us to contemplate, in the Ferneries Potting Shed. For example "Happy the Cicadas live, since they all have voiceless wives. – Xenarchus" And on that note...

Roy Forster (1957) sent Christmas greetings from Vancouver together with the following news items: Here in the rain forest of coastal British Columbia, Canada, it is rather dark these days and we await the solstice to herald lengthening days. Our urban forest, Stanley Park the jewel in our crown has been decimated with ice, snow and a recent great gale with damage similar to that received by the UK [in 1987]. The sad thing about the Stanley Park damage is that some of the old growth trees, Douglas Fir and Western Red Cedar were over 500 years old. The park, named for Lord Stanley, one time Canada's Governor General was saved from logging as a British Admiralty reserve for the masts of ships of the line.

My old stamping ground, the VanDusen Botanical Garden, also suffered, losing 30 large trees. Former Kewite Chris Woods is now Director there. As a recent arrival from California he must be suffering from climate shock.

Congratulations to **Harvey Groffman** who was presented with the Banksian Medal by the Chairman of the London Gardens Society, Sir David Howard.

Harvey has also won two other prestigious awards, taking his total to 257 awards! The RHS Long Service medal certificate was presented at the Kew Guild Dinner; and the National Gardens Scheme awarded him a silver trowel with his name engraved on it to mark the opening of his garden for 20 years for charity. Harvey and his Kew colleague Pat Smallcombe, both retire in May 2007 after 42 and 43 years respectively - Pat having been awarded the Kew Medal and MBE in 2006. After retirement they will join together to cultivate a large allotment in Hounslow - there could be lots more awards on the way!



Harvey Groffman receiving the Banksian Medal from Chairman of London Gardens Society, Sir David Howard

Andrew Henderson has supplied the following notes: I left Kew with my Horticulture Diploma in the summer of 1974. In the autumn of that year, having received the Thornton Smith Travelling Scholarship, I spent a few months in Brazil, on a plant collecting trip in the Amazon with a group of botanists from New York Botanical Garden. The leader of the New York group was Dr. Iain Prance, already at that time a legendary Amazon explorer and botanist (he would, of course, go on to become director of Kew some years later). Inspired by Prance's example, I decided I wanted to become a botanist! On my return to the UK, I started a part-time degree course at London University's Birkbeck College. Four years later, complete with undergraduate degree, I applied to New York Botanical Garden to become a graduate student. Dr. Prance wrote right back and said, in his typical manner, "yes, of course!" The Garden has a joint program with City University of New York, and in the fall of 1982 I arrived to start my graduate work. Despite my initial apprehension, I fell in love with New York, and the Botanical Garden. With Dr. Prance as my advisor, I spent the next five years working on my Ph.D. project, a taxonomic revision of a group of neotropical palms. It was a wonderful time, with many opportunities to travel in the tropics and learn about palms. After receiving my doctorate in 1987, I stayed on at the Garden as a post doc, and a couple of years later was given a permanent position. I have continued my interest in palms, and am now working on projects in both the neotropics and the Asian tropics. A few years ago I became an American citizen, and am now married and have two children.

Nigel Hepper: our Journal Editor, Richard Ward, has requested me to put in something about my own activities. This is because at the beginning of 2005 until completion in December 2006 I have been carrying out an intensive ecological survey of Petersham Common. It lies on the slopes of Richmond Hill below the Star and Garter Home and is almost completely wooded and full of bluebells. Although a public open space surprisingly few residents ever walk in it. Yes, they see it when they drive along Petersham Road and Star and Garter Hill as both roads cut through the wood, rarely even botanists and ornithologists venture inside. I have recorded over 220 plant species, about 30 fungi and some birds and mammals. Nearly all the plants I have drawn in ink and reproduced in the report, together with historic and recent photographs. The finalised report is now in the hands of the Petersham Common Conservators who manage it on behalf of the local Council. I hope it will encourage management for accessibility and especially for greater biodiversity.

Antoine Hoog (1979) has been relocating from The Netherlands to Brittany, France. The bulb nursery, formerly part of the Hoog & Dix company in Heemstede was separated from it a couple of years ago. Jan Dix continues to buy and sell a wide range of bulbs and plants.

Since the nursery was to be moved after the business split we looked at different parts of The Netherlands. Very few people these days garden on a property between one half and 5 hectares. Property prices for a larger surface were rather over our budget. Wales and the West country were next looked at. Also here few properties with the required amount space for gardening were available at the time. Via internet we found many properties in France would suit us for size. Internet was also used to study the climatic conditions of Western France. Our intention was to relocate to an area with more favourable weather conditions for our plants. We found that Picardie is as cold in winter as Heemstede, that Upper Normandy has very wet summers and that the west of

Lower Normandy has a very high winter rainfall. Both the south and west of Brittany are also very wet in winter. The north coast of Brittany both has mild winters, moderate rainfall in winter and dry summers. In general this area has acid soils. We visited forty properties before deciding. Each time our main interest was: "What is the pH?" Often there was no need to enter the house.

We are at a fairly high part (Plemy) of the Côtes d'Armor département. Local names within 5 km from here honour the breeziness and the changeable weather conditions. E.g. Belle Brise, Le Frêche, Bel Air and Beau Soleil. It is near the top of a hill, at an altitude of 220 m. The risk of flood and the high water table of Heemstede will not be missed. The half hectare of garden contained lawn, orchard, hen house, vegetable plot, an 800 m² willow wood and a 600 m² pond, continuously fed by a well. The lay-out of the garden has been largely maintained, the hedges and woodland are useful for the protection of especially *Erythronium*, *Sanguinaria*, and *Trillium* spp. against wind and sun. Few grassed areas remain, they were turned into nursery beds. The climate has still surprised us in a couple of ways. The summers proved to be longer and drier. This enables us to grow certain bulbs on a two-year cycle, when we expect bulbs to be of too small a size until the second year. The exposure at this altitude does result in being one of the coldest places in the Côtes d'Armor. Winter temperatures can drop to -8°C . The breeziness reduces fungal problems, such as caused by *Botrytis* spp. We grow a large range of species bulbs such as ornamental *Allium* spp., as well as *Arum*, *Bellevalia*, *Colchicum*, *Corydalis*, both autumn and spring *Crocus*, *Fritillaria*, Juno and Regelia *Iris* and a range of herbaceous plants, like species peony and species hellebores.



In our family life there has also been a lot of activity. In 2005 Antoine got married to Wannaporn. Last January our son, Marcel, was born. We are not sure he will continue to like plants; he will certainly see many as he grows up. Email: Antoine.hoog@free.fr

Professor Stephen (Steve) Hopper, with his wife **Christine (Chris)**, succeeded Peter Crane as Director on 16 October. Kew Guild members wish to welcome them to Kew and look forward to working together for the benefit of RBG and the Guild.

