

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



Founded in 1893

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 2007

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**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

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Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2007-2008

Officers:

President: Rebecca Bower OBE

President Elect: Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS

Vice President: Sandra Leche Dip Hort Kew

Past President: Tom Risely MHort (RHS) Dip IPRA Cert Hort Kew FIHort

Honorary Secretary: Kenwyn Pearson FIHort Dip Hort Kew

Honorary Treasurer: Jennifer Alsop

Honorary Membership Secretary: Stewart J Henchie

Editor: Alexandra Ward

Events Officer: Pamela Holt

Committee Members:

Retire 2008

Sandra Leche

Brian Nash

Sandy Atkins

Retire 2009

Colin Clubbe

Alex George

Mark Sparrow

Bob Ivison

Retire 2010

Haydn Bell

Chris Baylis

Simon Owens

Jim Mitchell

Ex Officio Members

Principal School of Horticulture: Emma Fox/ Martin Staniforth

Archives Officer, Website and Kew Gardens representative: David Hardman

News of Kewites: Nigel Hepper

Award Scheme Chair: David Barnes

Kew Guild Medal: David Cutler

Website Management: Kevin Wah

Student Union Representatives:

Year 3: Lisa Campell

Year 2: Tim Stretton

Year 1: Joe Robbins

Advisors:

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Professor Sir Ghilleain T Prance FRS MA DPhil FiDr FLS

F Nigel Hepper BSc CBiol FIBiol FLS

Dr. Colin Hindmarch PhD Dip LD (Newcastle) Dip Hort Kew

Anthony Ross Dip Hort Kew FLS

Martin J S Sands BSc CBiol FIBiol FLS FRGS

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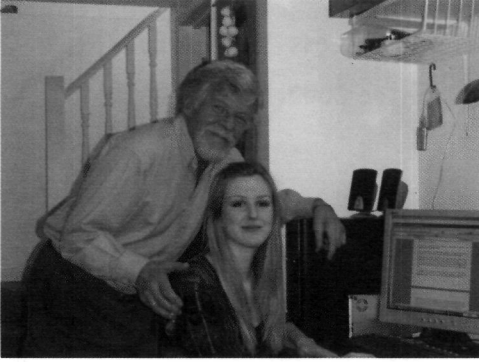
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EDITORIAL



You now pay your editor! You will read elsewhere that your Committee sought a volunteer editor and whilst two Guild members did approach us, and discussions took place, for various practical reasons the Committee eventually instructed Treasurer Jennifer to 'go out to tender'. And thus you have a 19-year-old University student as editor, equipped with the knowledge of latest technology to produce your Journal with a bit of help from my own 68 years of practical, and Kew, experience.

Comparing this Journal with one less than a decade ago you will see, indeed, how technology has benefited us all. The cost of printing has been dramatically reduced and this year, at £3,920, the cost is around £1,200 less than in 1998. We can now offer you immediate email access to Guild Officers, listed below. We now transmit 'copy' to the Printers entirely electronically apart from any hard paper photographs which need to be scanned and the copy deadline now need not be so strict. Only the editors now need to proof-read.

We would like to have your ideas, comments, career, family and colleagues' news, and complaints even, to make for a better Journal next year. Do it now! Floreat Kew!

Richard Ward

Advisory Editor*

Editor: Alexandra Ward. Advisory Editor: Richard Ward.

62 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AT

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Honorary Treasurer

Hon. Membership Secretary

Events Officer

Press Officer

Awards Scheme

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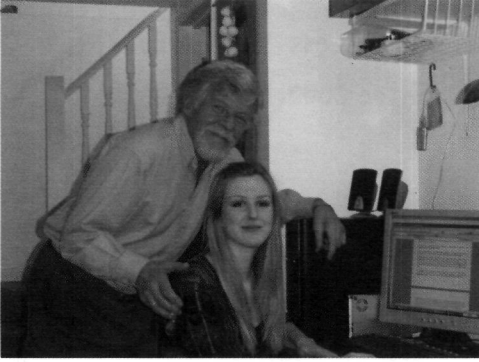
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Rebecca Bower OBE
President 2007/2008



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President 2007/2008



Rebecca Bower was born in Blackpool, Lancashire and spent the first few years of her life in Bispham and Wrea Green before her father's work took the family (Rebecca, mother and sister) just over the border to Lochmaben in Dumfriesshire. Rebecca attended Lochmaben Primary School and then spent two terms at Lockerbie Academy before the family (now plus brother) were on the move again, this time to Letchworth in Hertfordshire. Rebecca completed her schooling at Hitchin Girls' Grammar School, doing maths and science 'A' levels, and then went to Imperial College in London where she read Mechanical Engineering. The course was challenging and although Rebecca gained a First Class Honours degree she decided an engineer's life was not for her.

Instead, Rebecca turned her career to accountancy and joined Touche Ross & Co's London office as a trainee Chartered Accountant where she met her future husband, Chris. She spent most of her time doing audit work but also had stints in the tax and insolvency departments. On qualification she joined Bowater Industries plc at its head office in Knightsbridge in their Group Accounts Department – it was a fairly dull job, but a great location!

In 1987 Rebecca saw the job of Chief Accountant for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew advertised and, although it meant a pay cut and no company car, she was thrilled when her application was successful. She joined on Monday 19th October, days after the Great Storm, and was relieved to find that the offices were still standing despite all the devastating pictures of destruction on the television. It did mean, though, that one of her first jobs was collating information on all the expenditure incurred on clearing up so that claims could be made to MAFF to get extra Grant-in-aid.

A year later the Financial Controller left Kew and Rebecca was pleased to be promoted to this position, since renamed Head of Finance, where she has remained ever since. However, although some of the fundamentals of the job have stayed the same, it has evolved throughout the twenty years Rebecca has been there, as Kew itself has changed and grown.

Rebecca was very involved with the creation of the trading company, RBG Kew Enterprises Ltd, and has been its Company Secretary throughout its existence, as well as being one of its Directors for several years. She enjoyed directly managing the retail operations at Kew and Wakehurst for a time, and still takes a keen interest in their activities and performance.

The creation of the Foundation and Friends was another important development Rebecca was involved in and with the ever-expanding funding for projects coming through the Foundation, close liaison with the teams there is essential.

The Millennium Seed Bank Project was an extremely ambitious project for Kew but has been, and still is, hugely successful. Rebecca was involved from early on and led the Business Team programme during the first phase of the actual building and the collection of the UK flora, and secured the funding arrangement with the Millennium Commission for the current phase, to collect 10% of the world's flora by 2010. She continues to enjoy maintaining an oversight of the finances of the project.

Rebecca was absolutely delighted, once she got over the surprise, to be awarded an OBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours list for services to horticulture, reflecting her good

stewardship of Kew's finances for many years, and certainly not her horticultural skills which are minimal! She had a wonderful morning at Buckingham Palace with her husband, mother and father where she received her medal from the Queen on the same day as the England cricket team.