Sue & Brian Macdonald (1979, 1984) have been operating Boxwood Tours, Quality Garden Holidays since 1990. They offer about four tours per year directly to the public through a nationally advertised brochure. From the outset, Boxwood Tours has worked with several ex-Kewites as professional horticulturalist tour leaders, graduates of the Kew course having gained many of the people skills required to be a successful tour leader. They also find themselves in contact with ex-Kew folk in other ways, some as members or organisers of specialist societies or bodies, others as head gardeners or media correspondents. If you think that tour leading may be for you, or are part of a group or organisation that may require assistance in tour or conference organising, or are working at a garden or horticultural establishment or based in a country or area that

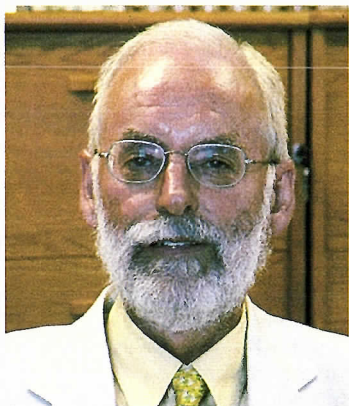
you think may be of interest to horticultural tour groups, do get in contact: Tel 01341 241717 Email: mail@boxwoodtours.co.uk, Web: www.boxwoodtours.co.uk.

Brian Mathew still visits his old haunts in the Herbarium and Library where he worked from 1967-1992 as a taxonomist, and then from 1993 to 2002 as Editor of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. He has recently written up several plant portraits for the magazine and is currently researching several genera (mostly geophytes) for various publications. In November 2006 he addressed an audience on the subject of 'Botanical Illustration from the botanist's perspective' as part of a day-long seminar on the subject at the RHS in London.

Mitch Mitchelmore writes that he is pleased to say that: Despite my limited vision I am still able to travel with assistance from Audrey. Last year we visited Cape Town, a delightful attractive city with its most interesting and colourful waterfront. We were able to tour quite a large area of South Africa and particularly the wine-growing areas, with wine-tasting at a number of wineries. Table Mountain is still a great and popular tourist attraction and so we had to venture to the top! [Presumably by cable-car - Ed.] Africa, as a continent, seems always to be drawing us back and we go annually to Kenya to visit our son Neil and his wife.

Living here on the Wirral it is very convenient for me to be in touch with former colleagues in Lancashire at my first college, Agriculture/Horticulture, where I lectured in applied Biological Sciences for 8 years. I meet also with colleagues in Cheshire two or three times a year for an excellent lunch and a good news update. We are generally known as the 'Gang of Four' and, incidentally, one of the four is old Kewite Frank Constable. I am also fortunate to be within 20 miles of the Northrop College where I was Principal for 30 years and I appreciate very much the kindness of my old staff (now mostly retired) who come to see me from time to time.

Patrick Nutt (1953) has been affiliated with the Longwood Gardens for 49 years and is still active since his official retirement in 1995. Recently he named two water lilies 'Aquarius' and 'Antares'. Patrick was host to the Kewites in October during their visit to Longwood which celebrated its centenary in 2006.



Derek Parker wrote: My course at Kew was from 1975 to 1978, Tony Lord was also on it. Pat Smallcombe, who received the Kew Award some years ago, was my boss under George Brown when I started at Kew in 1974. I have kept in contact with many Kewites since I left Kew. I am now in my twenty seventh year with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission with my current base being in Maidenhead, the Commission's Head Office since 1974. My career started in 1979 by a posting to France as Horticulture Supervisor responsible for the maintenance of machinery used by more than 300 gardeners. As my first interest was in plants (that is why I joined the CWGC in the first place) it was rather difficult taking on such responsibilities. The second challenge was the language as the fitters were

French and my language skills were very limited. However, I must have done something right as I was soon promoted to Horticulture Manager in Greece with the responsibilities for maintenance in 10 countries including the Balkans and the Middle East. After only 18 months I was moved to Egypt doing a similar job under quite different circumstances. Again after only 18 months I was offered promotion on a sideways transfer to our Management Services Department based in Maidenhead. A move back to Europe at this time was not easy but welcome from a health point of view. Again after two years in MSD I moved back into horticulture as Horticulture Manager in France where I spent 5 years until I became Director of Horticulture in 1992, a post I held until April 2005.

Since then I have been one of two Area Directors responsible for horticultural, structural and administrative matters in 106 countries from Greece to Fiji East, Russia to South Africa and westwards to the countries in Central and South America. This is a quite a different job from D of H, which was non executive, but a role that I immensely enjoy. There are advantages and disadvantages to any move and I am eternally grateful for the support that my wife has always given me. (E-mail: derek.parker@cwgc.org)

Leo Pemberton (retired 1988) writes that he is in good health and enjoying the freedom of retirement with several short holidays in the UK and a river cruise up the R. Elbe from Potsdam, Berlin to Prague. The latter was a quite a select one (75 passengers) and can be recommended as a good one for an away-from-it-all trip. On a recent trip to Tonbridge, my wife and I caught up with Roger Worraker, a keen runner from the 1950s now a retired fruit consultant. Also Ken Turner - not a Kewite but someone who was involved with many old students as external examiner of plant propagation projects. Earlier in the year my son Paul was married to a German girl. Arborists will possibly be interested in a custom they had of cutting a log using a cross-cut saw, not the easiest to find in central Birmingham! So Birmingham Botanic Garden came to the rescue.

Barry Phillips (1973) wrote to Richard Ward with his news items: Since Hillier Arboretum, the last decade has been a real 'rock n rollercoaster' ride in life's carousel! But despite a few more lows than highs we survive - settled back in Exeter "Garden by Design (Devon)." Since leaving Hillier in 1996 I've basically been free and with some pretty interesting projects in California, Italy and Bermuda, where I've been doing contracts for my former employers and other landscape groups. Hemet in Orange County LA sits up in dry desert lands in a triangle between Los Angeles and San Diego - locally it is known as 'Rattlesnake country' for obvious reasons. Here I was re-afforesting the hillsides of some 20ha with Petticoat palm *Washingtonia filifera*, which forms the distinctive petticoats of dry leaves. My own personal crusade to save the endemic Bermuda juniper *Juniperus bermudiana* continues to thrive. From less than 100 mature specimens remaining on the island after catastrophic, accidental introduction of juniper scale in the mid 1940s, an estimated 10,000 trees now thrive in parks. I've also led international tours to various gardens around Lago di Garda, and in France and 'Remarkable Cornish gardens'.