As well as her full-time job at Kew, Rebecca has been involved with several other charities on a voluntary basis, not least the Kew Guild itself of which she was Treasurer from 1989 to 2003. She was a Trustee of the Womens' Environmental Network and Treasurer of a new start-up charity called Our Right To Read. She is currently Treasurer of the Galapagos Conservation Trust, which is mainly concerned with raising money to support research projects of the Charles Darwin Foundation based in the Galapagos. She is a member of many other conservation organisations and has great interest in environmental issues.

Rebecca and Chris love to travel and they particularly like wildlife holidays. They have enjoyed safaris in several African countries as well as trips to the Galapagos and Antarctica, and although they have now holidayed in all seven continents, there are many new places still to see! Rebecca and Chris are keen rugby fans, supporting London Wasps and England whenever they can. They were particularly excited when England reached the Rugby World Cup Final in France last year as they already had tickets. In their remaining spare time they enjoy playing bridge, trips to the theatre and seeing friends and family - it's a busy life!

SANDRA LECHE
Vice President 2006 – 2007

Sandra elected to provide a brief description of recent politics and horticulture in Chile.



© Mr Eduardo Stone, at Isla Illeifa in Lago Ranco, X Región, Chile.

Chile's first democratically elected woman President, Michelle Bachelet, took office in March 2006.

The country acquired two new administrative regions in March 2007, making a total of fifteen. In the north, the Gobierno Regional de Arica y Parinacota (XV Región) and in the south, the Gobierno Regional de Los Ríos (XIV Región) were added.

The Ley del Bosque Nativo was finally approved by Parliament, having been in the melting pot since 1992.

This was born of a longstanding economic and political controversy, past governments having favoured intensive agriculture and silviculture of exotic plantations rather than the protection and use of the existing sustainable native forest.

The great mining corporations (Barrick Gold, Río Tinto and Anglo American among others) have generated great income in Chile and the country has been able to pay off its national debt. However some agricultural exports have been depressed because the dollar dropped which has affected the market value of some agricultural products. Mining, of for example copper and gold, remains the major source of export, followed by forestry, agriculture and fishing. Berries are the boom export, including blackberry, blueberry, cranberry, currants, raspberry and strawberry. The production of olive oil and the wine industry continue to expand.

Two universities are developing projects to explore ways of producing and commercialising "Murtilla" (*Ugni molinae*) in a global market, which is good news for the south of Chile.

Horticultural education has seen great progress. The main technical college INACAP (Instituto Nacional de Capacitación Profesional) now provides several gardening courses at different levels.

See page 370 of the Events of 2005 Journal for Sandra's previous career details.

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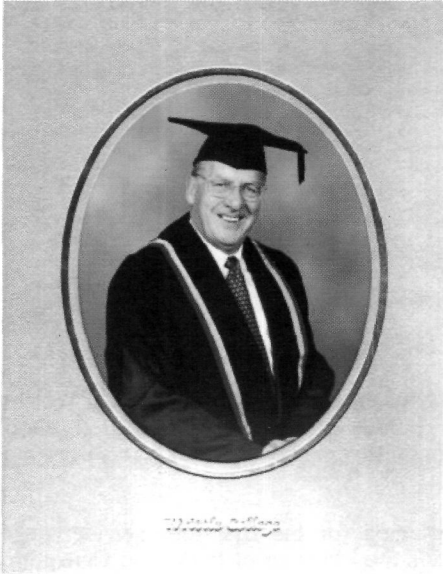
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NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHRIS BAYLIS



I started my horticultural career on a nursery growing tomatoes and cucumbers for 12 months, followed by working on a fruit and vegetable intensive farm, before joining Southend Parks Department in their propagating unit for 12 months.

I spent nearly two years in the Army, stationed in Scotland before going back to Southend Parks, on their Cliffs Garden and adjoining bowling green, leaving to go to Writtle Agricultural College, which was before going on to Kew in 1955 to 1956.

I became Secretary to The Student Union and Secretary to the Sports and Social Club, running dances at the Boat House as well as being a regular at the Coach and Horses Pub, before joining the real world of work.

I started at John Waterer Sons and Crisp as a landscape representative covering the North West from their A4 base at Twyford, staying

for 12 years, undertaking many contracts, including a 3 year contract building the only German War Cemetery on Cannock Chase, many contracts for the Atomic Energy at Harwell, Wantage and near Benson, plus numerous army camps.

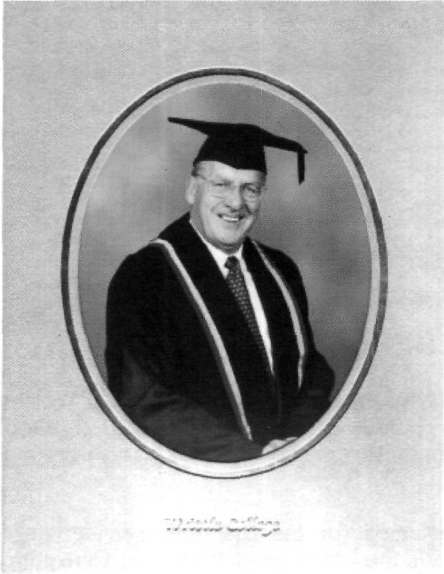
I left to start my own Company that ran for 30 years employing up to 125 operatives, before closing it down and forming a much smaller operation employing about 40 employees, with my two sons running this operation. This has 5 Companies in its group including a fencing company, artificial lawn company and a sports company installing artificial and natural sports areas.

Last year I was made an Honorary Fellow of Writtle College, following on from John Sales, whom I shared a room with at Kew.

It has been a hectic life at times, but I am still enjoying it and its many challenges.

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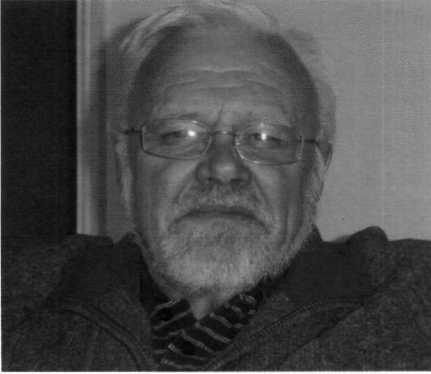
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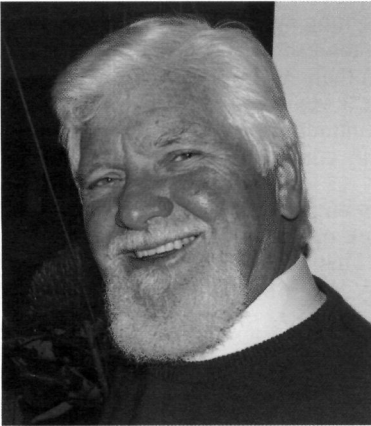
HAYDN BELL



See page 420 of the Events of 2005 Journal, News of Kewites, for Haydn's career details.

JIM MITCHELL

Seeds were sown early for Jim's colourful career when he started with Norman Welsby, President of Interflora International, working weekends & holidays whilst still at school. He worked not only on the craft of gardening but on flower show arrangements presented around the UK and overseas in South Africa.