My very strong links with sport have led to soccer coaching sessions in Bermuda linking up with former West Ham legends Harry Redknapp and Frank Lampard Snr. As to the future, 2007 sees more Caribbean travel with visits on consultancy; to co-host cricket and garden tours on islands to coincide with the 2007 World Cricket

Tournament. In terms of old Kewites I'm still in regular contact with Jim Emerton and who used to be known as 'Leo's botanical lads'.

Brian F. Pitcher (1960) wrote to say: 'On my visit to Canada in May to stay with friends in Ottawa, mainly to see the Tulip Festival and to play golf, my friends unbeknown to me had contacted two Kewites Trevor and Brenda Cole (1960), who had both become horticultural celebrities: Trevor was head of Ottawa Arboretum and now writes; Brenda is a writer of gardening columns for four weekly papers.'



Left:
Brian Pitcher with
Trevor and Brenda Cole

At the Editor's request **Clive Popham** sent the following from Australia: After leaving Kew in 1963 I went to the then new University of Essex to work as their first head gardener. It was an interesting post as I was involved in developing a complete landscape, a lot was also learnt from George Brown who was contracted to carry out a survey of all mature trees, all of which were identified and given a reference number. The playing fields were developed from scratch using contractors, but major tree planting across the campus was with direct staff who also dealt with on-going maintenance.

After six years I moved to the University of Bristol as the Deputy Superintendent of Gardens. This was in sharp contrast to Essex as here we had a staff of some 35 gardeners looking after various Halls of Residence and all gardens around the teaching buildings. After two years the Superintendent left and I became Superintendent, with **Julia** (né **Hyde-Trutch**) working as my records assistant. Most years the buildings were added to in some way, thus allowing greater experience in landscaping using both direct staff and contractors.

After some seven years we emigrated to Australia together with our three daughters and I was employed by The Royal Botanic Gardens in Sydney for my first six months before gaining the post of Curator with La Trobe University in Melbourne. This University campus is approximately 300 acres and planted mainly with Australian native plants with exotics used in the central areas. Running through the campus is a weired stream which forms small lakes; these are for flood mitigation as well as being

ornamental. An extra lake was created next to the playing fields which served as an irrigation source to the 40 acres of playing fields.

In 1994 the University offered generous retirement packages to any staff who wished to apply and I was successful in my application and so we moved to our 75 acre farm near Mansfield in South Eastern Victoria. Part of our land is native bush with a number of terrestrial native orchids including several species of *Diurus*, and *Pterostylus*.

Here we grew Iris and bulbs for about 9 years before deciding to concentrate on our orchid and bulb collection. We have a laminar flow cabinet which is used mainly for seed germination and reflasking of our orchid hybrids and *Disa*.

Udai Pradhan sent his 'news from the Himalayas' for 2006 via Editor Richard Ward: As age catches up on us it seems that the days just whiz by. I can still recall the lovely winter school holidays when we could bask in the glory of the balmy Himalayan sun and read *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Hucklebury Finn* and many others - the whole day till the sun began to wane in the afternoon. We used to pick our own oranges from trees at home and eat them as we enjoyed the reading. Days, we felt, were much slower then and we had all the time to laugh, play, learn about plants and help our parents wash and prepare flower bulbs and plants that were sent to different parts of India and the world. We had over four hundred species of cacti and succulents that my parents introduced from Gerhard Kohres, Robert Blossfeld, K. Edelman and Albert Schenkel of Germany and cactii names became our stepping stones to learning botanical names. Even today, I can recall names like *Echinofossulocactus* (a genus of Brain Cactus) *zacatasensis*, *Cephalocereus senilis* (the Old Man Cactus), *Echinocactus grusonii* (Mother in Law's Chair) and host of others with the ease of a common name. I am now writing on my family's association with plants and plantspeople around the world and the contribution it has made to the horticultural development of India.

After the 18 World Orchid Conference at Dijon, France, where our daughter Hemlata's paintings of India's Wild Orchids won her the Gold Medal for her exhibits, she has been preparing herself with zeal for her solo exhibition in India, the first after completing her Master's at the Royal College of Art, London through a Commonwealth Scholarship. This exhibit being sponsored by the India Habitat



Centre, premiere art centre of India in New Delhi from 19-28 February 2007 will showcase her watercolour paintings with a conservation theme (she is a Member of the Education Committee of Orchid Specialist Group/IUCN/SSC) and the goal will be to raise funds for the completion of the Himalayan Institute of Natural History Art (see photo above) which was initially, so generously funded by Lady Lisa Sainsbury. Hemlata completed her Diploma in Botanical Illustration from Kew with

distinction through a grant received from the Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation of Canada in 1999 and in 2000 won the Royal Horticultural Society's Gold Medal for her watercolour paintings of Himalayan Jewel Orchids.

Meanwhile, my wife, Tej and I attended the National Orchid Seminar at the Punjab University, Chandigarh in north India hosted by the Orchid Society of India in April 2006 and met many from the Indian Subcontinent Regional Orchid Specialist Group/IUCN/SSC and interacted and exchanged ideas on the progress being made in orchid research and conservation in various parts of the Sub-continent. Good to see were several young new faces working in remote orchid rich areas in the Region. In a small ceremony held by the Orchid Society of India, later at Delhi University, I was presented with the Orchid Society of India's Lifetime Achievement Award (*The Orchid Review* -Volume 114 No.1270 - July/August 2006, page 185).

You will all be pleased to learn that I have been invited as the orchid consultant to the Botanic Garden of Indian Republic (a 200 acre garden coming up in Noida, a modern township close to Delhi) and will be providing inputs to build up a very comprehensive living reference collection of species to be housed in Orchid Conservatory with facilities for orchids from all climatic zones. We will undoubtedly require assistance from orchid lovers around the world to make this into a great centre for orchid research and education in India.



Udai (left) with his daughter Hemlata and her husband Chris

Take care all of you - in this rather violent world, plantspeople are the healing touch. Should you wish to visit the Himalayas please be welcome to see us. With warm regards and best wishes for 2007.

Susan Quigg says: My maiden name was **Susan Thomas** and I was a student on Course 16 with Tony Kirkham, Pete Thurman, Soo Tasker, Phil Lusby and Dave Wallace, to name a few. I was one of your first 6-form entries, coming to Kew after a year's practical experience at RHS Wisley, where I got my first taste of actual gardening! For some strange reason I had thought that horticulture was more about wandering around the gardens and admiring their layout and the different species used, rather than digging holes and climbing trees and weeding, weeding, weeding. I remember in the services yard being relegated to feeding the ducks and servicing chainsaws rather than actually getting off the ladder to wield a chainsaw. I remember endless days of raking leaves and weeding under the watchful eye of Mr Halliwell and having to explain to Mr Pemberton why Brian Halliwell's report stated that "I relied on my femininity to get the unpleasant tasks done" – a criticism that has influenced life ever since. I push my own barrows now!

When Mr Pemberton first interviewed me at age 16 for the place at Kew, he'd told me that students gained many unexpected skills from their time at Kew. I came out with an

Honours level pass in 1981, much to my surprise, with a passion for landscape design and botanical illustration. I don't think I ever liked gardening itself very much! As a consequence, when I left Kew, I had no idea where to go next as aspiring botanical illustrators or artists found it hard to make a living at that time, especially if they had an addiction for the designer labels at Kew Gazebo and thought that the reason for living in Kew was to be close to Knightsbridge.

As a temporary measure, I applied for a secretarial course at Wimbledon, while I made up my mind whether I really wanted to go on to study landscaping or illustration after four years of horticulture. I found that my lack of weeding skills was slightly more impressive than the ability to sit in a classroom and learn typing and business English, but by an amazing coincidence the mature student also staring out of the window in front of me turned out to be married to a well-known London architect who just happened to need a landscape designer for an atrium scheme in Fleet, near Farnborough. And so my career started. Within six months I was fortunate enough to be designing free-lance and for a forestry and landscape company in Reading, where I was given total freedom to design projects ranging from the King of Saudi's garden to pop stars and Swiss bankers' mansions. The skills that I'd learned at Kew plus the confidence of feeling comfortable in just about any situation that was thrown at me (and probably preferring any project to weeding) have enabled me to say yes to most things that have come my way.

Soon after finishing at Kew, I met a gorgeous Australian travelling aimlessly around the world, picking up work to pay for his travelling habit. He made the mistake of asking what I really wanted to do with the rest of my life. After quickly deciding that whatever I wanted would definitely include him, we decided to return to Australia where you could make a good living if you were conceited enough to believe that you had some talent that people were willing to pay for. Sure enough, in Australia, no one thought it odd that you wanted to paint flowers or design gardens and be paid for the privilege. Within a year I'd got a job laying bricks and turf, living on the beach and selling my paintings to politicians and bankers. I had an exhibition in the outback and sold all sixty paintings, illustrated a children's book on wombats, now in its third reprint and started a landscape design business – Oh yes and married my Australian. This was definitely heaven.

Some 20 something years later, with two daughters now also believing that if you have faith in yourself and the right education you can achieve anything, I look back and can't believe how naïve and lucky I have been. My little landscape design business is incredibly busy and enjoyable. Last year I designed and occasionally helped construct over 70 projects ranging from commercial housing units to fabulous gardens with unlimited budgets. I paint only rarely these days having proved that it is possible to support yourself comfortably as an artist and illustrator but landscape design is more fun. I have wonderful customers who share my thrill at helping to create their dream project or a slightly less than ordinary set of housing units. I work with marvellous building and interior designers. I've been lucky enough to be featured a few times in gardening guides and House and Garden Magazine. We live on the Atherton Tablelands on the mountains above Cairns where it's relatively cool and damp for most of the year, enabling us to mix Gingers and Heliconias with roses and Camellias. Although cyclone Larry, early 2006, managed to blow most of our area away, I've finally discovered that I actually do have a passion for gardening.

To all of you at Kew who did so much to help me become the person I am now, thank you, especially my classmates on course 16 (Clive Parker and Tony Kirkham in particular who have enabled me deal very adequately with Cairns construction workers), fabulous tutors who taught us how to get answers to any questions and the ever-tolerant Leo Pemberton and staff who gave me many memorable quotes and especially for throwing down the gauntlet about becoming a landscape designer. I'm glad to see you all seem to have been so successful in horticulture – I see your names everywhere. I'd love to catch up with all of you if ever you come to North Queensland or on one of our rare visits to the UK.

Mark Reeder sent in the following: "After graduating from Kew I still wanted some more horticultural qualifications and so continued to punish myself by trying for the M. Hort. from the RHS. I did this while teaching at Writtle College. After passing, I then decided I would return to the US where I had previously been a student at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia. I got a position as the Head Gardener in the 18th c. restored William Paca garden in Annapolis, the state capital of Maryland. It was a fantastic experience working in a different climate and I realised that we actually have it quite easy over here in terms of our growing conditions. What I did enjoy was the variety of American natives which, ironically, were under used by American gardeners.

Problems with my visa led to my departure from Paca Garden and I decided to set up my own business in the Washington DC area and called it "Timeless English gardens". One of my first clients was the future American ambassador in an area of Washington called Georgetown. I left that summer to drive across the States and to have an adventure in California... Eventually I decided to return to England, back to my home town of Kenilworth in Warwickshire and back to live with the grandmother who had originally given me the gardening gift. So 16 years ago I decided to set up "Timeless Gardens" in the Midlands. To be honest it wasn't a thought-out decision, at that time I didn't know what else to do. I didn't want to work for anyone else again and at least running my own business meant that I was in charge of my own destiny. It hasn't been easy as I am not a natural businessman and initially took the attitude that I did the creative stuff and someone else would deal with the business plan and the finances. I have learnt many lessons over the last 16 years.

So it's been an education and it has taught me a lot. I started out just thinking that I was a designer and a plantsman and I now do the whole process right through to the hard landscaping and tree surgery. I brought the business to London a few years ago and now have a base there as well as in the Midlands. My aim is to run my business not as a series of projects that are completed before going on to the next, but as a series of ongoing projects running consecutively, it is a landscaping one after all, and concerned with the slow process of growing and nurturing plants; and I learn to conduct my affairs like that. I do not like many purely contemporary schemes but like to mix contemporary and traditional ideas. To me gardens are about the abundance of nature and a purely minimalist scheme seems to be just fashion and not what I believe gardening is about. Most designers who cannot get their hands dirty annoy me; if you are making a garden you have got to be prepared to do some hard, dirty work. To me it's a hands-on process and anyone who doesn't get their hands dirty to a certain degree is a phoney!

As for Kew, well to me it gets better every time I visit and therefore I praise all those responsible. I was not a member of Kew Guild for many years and quite honestly I thought it was rather an elitist organisation. I now think that it is not so bad after all! I urge members to contact all the ex-students and members of staff that they know to get them to join so that we can have meetings where more old friends and recent students can get together and make new ones." E-mail: mark_reeder@btconnect.co.uk

Nigel Sinnott, who left the Herbarium staff in 1970 to emigrate to Australia, wrote to say that he is still busy collecting fungi for Kew and the National Herbarium of Victoria. Apparently 2006 has been the best fungus season for a decade and he presented over 100 dried specimens to Victoria.