Norman arranged for his first job interview with Eric Thornton the Manager of Parks and Cemeteries with St. Helens Borough Council. He recalls going to his office, a little sandstone cottage and meeting Eric who was dressed in a tweed suit, woollen waist coat, sitting with his back to a roaring fire with his feet up on the oak desk. When asked 'what did he want to do when you grow up', he innocently replied, 'Your job looks pretty good'. Forty years on Jim was proudly appointed Manager Parks & Reserves and Superintendent of Cemeteries and Crematorium with Darwin City Council in the Northern Territory of Australia.

Over a period of 50 years, Jim has been in the industry working with local and state government departments, as well as being self-employed for 15 years as a consultant Landscape Architect. Positions held had many with grand titles including Landscape Planner, Manager Environmental Enhancement, and City Landscape Architect. He knew he had finally made it when given the position of Group Manager Infrastructure and Assets, finally controlling the Engineering, Property, Parks and Open Spaces.

Jim was with the first intake of the Kew Diploma Course in 1963 and his contribution to Kew was being the successful captain and coach of the Kew v Wisley beer drinking competition for three years which required many hours of training at the Coach and Horses. At a Kew social in the Boathouse Inn he met Valerie, a student nurse, at

Richmond Hospital and they were married in 1966. The following year they became 'ten pound poms' and immigrated to Sydney; Jim took up a position with the Electricity Commission of NSW travelling through cities, the country and outback following miles upon miles of transmission lines to see power stations and substations, the time spent in the Temperate House, the Australian House and Palm House finally paying dividends.

Shortly afterwards he enrolled at the University of NSW, School of Architecture and gained the Graduate Diploma in Landscape Design, became a member of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects and Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks & Recreation. One shouldn't forget the one year attending the Lancashire Institute of Agriculture whilst pondering his time in academia.

Jim took a keen interest in the International Garden Festival movement and enjoyed visiting events in the UK, Holland, China, Japan and Korea.

PROFESSOR SIMON J OWENS BSc PhD FLS



Simon Owens has spent 36 years, his entire working life, at Kew. He joined the Jodrell Laboratory in December, 1971, as a scientific officer in the Cytology section, investigating self-incompatibility genes that prevent inbreeding and can block interbreeding between species as well as studying chromosome form and behaviour in a variety of species. In 1976, following the resignation of the then Director, Professor Jack Heslop-Harrison FRS, he moved to the TEM laboratory at 47A, Kew Green and transferred to the Anatomy section under Professor David Cutler. He mastered new techniques, using both scanning and transmission electron microscopes to study the reproductive structures of orchids and legumes in particular.

In 1995, he was appointed Keeper of the Herbarium, a position he held for a month short of 12 years. He is now Head of Strategic Projects and currently Acting Head of Wakehurst Place. As Head of Strategic Projects, he is supporting Professor Steve Hopper to achieve ambitious plans for Kew's

science-based conservation programmes, is working towards raising further funding from the European Union research and development programmes and hopes he will have a little time left for his own research.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Kenwyn Pearson, Secretary

The Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild held on Saturday 1st September 2007 at Wakehurst Place, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Notice of the meeting had been given in accordance with the rules of The Kew Guild.

Attendance

Tom Risely – President, Kenwyn Pearson – Honorary Secretary, David Hardman – Vice President, Stewart Henchie – Vice President, Rebecca Bower, Harvey Groffman, Jean Griffin, Robin Lack, Jill Cowley, Mike Clift, Jim Mitchell, Norman Robson, Tom Wood, Nigel Hepper, Mike Griffin, Steve Robinson, Jan Collins, Valerie Hindmarch, Colin Hindmarch, Joan Hart, Allan Hart, Bob Ivison, Teresa Ivison, Pamela Holt, Martin Sands, John Sales, Chris Baylis, David Cutler, Graham Burgess, Gillian Anderson.

01-07 Welcome

The President, Tom Risely, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

02-07 Apologies

Martin Staniforth, Richard Ward, Mike Arnold Gilliatt, Hugh Flower, Sir Peter Crane, Roy Forster, Christopher Weddell, John Simmons, Alan Titchmarsh, Sandra Leche, Frank Hebden, Allen Paterson, John Tregear, Hans Fleigner, Granville Turley, John Norris, Neil and Sheila Gilmour, A P Boddington, C M Attwood, Brendan Mowforth, Simon Owens, Colin James, Diana Polhill, Alexander Dixon, John Woodhams, Bob Adams, Jennifer Alsop, Tim Stretton, Lisa Campbell, Paul Sadler, Brian Pitcher, H Heywood.

David Hardman made necessary announcements for the rest of the day and regulatory notices in the event of fire and where access points were situated, and other facilities and meeting points.

03-07 Notice of Death of Members

Alan Ravenscroft, Jim Rainey, Jerry Watson, Ernest Chantler, Andrew Paterson, Don Evemy.

04-07 Minutes of 2006 AGM

The minutes of the 2006 AGM held on 9th September 2006 were approved and signed as a correct record. Proposed by Martin Sands, seconded by Nigel Hepper and unanimously agreed.

05-07 Matters Arising

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David Cutler said that The Kew Guild Medal sub-committee had received from the Kew Guild Committee two names as possible recipients and were recommending to this AGM that the name of Roy Lancaster should be submitted to receive the award in 2008.

This was unanimously agreed.

There were no other matters arising.

06-07 Honorary Secretary's Report

Kenwyn Pearson reported as follows: "It has been good to return as Honorary Secretary and I have been encouraged by the support and encouragement from the membership, especially the trustees and other members of Committee and the advisers. A special thank you to you all.

I am encouraged by the letters I receive and the requests and other information disseminated by letter, fax and email. Thank you to you all, and I am certain that an immediate response is something that the membership deserves and expects.

The main Committee has met five times during the year and the Legacy, Reserves and Strategic Planning Committee has met twice. This sub-committee formulates the reserves policy, legacy spend and general finance policies and strategy.

There has been a satisfactory meeting with the new Director of RBG Kew during the year and he spoke at the Annual Dinner in May. He is very supportive of The Kew Guild and is keen to strengthen ties with the gardens, and wants to work with the membership to achieve our common aims.

Other topics hotly debated during the year have ranged from:

- Advancement of the website
- The Kew Guild Garden
- The Kew Guild Award Scheme
- Use of legacies
- Archives
- Events
- The future of The Journal
- Membership
- The Kew Medal
- US Tour and proposed Australian tour
- The future of The Kew Guild Room
- Rules for future Kew Guild Tours

We had a very satisfactory meeting with the students during the year and invited all First Years to join us for supper in the Autumn 2006 after a Committee meeting. In the summer, Allan Hart and I gave out certificates to confirm their membership on joining, and we are very anxious to encourage the student membership as we see that is where the future of The Kew Guild lies."