After growing up in Nantwich, Cheshire, **Daniel Slack** came to Kew at the age of 19. He took a gap year in Mauritius doing conservation work, and graduated in 1999, giving that memorable Prize Day speech on Peter Crane's first official engagement as Director. Since graduation he has acquired a beautiful Brazilian wife and two shops in Kew! "Tripped" is his gift shop. On the opposite side of the station he now owns The Kew Gardener business, selling a range of plants and horticultural sundries. The Kew Gardener also provides an extensive garden management business. Two of his staff, Bob McMeekin and Anthony O'Rourke, are also Diploma graduates.

Tel: 020 8948 1422, Fax: 020 8332 9630, Email: dan@kewgardener.com. Websites: www.kewgardener.com and www.tripped.net.

Dr Margaret Stant, formerly of the Jodrell Laboratory and President of the Guild 1985-86, was visited by Mitch and Audrey Mitchelmore in August to help her celebrate her 80th birthday with champagne and cake! Sadly, Margaret had a stroke about two years ago and is now resident in a nursing home in Sidmouth. Her speech is not impaired and she is able to chat happily with friends who visit her and also to answer the bedtime telephone: 01395 577381. Mitch and Audrey write to her and are sure that she would be delighted to hear from old Kewites to lighten her days. She has not lost her lovely sense of humour and is very positive thinking.

John (Log) Whitehead writes that 'notable tree travels with Bren in the spring were to see the amber trees on Rhodes and a historic plane tree on the island of Kos. Along the uninhabited coastline area of the Datca peninsula of western Turkey we survived choppy waters in a very small boat to gain close encounters of the wild palm kind. One lifetime wish was accomplished on the 1st July, my birthday, by seeing the wonderful beech woodland on the spectacular chalk cliffs on the island of Mon. My previous visit to Denmark was with Tony Thomas (originator of 'Log' of the trees) when we hitchhiked to the country, at the adventurous age of seventeen. During our summertime tour of the Linnean countryside we easily found *Linnaea borealis* trailing beneath spruce forest behind a new Stockholm airport hotel. Whoever dares to stop and digitally capture a close up shot of the delicate twin flower, risks the invasive clouds of raging mosquitoes.

Whilst in search of Europe's largest oak tree in southern Sweden the roadways were virtually empty at the time of the World Cup Football. Barry Phillips (1972) recalls his days in the Kew football team with botanical players including a younger Professor Simon Owen. Barry has been a main player in saving the *Juniperus bermudiana* from extinction in Bermuda with midfield backing from successful juvenile foliage propagation trials at Merrist Wood College in the 1980's. He visited us in North Wales (see photo below, with Barry on the right) and resulting from Barry's former experience as curator of the Hillier Arboretum, he has been busy in December at Portmeirion, with planning appraisals of their impressive plant collection and liaison with the retirement of the Head Gardener Russell Sharp (Kew 1955). To test the kindness of our local Welsh microclimates we have planted a *Wollemia nobilis* at Glynllifon Country Park (see photo below) and would be interesting to try the endemic juniper from Bermuda. Barry's ex wife, Christine Phillips-Watlington (Kew 1972) has written and illustrated *Bermuda's Botanical Wonderland*, Macmillan, 1996.'



Various interesting travel notes arrived in our Christmas post from Kew globe trotters. Our monocotmaniaists, Gill Cowley and Margaret Johnson joined Pam Holt for leaf peeping in the U.S followed by bear hugging Roy Lancaster whose 2007 destination is Dragon Mountains, not Chinese or Welsh but South African. Tony (Fitzroy) Kirkham sent us a fine photograph of him with a Chinese friend *Meliosma beaniana* the original Wilson 1908 tree in Sichuan. Reports were from Dave Trevan (1972) in the Isle of Wight travelling back to his roots in Cornwall and Jim Emerton (1972) is a National Pigeon expert extraordinaire in Yorkshire.

John Woodhams (1995) gave a 60th birthday lunch for his wife Joan on 19 October 2006 held in The Russell Suite of Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. Thirty one family and friends attended and Joan felt flattered and honoured that several past Kewites could be there. Peter Bridgeman (1964) and his wife Lee; Richard Ward (1963, Guild President 1998/9 and now again Editor of the Kew Guild Journal) and his wife Wiena, and Tricia Fisher (*née* Turner, 1972) and her husband Andrew. Joan had made four table centre decorations for the occasion using foliage to encourage a little

'botanising' which included *Quercus ilex* in fruit, *Laurus nobilis*, *Viburnum tinus*, *Olea europaea*, *Rosmarinus officinalis* plus flowers – roses and freesias. It seems a good time was had by all especially the 'Kew Table' with much banter, reminiscing and toasting. Richard thought a photo of the Kewites with Joan would be a good subject for the Journal.



Kewites Richard Ward, John and Joan Woodhams, Tricia Fisher and Peter Bridgeman

The Guild gratefully acknowledges various items of news obtained via Kew's Vista (Editor Bronwen Davies)

OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

GERRY WATSON

- 2006

Gerry came to Kew in September 1952 from Nottingham Parks Department. In 1954 the evangelist Billy Graham came to London and Gerry attended along with many thousands of other people. Soon afterwards he asked to see the Curator Bill Campbell and once in his office spoke of the evangelist's work.

As well as being a spiritually active man he was a sportsman – he was Secretary of The Running Club and in 1954 he won the Round The Gardens Race. In the same year he won the Clog and Apron Race. He ran alongside Leo Pemberton in the John Innes Relay Race. He was quite a character and some remember him dressed in an exotic robe in the Arboretum potting shed.

In 1954 he left Kew to take up a post with Johannesburg Parks Department. He was firstly an Area Horticulturalist and in 1972 became the Colonial and Asian officer.

He passed away on the 8th December 2006 after spending two years in a nursing home. We send our condolences to his wife Thora and their three children.

ROGER MANN
- 2006

Roger entered Kew in Oct 1966 having started his horticultural life in the parks department at Southend on Sea. He was, right from the start, a very pleasant and happy person with very strong social skills.

After settling in he became the Honorary Secretary of the social section and behind the scenes organised so many events that many of us supported and enjoyed. He organised a Kew/Wisley Dance, a visit to Longleat and a Cheese and Wine Event for the new students. There was a Christmas cabaret and he even got involved outside Kew taking part in the Civil Service Sports Day as a member of the tug-of-war team. In 1968 he organised the Kew Wisley debate. His thesis was very interesting and one very relevant to the time, namely the use of derelict land for building and recreation.