The Honorary Secretary read a letter from the Advisory Editor:

“Dear Kenwyn,

Herewith my outgoing Editor’s report for 1st September 2007 AGM:

Becoming Editor again after a five year break was a steep learning curve in technology terms and the Guild has my daughter Alexandra to thank for much of the computer input that produced the Events of 2006 Journal. This 142 page Journal was longer than usual, partly due to the index, and was on budget. The Committee asked for volunteer editors for the ‘Events on 2007’ Journal, without success to date, although talks will be taking place with two potentially interested parties later this year. In the meantime quotes were invited from three outside agencies to edit next year’s Journal and Treasurer Jennifer Alsop recommended that Alexandra Ward’s quotation be accepted. I have agreed to remain on the Committee as voluntary advisory editor.

I have to thank numerous people for their help this past Guild year – Kenwyn Pearson, David Cutler, Nigel Hepper with News of Kewites, Graham Burgess for obituaries, and all Guild Committee members. The Kew Guild fellowship is at its best at, and after, Committee meetings and I urge members to get involved and support the Guild.

We have now secured an email address for the Editor which will hopefully be passed on to successive following Editors – kewguildditor@hotmail.com

Sorry to miss the AGM. Best regards, Richard Ward.”

The Secretary’s Report was proposed for acceptance by Jean Griffin, seconded by Pamela Holt and agreed by the meeting.

07-07 Honorary Treasurers’ Report

In the absence of The Honorary Treasurer Rebecca Bower spoke to this report and spoke of the satisfactory nature of the accounts. She referred to the legacies received – £11,000 to The Edna Redman Bursary and the large legacy from Stella Ross Craig – and she urges members to respond to the request to help determine the future of legacies and investments on behalf of The Kew Guild. Rebecca explained that because of the size of the legacy the Accounts could not be examined by an independent examiner and were therefore now in the process of being audited by an External Auditor. In answer to a question she explained about The Charity Official Investment Fund.

Mike Clift proposed acceptance of the Report, seconded by David Cutler and agreed unanimously by all present.

08-07 Membership Secretary’s Report

Stewart Henchie reported that were currently 386 Members, including 41 Staff Members, 24 Student Members, 2 Corporate Members, 15 Life Members and 5 Honorary Members. Stewart said he was seeking clarification on the status of Corporate Members.

The Report was proposed for acceptance by Tom Wood, seconded by David Hardman and adopted by all present.

09-07 **Events Officer's Report**

Pamela Holt reported on the success of the Dinner with 66 members and their guests present and the Guest Speaker was the new Director of Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Prof. Stephen Hopper. Dennis McGlade was made an Honorary Fellow of The Kew Guild and Anna Pavord is to receive Honorary Fellowship at this meeting. The Norfolk Weekend in May was a success as was the trip to Liverpool in July with successful visits to Croxteth Hall and Ness Gardens, as well as the National Herbarium in Liverpool. A trip was planned later in September to The Maclaren Institute to look at the landscaping on the site.

The President thanked Pamela for organising a good events calendar during the year. Pamela Holt was looking for suitable visits for 2008.

David Hardman proposed acceptance of the Report on events, which was seconded by Martin Sands and accepted by the meeting.

10-07 **Award Scheme Report**

After eight years Allan Hart announced that he was resigning as Chairman of The Kew Guild Award Scheme. He had enjoyed his input into The Award Scheme and contributing to members' continuing professional development, travel, The George Brown Award and vetting Honorary Fellowships, and contributing towards the administration of The Ian Leese fund.

The sub-committee met twice during the year in March and July. There were nine applications and £7,410 was available for distribution. The applications varied in topic and were all interesting and well presented. 50% of applications came from members requesting assistance to further continue professional development.

The sub-committee is responsible for assessing nominations for Honorary Fellowships which were awarded to Dennis McGlade, American Landscape Architect, and Anna Pavord, the distinguished Garden writer. The George Brown Award was given to Allan and Joan Hart for their long time services to the Kew Guild.

The standard application form has been revised to incorporate the requirements of The Convention on Biological Diversity, and also the International Convention of Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

The Secretary and Chairman had ensured that all previous awardees had submitted reports on their projects, except that of Tom Risely, the President, who has yet to respond.

The Kew Guild is very fortunate in having such professional and dedicated members to ensure that the aims and responsibilities of The Guild are maintained.

The following have agreed to remain on the Committee for a further year: Marcella Corcoran - Honorary Secretary, Jennifer Alsop - Honorary Treasurer, Emma Fox, Susyn Andrews, Annabel Brown, David Barnes, Chris Kidd, David Hardman and Student Representatives Lisa Campbell and Tim Stretton. Allan Hart felt that a new injection of

enthusiasm was needed, but had been asked to remain on the Committee. He asked for the Committee to be re-elected with David Barnes as Chairman and this was approved.

A vote of thanks was given to Allan Hart for his significant contribution to The Award Scheme.

11-07 The Kew Guild Garden

This had emerged from a discussion of an idea with Sandy Atkins and the then Director of Kew, Sir Peter Crane. Three options were proposed, namely a wilderness, a tropical garden and renewal of the Student Vegetable Garden. A sub-committee comprising The Director, The Curator and The Supervisor of Studies from the School of Horticulture agreed that the Vegetable Garden was very necessary and had maximum public interest and the procedure was started to enter a partnership with The Kew Guild and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew to progress the idea. The new garden is going to be adjacent to the School of Horticulture and will be a permanent feature.

Construction is scheduled to start in September 2007 and be completed by the end of November 2007. The estimate for construction is £150,000 – Kew Gardens has pledged £70,000 and The Kew Guild has agreed to provide £80,000. It is scheduled for a grand opening in 2008, possibly to coincide with the Annual Dinner.

The Garden will be accessible to the public and will provide a high profile to the Kew Guild. The Kew Guild must be grateful to Rebecca Bower for working on behalf of The Guild to assist over the finance of the Garden. Final details and the specification were produced and Gavin Jones appointed to carry out the contract within the agreed price. Stewart Henchie, Vice President, is overseeing the project and it is hoped that the new Students will carry out topsoiling and cultivation during the winter of 2007/08. Invitations are invited for the design of the gates to be installed and details for this can be obtained from Stewart Henchie.

The President thanked in particular Allan Hart for his input on behalf of The Guild and for acting as the link between the Gardens and the Kew Guild.

This Report was accepted by the meeting.

12-07 Website Development

David Hardman started by recognising the outstanding work that Christopher Weddell has accomplished in developing the site over the last few years.

Kevin Wah has agreed to be the Website Manager following CW's resignation, and is already being of assistance in developing the website. David continued as follows:

“Who has been on the webpage in the last month?

I commend members to look at it and use it, otherwise the site becomes irrelevant. It takes a lot of effort to maintain and if it is not used then one has to ask is it relevant for the majority of members or just a minority therefore how much should the Guild invest in its development?

I was asked by the Committee to look at the site with the objective of assessing and developing it further, I have asked a number of Trustees to assist me as a group to pool ideas and investigate if and where we need to take this forward and try to establish what Kew Guild members really want.

One new area has been suggested for the web site following the facilitated brainstorming meeting in August 2005 – a skills database. This has some interesting connotations and some legal implications, yet to be assessed, regarding data protection. In effect it is a site where members past and present can be recognised, if they so wish.

This could include recognition of that individual's contributions and career achievements past and present as well as other more personal data.

This will need to be investigated further and will, if decided as a worthwhile development, require a commitment from all members to provide that information and other stories and pictures.

This last point is fundamental to the website's growth. It has been criticised, unfairly I believe, because of not being up to date. It cannot be left to one person to carry the burden. For a website to remain relevant and current it needs text and lots of it from members who must regularly contribute information of many kinds in the right formats.

We are a small group and so if it is to succeed it will require member involvement. If felt appropriate we could pay for someone to maintain the site but they still need stories relevant to the Kew Guild and so would have to chase you the members for stories otherwise the site loses its relevance.

So where next? I have a prepared timetable of tasks and objectives for the group to consider but at this point today I just wanted to check if anyone has suggestions to make (these would need to be fully detailed to be considered). If so please direct them to me or via the Secretary."

Nigel Hepper requested news of Kewites and this could be pursued through the website.

It was agreed by the meeting that it is useful having the previous Journals on the website. Graham Burgess promoted the idea that it would be good to have a skills database on the site to the benefit of members and communication among the membership. Allan Hart expressed concern about the skills database and how it would be used by the membership. Kenwyn Pearson expressed the opinion that at one time more information was in past Journals on positions held by the membership.

There was an expression of opinion over keeping existing students on board with the future of The Kew Guild. It was noted that no students were present at the AGM, though some apologies had been noted. The meeting expressed the opinion that the students wanted to take advantage of Award Scheme applications to further their career advancement, but did not appear eager to return some support to the Kew Guild. John Sales did express the opinion that the obituaries section of the Journal provided an interesting insight into peoples' careers. Graham Burgess, researching for obituaries, expressed the opinion that it would be useful if members could write their obituaries in advance of their eventual demise.

David Hardman was thanked for his Report and it was adopted by the meeting.

13-07 US Trip

The President commented on the success of this trip and paid special thanks to Bob Hebb, former President and Kevin Wah, now Website Manager. He apologised for the difficulties there had been in reconciling the accounts for this trip, not helped by his own continuing illness throughout his Presidential year.

He hoped the accounts would be settled within a month of this meeting.

14-07 Retiring President's Remarks

Tom Risely said that the response from the membership on how to deal with legacies and future spend of monies had been disappointing. He felt the Kew Guild was in a strong position financially and should endeavour to fund some exciting projects over the coming years. He felt that some of the money should be put aside to help finance students attending educational visits organised by The Guild and administered through the Award Scheme. He made reference to the good visit to Norfolk earlier in the year but noted that no students were present.

The President referred to the obvious declining membership of the Guild and what should be done to address this problem. He pointed out that there were over 700 people employed in the Gardens but only about 40 were members. Efforts should be made to increase this amount.

Paul Sadler, who was a student representative, had written to Tom on the benefits of Kew Guild membership and how important the organisation had been while he was a student and thanked the Guild for allowing him to be part of it during his time at Kew.

The plans were well advanced for the Australia trip in 2008 and Jean Griffin was going to be the Great Britain contact on behalf of the Kew Guild.

Tom Risely thanked everyone for being so supportive during his year of office and wished The Kew Guild well into the future.

15-07 Retiring members of Committee

The Honorary Secretary read of those members retiring from the Committee:

Roy Forster
 Matthew Biggs
 Graham Burgess
 Mike Lycett who has already resigned through ill health

They were thanked for their contribution to The Guild's governance.

16-07 Election of Officers

President Rebecca Bower

President Elect	Sir Peter Crane
Immediate Past President	Tom Risely
Vice President	Sandra Leche and David Hardman to continue for a further year
Membership	Stewart Henchie
Secretary	Kenwyn Pearson
Treasurer	Jennifer Alsop
Editor	Alexandra Ward appointed to produce 2007 Journal in 2008
Events	Pamela Holt

It had been proposed that the Secretary is in post for at least three years, but at the moment it is for one year so the rules would need to be changed. The Secretary would arrange for the Committee to review the rules in next twelve months.

Retire 2008

Sandra Leche also nominated as Vice President
 Brian Nash
 Sandy Atkins

Retire 2009

Colin Clubbe
 Alex George
 Mark Sparrow
 Bob Ivison

Retire 2010

Jim Mitchell	accepted
Haydn Bell	accepted
Chris Baylis	accepted
Simon Owens	accepted

Ex-officio

David Barnes	Award Scheme
Head of School	Emma Fox / Martin Staniforth standing in during maternity leave
Communications	Sara Arnold
Archives, website and Kew Gardens representative	David Hardman

Students

Year 3	Lisa Campbell agreed to stand
Year 2	Tim Stretton agreed to stand
Year 1	Student from new intake

Advisors

Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, Martin Sands, John Simmons, Nigel Hepper, David Cutler, Colin Hindmarch, Anthony Ross

Richard Ward has also accepted the nomination to act as advisory editor.

The President proposed the election of the Committee as detailed and this was seconded by Colin Hindmarch and agreed by everyone in the meeting.

17-07 Any other business

- Stewart Henchie confirmed that he had details of 192 members on email but also said that not all the membership wanted to be contacted by this method of communication.
- Jim Mitchell explained about the Australia Tour in 2008 and said he had modelled it on the US trip of 2006 which had been a success. It included many places of interest including seeing the valley where the Wollemi Pine was discovered in the Blue Mountains. It included six nights in Sydney, three nights in Canberra and three nights in Melbourne. Further details are available from Jean Griffin.
- Martin Sands raised 4 points:
 1. Confirmation of the memorabilia stock - all maintained by Stewart Henchie.
 2. Wanted assurance that The Kew Guild was getting good value from the current Communications Secretary – The Honorary Secretary said this had been discussed in the Committee and she would continue to be used to assist Secretarial work as requested.
 3. Asked where the medals were housed for Honorary Members and Past Presidents and was assured these were housed at Kew and held by the Honorary Treasurer.
 4. Urged the Committee to consider alternative venues for the Annual Dinner as he feared the costs were escalating to an unacceptable level. He suggested the Committee considered the Jodrell Atrium as a possible venue for future years.

18-07 Inauguration of New President

Rebecca Bower was then installed as the President for the ensuing year 2007-2008.

Rebecca said she looked forward to the year ahead and was honoured to have been asked. She thanked everyone for their hard work in maintaining The Kew Guild, and looked forward to working with everyone to take the Guild forward.

She awarded a certificate to Stewart Henchie for having been Vice President over the previous two years and she gave Tom Risely his Past Presidents badge and a certificate thanking him for his Presidency.

The President then awarded an Honorary Fellowship of The Kew Guild to Anna Pavord for her outstanding contribution to Horticulture. Anna Pavord thanked the Guild for making this award and said she was flattered to be honoured in this way.

19-07 Date of the next Annual General Meeting

AGM at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on 6th September 2008.

There being no other business the President closed the meeting.