In 1969 he left Kew to continue with his parks career in Torquay and adopted the town making many friends. There he became Assistant Director of Arts and Recreation undoubtedly creating the same sort of social cohesion he had displayed at Kew. He kept in touch with Kew and was one who contributed financially to The George Brown Lectern.

A colleague in Torquay, Andy Phillips, remembered that he was very good with people at all levels and remembers Roger's habit of making notes on the back of his cigar packets. I remember walking with Roger around the reservoirs near Hampton Court watching the bird-life there.

To his wife and two daughters we send our deepest condolences.

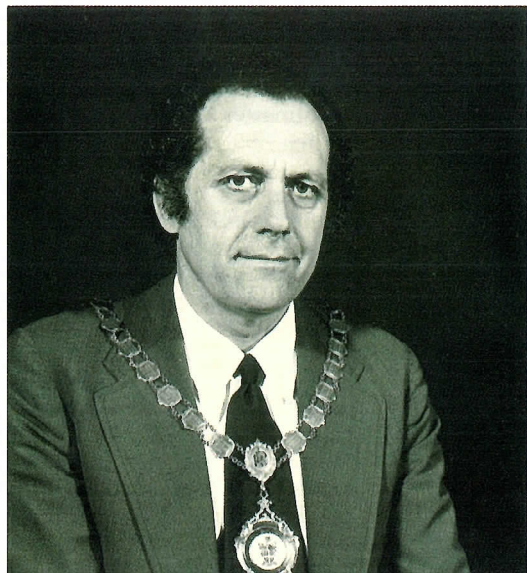
GEORGE NICHOLSON
- 2006

In 1949 George became a student gardener at Kew. He was of the old tradition where one trained in a particular discipline and if one was successful one remained in that specialism for the rest of one's career. One can only imagine how much knowledge and plant skills were accumulated by that everyday exposure to the plants. I remember the end of those days when all the plants were in clay pots of various sizes and George allocated the responsibility of tasks to students as soon as he saw they had ability. The clay pots have gone and also the daily tapping and the plugging of the gaps under the doors last thing in the day so that we might then light the little mounds of nicotine shreds as we retreated out of the greenhouse.

He became a Gardens Supervisor in 1974 in charge of the T Range and Tropical Pits - a natural progression for him. George was an early member of the Kew Gardens tennis

Club and he was a keen photographer like his immediate boss Stan Rawlings. He retired in December 1980 but returned to Kew to look after his orchids.

ROY BEE
Dip Hort (Kew) M. Hort; Master of Hort RHS; F.I.L.A.M, Dip Arb
- 2006



Roy came to Kew from Leicester Parks Dept where he worked under E. Cherry. He was in digs in Kew Gardens Road where his landlady, Mrs Williams, heard his early renderings on the mandolin.

Parks was always his main interest so when he left Kew he studied at the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration, gaining the diploma there. He then spent a period at Bedford College before taking a key post at Lewisham Parks Department. His next job was a leap upwards in scale and complexity. Manchester Parks is one of the oldest and largest in Britain which at that time had fine collections outdoors and impressive glasshouses. He was involved in the landscaping of the many new housing estates being built as the

slums of the Victorian era were finally demolished - work started by R.MacMillan, a previous Director of Parks and a Kewite. It was a time of great change; in fact this was the time that Directors of Parks became Directors of Leisure. He wrote frequently in The Manchester Evening News and was involved nationally in many things including being an examiner with Peter Maunder for The Arboricultural Association. His work in parks was recognised when the I.P.R.A. elected him as a Fellow.

He had been a very keen sportsman and was frustrated when he contracted Parkinson's Disease. Early in August 2006 he passed away peacefully, after a heart attack.

To his wife Eileen we send our condolences.

PROF ARTHUR E BELL
BSc; M.A.; PhD; C.Chem; FRCS; FLS
1926 - 2006

One of the things that has long been celebrated in The Kew Guild is the very wide range of personalities and professional skills invested in a common fellowship. Arthur Bell rose to great heights in his career but regardless of what stage he was at in his career it was the same gentle man who attended Guild events often with his loving wife Jean.



He was a north countryman born in Gosforth, Northumberland on the 20th June 1926. Family holidays took him further north to exciting wild places like the Farne Islands and his father named plants as they walked around Bamburgh. At school he was exposed to what many of us treasure and that was a mentor, a schoolmaster who taught Natural History.

Then the war started and he was evacuated as luck would have it to a massive mansion with extensive gardens and an old-fashioned head gardener. Another mentor introduced him to that strict discipline that one must apply if one is to get results in the garden. The measured approach became his discipline. He took up a post as Chemistry Master at Winchester Grammar School and this led him into agricultural research. After winning a First Degree at Kings College he

moved to work for ICI researching the processing of agricultural research.

In 1952 he married Jean Ogilvie and they had two sons and a daughter. He was a keen sportsman playing rugby, soccer and cricket. Continuing his scientific work he was always at the forefront. He gained his PhD at Trinity College Dublin and carried on research at Kings College. He had a productive spell at The University of Texas, in Austin as Professor of Botany. He returned to Kings College as Head of Plant Science and this led to him being made Dean of Science.

In 1981 he entered Kew at the very top, as Director. This was the year that AIDS began its invasion of the Earth and during his seven years as Director he continued in his research on plant products deemed important in the vigorous study in this very important area of science.

He was President of The Kew Guild 1999/2000 and attended many Kew events and meetings, often speaking out and making positive contributions.

He passed away on the 11th June 2006 and will be very much missed at Kew. We send our best wishes and condolences to Jean and the family.

ERNEST CHANTLER - 2006

Ernest Chantler entered Kew on the 16th November 1936 and proved to be a very bright student. He did very well in all subjects but especially well in Arboriculture and Forestry; Plant Nomenclature and Plant Physiology and Ecology where he gained distinctions.

True to tradition the influences at Kew were varied so after leaving Kew and spending some time in the home temperate regions he went to La Mortola, Ventimiglia in Italy. He arrived just before the outbreak of war in 1939. He was not to remain there and soon he was back in the U.K. and on one of the other Kewite tracks, that of public parks, starting in Fleetwood, Lancashire. He was firstly an area supervisor at Wyre Borough Council and then went on to spend twenty-seven years as Parks Superintendent at Fleetwood. He was able to apply his great knowledge and understanding of plants as a judge in The Royal Lancashire Horticultural Society Shows.