Kew
 PLANTS PEOPLE
 POSSIBILITIES

**School of
 Horticulture**

Horticulture and
 Public Education Department

**Presentation of
 Kew Diplomas and Prizes
 2007
 Course 42**

Friday 7th September

3.00 pm **Introduction**

Dr Nigel Taylor
 Head of Horticulture and Public Education (Curator)

**Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes, Certificates of Training in
 Botanical Horticulture and Travel Scholarships**
 by Nigel Brown BSc (read by Dr Nigel Taylor)

Presentation of the Marsh Botany Award
 by Brian Marsh (citation read by Dr Nigel Taylor)

Address by the Guest of Honour
 Nigel Brown BSc
 Curator Treborrh Botanic Garden
 University of Wales Bangor

Vote of Thanks
 Lord Selborne KBE FRS
 Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Rory Dusoir 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

Lord Selborne, Mr Mayor Councillor Cranfield-Adams, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all here today for this truly special annual event in the Kew calendar – and a moment that our graduating students of Course 42 have been working towards, and looking forward to, for three years.

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Steve Hopper, the Director, sends his apologies, since he has had a long-standing commitment to attend a conference in Australia that he agreed to before taking up his present post. He warmly congratulates today's diploma graduates and wishes you all every success in the future.

Each year the graduating students may choose their guest of honour, so it gives me great pleasure to welcome Nigel Brown. Nigel is Curator of the Treborth Botanic Gardens at the University of Wales at Bangor, and has been chosen by the students following their inspirational visit to Bangor, where Nigel tutored them in Ecology. Nigel is an expert in natural history with over 30 years' experience in identification, ecology and conservation biology of our native flora. He also has a keen personal interest in ornithology and Lepidoptera.

I also want to welcome Lord Selborne, Chairman of the Kew Trustees, who bears the heaviest responsibilities of any of Kew's many volunteers. For the last four years as Chairman – and indeed in a previous term as a Trustee – Lord Selborne has worked tirelessly for the benefit of Kew. Here I am echoing Peter Crane's words at last year's Prize Day in recognising that today is one of the rare occasions on which we can acknowledge particularly all that Lord Selborne does in support of Kew.

I should also like to welcome Tom Risely, President of the Kew Guild, who 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 annually towards student travel scholarships. Thanks also go to the Guild who have designed and generously supported the relocation of the student vegetable plots with the building of the 'Kew Guild Students' Vegetable Garden' on the site you can see under development at the side of this building. This will provide an interesting feature for our visitors and much improved facilities for the incoming Course 45.

I would also like to welcome our other special guests, including Jose Dent, Henry Oakley and Colin Squire.

Today is one of celebration for Eddie, Jim, Daniel, Paul, Katrine, Miranda, Dan, Simon, Paul, Rob, Falkland, Silvia and Emily. We wish them all well, as they take the next steps in what we know will be hugely successful careers.

Today is also a celebration for all those who have supported them over the last three years. First – their family and friends, who are here today to celebrate with them. Next, all the visiting lecturers that have provided guidance and knowledge over the three years and, finally, all the staff and other colleagues here at Kew – in the Gardens, in science and in other areas around Kew – who've worked with them through three very active years in their lives and in the life of Kew.

We hope they enjoyed every moment, benefited in many, many different ways, and also leave with new friends, contacts, knowledge and experience that will sustain them into the future. But we are going to miss them (!) and on a personal note I will remember fondly the experience we shared while on the April field course in Almería with the University of Reading and separately during the past three years while working side by side on my 'Back-to-the-Floor' practical training sessions in the Gardens each week.

In addition to today's celebrations this is also a sad moment in several ways. For the students it is a kind of rite of passage as a group of people with whom we've worked closely for a long time and who have become part of the fabric of Kew now move into the next phase of their lives – and in many cases into the wider world – to pursue their own careers.

So, following that brief introduction, we are going to begin with the presentation of diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Course 42 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 addition to those mentioned already, 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. Also, 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. Emma Fox, Principal of the School, and her husband Paul, join us today in the audience with baby Thomas William born on the 1st of August. Congratulations, Emma and Paul! Whilst Emma is on maternity leave, the management of the school will be undertaken by Martin Staniforth, himself a diploma graduate. The team has also been joined recently by Rowan Blaik as Horticultural Technician, and he is another Diploma graduate.

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 Mainau, a privately owned botanical display garden on Lake Constance, as guests of the Lennart Bernadotte Family.

Subsequently, some of their Individual Travel Scholarships included that of Eddie Cadwallender, who went to California to study native species growing in their wild habitats and in cultivation. He visited San Francisco BG, The Conservatory of Flowers in the Golden Gate Park and the University of the California BG, at Berkley, before heading to see plants in the wild at Muir Woods, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite National Park.

Jim Handley went to Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean to work with the conservation team there; he did a census of *Pteris adscensionis* and *Euphorbia organoides*, both Island endemics. Not to mention helping to tag a Hawksbill turtle!

Daniel Haynes journeyed to Madagascar to see a conservation project that is restoring littoral forest in the South East of this great island. This is a joint project with Rio Tinto Mining and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He took information about green waste recycling with him to help the project and worked with the staff in the nursery there.

Dan Leighton sought to unravel a taxonomic conundrum that he had found whilst working at Ness Botanic Garden. This took him to North Vietnam where he studied native *Primula* species in the wild.

Simon Rice travelled to the Seychelles to repatriate plants of *Medusagyne oppositifolia*, the Jelly Fish Tree, that he had raised in the Micropropagation Unit here at Kew. He also studied the habitat and propagation of the species on the island.

Paul Sadler undertook a study of Australian native plant botanic gardens, visiting the Royal Botanic Garden at Cranbourne, the Royal Botanic Gardens of Melbourne and our present Director's previous garden at Kings Park, Perth, in Western Australia.

Falkland Little visited another Atlantic Island, St Helena. Here he collected information for Kew's UK Overseas Territories conservation team and saw how the Millennium Gumwood Forest was establishing.

Silvia Villegas went to Mexico to study *Pinguicula* and cacti and succulents, with the aim of improving cultivation of these plants at Kew. I have subsequently regularly seen her working with these collections this past summer in the Tropical Nursery.

Emily Waters teamed up with fellow Course 42 student Miranda Kimberley on a travel scholarship to study plants in Ecuador. Whilst there they stayed with an indigenous community in the rainforest on a tributary of the Amazon River.

Also, as already mentioned, our third year Diploma students joined the University of Reading's botanical field trip to Almeria in Spain. This trip proved to be a very successful experience and I'm pleased to see some of the Reading University staff with us in the audience today and to have the chance to extend our sincere thanks for their input.

All of this year's graduates will be leaving Kew to make their own way in the world; the Kew Diploma is a great passport for work or education and is held in high esteem, as is shown by Course 42's immediate plans:

Eddie Cadwallender and Dan Leighton are both heading for the U.S.A. Eddie will be working at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, joining their arboricultural team for a year; and Dan will be taking up the Martin McLaren Scholarship from the Garden Club of America to do a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture at the University of Austin, Texas.

Jim Handley and Emily Waters will be going to work at Friar Park in Henley, the Estate of the late George Harrison. Notable features on the estate are a large rock garden, vegetable garden and Japanese garden.

Daniel Haynes is strengthening Kew's influence at the BBC, as he takes the role of subeditor of Gardenersworld.com, a website that supports the BBC's Gardeners World Magazine. This site offers practical advice on gardening techniques, plant information and online diaries written by horticulturists.

Paul Heleine is looking for an opening where he can combine horticulture and engineering, possibly in the areas of green roofs and futuristic architectural developments.

Katrine Herian is going to work with Pam Lewis at Spye Park, a private estate in Wiltshire where they will be making a new kitchen garden and managing extensive meadows.

Miranda Kimberley is joining *Horticulture Week* as a news reporter; Miranda undertook a work experience placement with them in her second year.

Simon Rice is looking to develop his career in the area of plant conservation, having enjoyed his experiences in plant repatriation in the Seychelles.

Paul Sadler is going to work for Dr M. and Mrs T. Sackler at their private house in Lambourne, Berkshire; the Sacklers are supporters of Kew, sponsoring the fine lake crossing opened in their name in 2006.

Rob Snook plans to move to Spain to set up his own horticultural business. Rob has recently completed a course on how to teach English to foreign speakers and will use teaching revenue to support himself in the short term.

Falkland Little will be joining the landscape designers and gardeners, Sallis Chandler, to do landscape construction. John Sallis Chandler is a Kew Diploma graduate who teaches the present landscape detailing course.

Silvia Villegas will be returning to Spain, but not as originally planned to her native haunts in Almería. Instead she will be helping Dr Gonzalo Nieto improve the biodiversity of the collections at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Madrid.

We wish them all good luck.

Finally, on behalf of the whole organisation, I must thank all of Course 42 for the immense contribution that each of you has made 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 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 inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life.'

Now, to the prizes themselves – I would like to invite our Guest of Honour, Nigel Brown, 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 Credit
EDDIE CADWALLENDER

The Kew Diploma with Credit
JIM HANDLEY

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;

The Donald Dring and Gilbert Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees in memory of the former Kew mycologist, Donald Dring, 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 Kew Diploma with Honours

DANIEL HAYNES

Life Membership of the Students' Union, for services rendered as its representative over the past 3 years;

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

The Kew Diploma with Credit

PAUL HELEINE

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, also to the top student;

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

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 Nigel Hepper Cup, presented by the 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 Plant Identification Tests Prize given by the Kew Gardens Student's Union;

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

A Special Award, of a complete set of William Watson's 1925 'The Gardener's Assistant' donated by Greg Redwood, Head of Great Glasshouses and Training, to the first student ever to gain a 100% perfect score in plant identification over the three years of the Course;

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

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

The Prize for the best vegetable plot, that is for obtaining the highest marks in that project;

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

KATRINE HERIAN

The Squires Garden Centre Prize, donated by the family firm of garden centres, and we are pleased to have Colin Squire here in the audience today, for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final year landscape design project;

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Vocational Award is donated by the Kew Rotary Club's Community Service Chairman, Chris Langley, to the student who has done most for charity in the community at large;

The Kew Diploma with Honours

MIRANDA KIMBERLEY

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

DAN LEIGHTON

The Kew Diploma with Credit

SIMON RICE

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

The Kew Diploma with Credit

PAUL SADLER

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

The Kew Diploma with Credit

ROB SNOOK

The Kew Diploma with Credit

FALKLAND [VANS] LITTLE

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

Life Membership of the Students' Union, for services rendered as a representative over the past 3 years;

The Kew Diploma with Honours

SILVIA VILLEGAS

The International Plant Propagators Society Award, one year's free membership of the society to the student who has been outstanding in plant propagation;

The Kew Diploma with Honours

EMILY WATERS

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

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is 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. Here, for the benefit of those in the audience who are not familiar with the Kew Mutual I should explain that this society was established in 1871 and is open to Kew staff, students and the public. Meetings are held on Monday evenings during the autumn/winter period each year and are organised by the Kew Diploma students. This year's joint winners of the Cup are

DIANA CHURCH and **JOHN PALLETT**

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. The Margolas Study Tour Award, provided by the Margolas Trust in recognition of the conservation value of a project, this year awarded for a Travel Scholarship Proposal 'to study Sustainable Cultivation and Conservation of High Altitude Medicinal Plants in Bhutan'. All of these are awarded to second year student

JANE GLEESON

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 have been kindly donated each year by Mr Dalziel who lives in Florida. The recipients are

SAMANTHA HARVEY for her Travel Scholarship Proposal to study 'Practical Horticultural Training within the Amenity Sector'

And to the following who are unable to be present today:

AUDE DE LIEDEKERKE for her Travel Scholarship to study 'Green Roofs in the UK to research the potential opportunities for the Horticulturist'

SANDRA KING for her Travel Scholarship Proposal to Peru to study 'Habitat Restoration and Sustainable Use of Southern Peruvian Dry Forest'

SCOTT TAYLOR for his Travel Scholarship proposal to Brazil to study 'The Bromeliaceae Family'.

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

EMMA CRAWFORTH

The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology is awarded to the student obtaining the highest marks in this subject in the first year.

TIM STRETTON

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 **NICK JOHNSON** who visited Montserrat helping to set up a propagation facility and **WES SHAW** who plans to study Palms on the Hawaiian Islands.

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 three principal Gardens sections, namely the Great Glasshouses, the Arboretum and Hardy Display, spending a year in each.

The Certificate of Training in Botanical Horticulture with Merit

KATH MOSS

NICOLA WILKINS

The Certificate of Training in Botanical Horticulture

FRAN CULVERHOUSE

MICHEL POUGET

That concludes the horticultural awards.

This year we have a special presentation to make, the Marsh Botany Award. I would now like to call Brian Marsh to the podium to make this award.

[Citation for Marsh Botany Award for 2006 read by Nigel Taylor:]

"Nick Stewart is a colossus of the plant world, straddling both the worlds of traditional botany (taxonomy, recording, field study) and plant conservation. He is a familiar figure in a range of botanical activities but is undoubtedly best known for his work on Stoneworts. Both in his spare time and while working on behalf of organisations such as Plantlife, Natural England, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, the Countryside Council for Wales, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Environment Agency, Nick has seemingly scoured every lake and lagoon in the land, and can fairly claim to be the leading expert on this group in the country. Amongst other publications, he was the principle author of the Red Data Book for Stoneworts, and in 2004 he distilled his exceptional knowledge on the group in a site-based report for Plantlife on 'Important Stonewort Areas'. With these alone, Nick has made an extraordinary personal contribution to the nation's response to the Plant Diversity Challenge, and towards the achievement of the UK's Target 2 in particular. But while his expertise is widely appreciated, what should also be recognised is the enthusiasm with which he continues to pass on his skills to others".