He retired in 1978 but he was still very active. He visited his son at Brandon's University, Boston, USA where he was studying in 1979. We know he was an avid reader of the journals and wrote once about the depth of interesting information within them. A clue to this is that he made a donation to The Kew Guild Award Scheme in 1975. The indexing and posting on the web will facilitate such browsing by present and future Kewites.

In 1998 when Richard Ward was involved in his first stint as Editor of The Journal, Ernest wrote to him extolling the virtues of The Kew Guardian and the Kew Scientist, much appreciating these additional links between Kew and Kewites.

Ernest passed away on the 17th October 2006.

ARNOLD HIMSON 1919 - 2006

Pauline Himson, wife of the late Arnold Himson has sent us copy of a piece their son Simon put in the local Hobart newspaper.

Husband, father, grandfather, soldier, mechanic, horticulturalist, orchardist, botanist, postmaster, first balloonist to cross the Bass Strait.

A Life worth Living.

Arnold left on his last adventure on Friday, 1st December 2006. Not quite the usual life history of a Kewite. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, and five grandchildren. Arnold was with a group of ex service men who were at Kew on a year's course after their demobilisation in 1948. There must be few alive today.

Through Kew Arnold met Lord Talbot De Malahide who was responsible for having the endemic flora of Tasmania commissioned. Dr Wilfred Curtis, a Tasmanian botanist, produced six volumes on the flora. Arnold found many of the specimens that

were painted by Margaret Stones. Prior to 1999 he was heavily involved in voluntary conservation work as a member of the Wilderness Society.

The event Arnold was most proud of occurred late in his life in May 1981 when he and two friends crossed between the Australian mainland and Tasmania - the Bass Strait - in a hydrogen filled balloon. So far it is the only crossing.

To his wife, children and grandchildren we send our deepest condolences.

JAMES (JIM) McLEAN RAINEY

1934 – 2006

Prepared by Dr. Hugh Nunn, Kew Improver 1959 – 61



Jim entered Kew in November 1959. To Kewites in the early 1960's Jim Rainey was a familiar and distinctive figure. His robust accent identified him instantly with Belfast and his jet-black hair which stood on end as though electrified, were just two features of a notable character.

Jim Rainey radiated a warmth of personality which made him universally liked and respected. During his professional horticultural lifetime, spent largely in Northern Ireland, Jim was to play a leading role in training young people as well as sharing his enthusiasm and expertise with a wide audience through radio, the Institute of Horticulture and garden societies.

Jim's early life was spent in Finaghy in Belfast where he and his sister Eleanor were brought up 'over the shop'. His parents ran a store and one of Jim's roles in his early days was to deliver orders on a tradesman's cycle. His eye for business and customer relations were installed early on.

He set his mind on becoming a teacher and to further this aim became a student at Stanmillis Training College of which he spoke fondly in later years. Perhaps it was his association with a number of pals who gave over much of their time to practical joking that made it so much fun. After graduating as a teacher, his first professional job was at Castlewellan High School where he taught rural sciences for two years. Jim then went to work at a nursery, the fame of which had spread way beyond its island home. Slieve Donard, the highest mountain in Northern Ireland, lent its name to the eponymous

nursery. Leslie Slinger, the owner of Slieve Donard Nursery and his nursery manager were, in the space of about a year, to influence James' future career way beyond anything they might have envisaged. With the minimum of prompting he would talk about his experiences at the nursery and as a developing plantsman discuss in detail the plants he had come to know. The nursery, sadly, is no more but its name still resonates as people talk of Escallonia, Dierama, Meconopsis and Potentilla, amongst others. All these genera include cultivars selected and named at the nursery.

One of Jim's early claims to horticultural fame was looking at new Potentilla cultivars with senior nursery staff. 'What shall we call it?' was the question being asked. Jim ventured the name 'Tangerine' and we are nearly 50 years later with this cultivar still in circulation.

From Slieve Donard Nursery to Kew was a major step. Jim made it with the help of his trusty BSA motorcycle. Scratching around for somewhere to live was always a challenge for Kew staff whether regular gardeners or students. Jim eventually fetched up in digs with Mr and Mrs Harry Pither at 25 Priory Road, just off Kew Green. The writer of these notes shared the same digs for the best part of two years.

Jim had three passions in those heady Kew days: his fiancée, June, his love of plants and his Christian faith. All were to play a part as his life developed. Not far from Kew was Darrell Road School. The school hall was hireable for youth activities and Jim contributed to the social life of the area by helping with a Christian boys' club. This met on a weekday evening, on Sunday afternoons and occasionally for sporting activities on Saturdays as well. To say that Jim had lots of patience with boys from the unruly end of the behavioural spectrum would be an understatement. Somehow it didn't put him off young people for life – as we shall see.

Jim returned to his native land after a successful studentship at Kew to take up a post he had seen advertised in the Gardeners' Chronicle. The institution he joined was the Malone Training School, Lisburn Road, Belfast, where his role was described as horticultural instructor. He taught the resident boys horticultural skills thus equipping them for work when they re-entered society. In 1968 he moved to Rathgael Training School at Bangor in order to set up the Horticultural Department with sections dealing with glass, fruit and vegetable production. The quality of his work was recognised when he was promoted to Head of Education in 1985.

For old Kewites of the sixties a giant of a man might come to mind if the name of Clive Henderson is mentioned. Clive was to join Jim at Rathgael not many years after returning to Northern Ireland and helped in the maintenance of gardens and grounds. Any practical horticulturalist will like this little story that emerges from that period, dealing as the staff did with lots of mischievous young men. Imagine if you will a double-ended nursery trolley made of tubular steel. The handles extend at each end and are not plugged in any way. 'Look in here, Mr Rainey,' said one of the trainees to Jim, pointing to the end of the handle. Unbeknown to Jim the hollow tubing had been filled with water. Another conspirator blew hard down the other end just as Jim's eye came close to the orifice. What Jim said in response to this jape as his face received the full impact of a jet of rust-coloured water is not recorded!

He took early retirement in 1987 and from 1997 spent significant energy with his son, David, developing a wholesale nursery based at his home near Ballygowan. It was rewarding in May of 2005 to see Jim and David's joint enterprise and to learn that the quality of their plants is such that they can be seen for sale at prestigious National Trust properties such as Rowallane and Mount Stewart.

A lifetime is hard to encapsulate in a relatively brief obituary but it must be said that James' romance with June in his Kew days, blossomed. His marriage and the eventual arrival of two daughters and two sons gave him immense pleasure and joy. In later years he was to be found in various parts of the world in order to see something of his offspring as they developed their lives and careers.

All who knew Jim were soon made aware of his deep faith in God. His son David said at his father's funeral that Jim had taken out the very best retirement plan by committing himself to the ways of the kingdom of God at the age of 13. James Rainey died on Friday, 24th November, 2006 at the age of 72 and was buried at Comber cemetery. The very large number of people at his funeral bears testimony to the regard and respect in which he was held.

STELLA ROSS-CRAIG 1906 - 2006



As reported in the last journal, Stella died in early February 2006, shortly before her 100th birthday.

The story of Stella can only encourage one not to under-estimate children. She was born on the 19th March 1906 in Aldershot to Scottish parents, one of three children. Her father used to name the plants as they walked in the fields and woods in Hampshire. He was a chemist and a keen botanist so there would have been some organized sensibility at work in her life very early on.

Stella was painting plants at four years of age aided by her brother and such was her expertise that later she won a scholarship to Thanet Art College. She was eighteen years of age. The plants took over in her art and she studied botany in the evenings at Chelsea Polytechnic. There she met Joseph Robert Sealy, a Camellia expert and botanist at Kew.

They subsequently married and Stella joined the staff at Kew in 1929.

She was already very accomplished and in 1929 set to work on Curtis's Botanical Magazine for The Royal Horticultural Society. She worked on the illustrations for Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*. Kew's then Director Sir Edward Salisbury so appreciated and admired her work that he arranged for her to visit a publisher and her greatest work was begun. She became renowned for the thirty-one paper back books filled with drawings of 1350 native British plants. (1948-73). She bequeathed the originals of these illustrations to Kew. This is considered by many to be "the bible" of wildflower plants. She also illustrated over three thousand species of Temperate and Tropical Plant families many for classic monographs. She did most of the illustrating for Kew's own collections.

From the very day she took up her first pencils and brushes she applied the same basic skills of observation, refining them over many, many years. Every piece was unique so she daily found a need to keep her skills honed. As a trained botanist, field worker and taxonomist she read everything available about the plants and then from a live sample or dried specimen she would work out how to display the key characteristics. Some of these would come from detailed microscopic study. Then she would do a detailed drawing on a white board making any enlargements accurately to scale using a compass. She was also able to draw black and white images from dried specimens such as her understanding of plant forms. She always worked in pen and ink or watercolours. Once the drawing was completed she would attach pieces of printed-paper or card to refer to the drawings. No matter where the plants came from she could apply the same skills. In 1955 she worked on African Compositae for Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*.

Husband Robert was a botanist from 1927 until he passed away in 2002. He was Secretary of The Guild and it is he and Stella who we have to thank for the Kew Guild Arms and the beautifully designed crest.

Stella worked in residence at Kew until 1980. In 2002 Edinburgh held a retrospective exhibition of her work and this was repeated at Kew in 2003. After enthusiastic recommendations by Margaret Stones, Marilyn Ward, Bernard Verdcourt and Martin Sands she was awarded The Kew Award in 2002. She was also awarded a Veitch Memorial Gold Medal.

Of her life's work she said "It was fun" and her favourite drawing was one of the medlar. She was never a publicist; her first exhibition took place when she was 95 years of age. She might have sold her work but that would have fragmented the value that exists for future students of plants. How can one value the inherent substance of such work? It is impossible.

Stella and Robert had a simple flowery garden in Richmond and spent many happy days botanizing together in England and Ireland. In addition to the substantial creative work she left to Kew, Stella also donated substantial funds to Kew and The Kew Guild.

Photo: Copyright Marilyn Ward, Illustrations Curator at RBG, Kew.

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES PERIOD ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2006

	GENERAL FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2006	TOTAL 2005
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions	5,573.28			5,573.28	5,902.15
Donations and Legacies	356,385.91	6,638.41	11,282.67	374,306.99	1,960.00
Investment Income	1,542.58	4,775.25		6,317.83	5,912.57
- COIF				9,401.31	1,767.12
- Interest	9,401.31			9,401.31	1,767.12
Annual Dinner	1,875.00			1,875.00	2,745.80
Sale of "Kew Plantsmen"				0.00	11.00
Sale of Emblems				0.00	3.00
AGM Soiree	1,485.00			1,485.00	350.00
Events	142.75			142.75	235.00
US Tour	30,649.00			30,649.00	0.00
	407,054.83	11,413.66	11,282.67	429,751.16	16,984.35
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Kew Guild Journal	5,006.00			5,006.00	5,633.00
Prizes	495.00	14.00		509.00	507.00
Awards		3,066.80		3,066.80	5,245.00
Annual Dinner	2,453.79			2,453.79	3,847.69
AGM Soiree	1,773.78			1,773.78	514.70
Postage	148.11			148.11	110.40
Events	214.75			214.75	345.00
Regalia restoration				0.00	0.00
Archiving	4,018.97			4,018.97	7,111.79
Kew Guild certificates	7.50			7.50	5,061.35
Student fellowship	74.35			74.35	292.20
Presidential boards	427.00	500.00		927.00	0.00
Kew Guild Medals	3,589.63			3,589.63	0.00
Other expenditure:					
Honorary Officers' Expenses	168.00			168.00	106.20
Stationery & Printing	525.51			525.51	161.36
Website & Software				0.00	0.00
Minute taking service	1,486.91			1,486.91	1,042.12
Computer				0.00	0.00
Sundry	51.64			51.64	370.88
US Tour	30,649.00			30,649.00	0.00
	51,089.94	3,580.80	0.00	54,670.74	14,701.15
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	355,964.89	7,832.86	11,282.67	375,080.42	2,283.20
OTHER RECOGNISED LOSSES/GAINS					
Gains on investments:					
Unrealised	4,091.48	5,692.03	9,489.44	19,272.95	26,238.21
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	360,056.37	13,524.89	20,772.11	394,353.37	28,521.41
Balances brought forward at 1 January 2006	63,385.79	59,602.00	94,858.65	217,846.44	203,070.28
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DECEMBER 2006	423,442.16	73,126.89	115,630.76	612,199.81	231,591.65

**THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2006**

	31 Dec 2006		31 Dec 2005	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		222,393.72		191,838.10
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	4,582.25		452.73	
Charities Deposit Fund	386,050.00		32,050.00	
Cash at Bank	1,395.80		2,571.94	
		392,028.05		35,074.67
LIABILITIES				
Life subscriptions	32.02		32.02	
Creditors	2,189.94		9,034.31	
		-2,221.96		-9,066.33
NET CURRENT ASSETS				
		389,806.09		26,008.34
NET ASSETS				
		612,199.81		217,846.44
FUNDS				
General		423,442.16		70,462.69
Restricted		73,126.89		50,723.01
Endowment		115,630.76		81,884.58
		612,199.81		203,070.28

This is a draft set of summarised accounts and are still awaiting Auditor approval. 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 should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.