The Marsh Botany Award
NICK STEWART

Nigel Brown, Curator of Treborth Botanic Garden, University of Wales Bangor, gave his address at this point. He commented how overawed he was by Kew. With no notes, he mentioned how impressed he and his wife Caroline were with the warm welcome they had received today. He wished to instil inspiration to the outgoing students. He talked of his contact with horticulture through his job, where he still waters, mows and lectures, and stressed the importance of fieldwork. He congratulated all students who were at the start of their great horticultural careers – they should never be complacent and mentioned that all students have different skills and are able to give of their unique areas of expertise. He urged them to keep in touch with their mentors in the audience.

Lord Selborne congratulated Martin Staniforth for standing in as Principal of the School of Horticulture during Emma Fox's maternity leave and thanked Nigel Brown for his inspirational address.

Outgoing student Daniel Haynes gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the students:

'People attach a lot of importance to numbers. There are 13 people on Course 42 of the Kew Diploma in Horticulture. 13 is a 'difficult' number. It brings misfortune and bad luck. It's probably something to do with the alignment of the stars, the planets.

But in 'Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' Douglas Adams wrote that 42 was the answer to "Life, the Universe and Everything". The universe is quite big but so is Kew, and to many people, Kew is a self-contained universe, governed by a cruel, senseless and malevolent God. Let's call it Defra.

Why would 13 people enter such a universe? What did we want? Did we think that we'd end the course knowing about "Life, the Universe and Everything"? Well... we can probably tell you about Mendel's peas, bacterial canker and Koch's Postulates. I can't remember what Koch's Postulates are myself... but they sound great.

Maybe we just wanted letters after our name. To get those letters we've been prodded, poked, examined and measured. We've jumped through plenty of burning hoops, frying pans and fires. Really, our lives have been colonised. We've been ruled by numbers. Every 2 weeks, we've learned the names of 40 plants. 22 tests in each of the 3 years. 66 tests. 2640 plants, or thereabouts. Apparently the human brain has the ability to absorb 3000 botanical plant names, so we must be nearing capacity. We've obsessed over word counts, points and percentages.

You could say we've been focused, or you *could* say we've been blinkered. Sometimes we've lifted the blinkers to notice a universe beyond the garden walls. Jim Handley married Jo. Jim and Jo begat Francesca. Paul Sadler and Pil begat Lawrence. It's all very Old Testament. No-one else begat anybody, but it wasn't always for the want of trying. When we weren't siring offspring, we were still putting ourselves about...

We went to Spain. We swam in Lake Constance. Between us we saw California, Ecuador, the Seychelles, St Helena and Barnes Wetland Centre. Katrine Herian became travel sick, and vomited copiously into a Welsh hedge. But she vomited with poise.

Dan Leighton ran a fever in Vietnam and had his whole body rubbed with raw ginger. Maybe that was a novelty for him. Maybe it wasn't.

Emily Waters did many things. The thing you really need to know about Emily is that she once ate a raw lamb chop for a bet.

When Simon Rice isn't attending royal weddings, he's hatching a scheme. Simon beat off stiff competition to work at Tresco Abbey Gardens for 2 weeks. During that time he appeared on television in full Edwardian costume. He also wrote a dissertation on climate change...

Climate change. Deforestation. Depletion of green spaces. Not just in South America, or Madagascar, but here in England. The main reason for this is that, during the course, Eddie Cadwallender covered most of England in decking. You've got to earn the pennies somehow. Rob Snook is a ridiculously gifted pianist and accordion player. So, he's also had a source of extra income. And you need that at Kew. Even the Curator has a paper round.

Endless, endless reams of paper on the Kew Diploma. Photocopies, handouts, notes, revision notes. Our homes are littered with mountains of paper. But we shouldn't throw it away now the course is finished. That paper contains the knowledge we've been bombarded with for 3 years. Many Diploma graduates still consult their course notes when faking expertise in the workplace.

Soon, Falkland will be helping build gardens for one of his posh clients in West London, and they'll ask him "what kind of soil do I have?" And Falkland will say, "well lady, what you have here is your classic loam, which offers a balance of water retention and air-filled porosity. It's all about the particles."

Half the battle is sounding like you know what you're talking about.

This won't be a problem for Miranda Kimberley. Miranda will dazzle the guests at the next Horticulture Week finger buffet with her plant knowledge and impossible glamour.

Paul Helcine Learning Machine won't need to look at his notes, as they're already committed to his memory banks. Take apart the mobile phone in your pocket. Chances are, at least part of the internal workings will have been designed by Paul when he was an engineer. But Paul knows you can't engineer everything in life. There will always be unpredictable natural phenomena...

...like Silvia Villegas. Have the Met Office warned Madrid that Hurricane Silvia is on her way? Whatever, they'll be lucky to have her.

So has the number 13 brought us misfortune and bad luck? Or is 42 more significant? There's no question being here has changed our lives. But not just 13 lives. The Diploma fans out and sucks in partners, friends, families. When you're on a mission to build a career you can be a real pain in the arse to live with. We must all have apologies to make and owe a huge debt of gratitude to many people. Yes, we've been prodded and poked, but we've also been supported and encouraged. We've been fortunate to work with some fantastic people around the gardens, and some of them are graduating from the rotational

scheme today. We've spent much of our time in the School of Horticulture. Pam, Judy, Barbara, Emma, Rowan, Martin, Ian, Greg... many people around Kew have helped us hobble to graduation day. What a task they've had. And what an amazing opportunity we've had.

Some of us might be in for a nasty shock when we leave. We'll dig up a dead plant, but there won't necessarily be a skip to put it in. Will a man appear out of nowhere on a tractor, and take it away? Will it be turned into compost that can be used to grow its replacement? Possibly not.

If we want to know about legume systematics, will there be a world authority on the subject 5 minutes away, willing to help us? Probably not.

And what on earth do we do when we're in the middle of nowhere, and we find a plant that doesn't have an identification label? Who knows. Hopefully, we'll take all these things in our stride.

But no, misfortune and bad luck are the wrong words. Excitement, adventure... Life, the Universe and Everything. That's a bit more like it.

So... you've heard all of this, and I can tell you want to apply for the Kew Diploma. By all means, fill out an application. You've got until the 31st of January. But think ahead a few years...

It's 4am. You're Deadline Surfing. You've got 2 hours to finish your dissertation. The floor is strewn with screwed up, tear-stained bits of paper and clumps – large clumps – of your own hair. You're about to insert 3 valium suppositories.

Is that really, *really* what you want? Thank you.'



GRAHAM ALDERTON
4391

KATE BLYTH
4393

MARK COX
4394

JESS EVANS
4161



SARAH HODGES
4395

PATRICK KEOUGH
4396

CHRISTEL LAGIER
4387

FELIX MERKLINGER
4257



JOE ROBBINS
4129

NEIL SLEDDON
4389

CHLOE SUTCLIFFE
4392

DAVID WALLBRIDGE
4390



JON WOOD
4388

COURSE 45



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4390



JON WOOD
4388

COURSE 45

INCOMING STUDENT PROFILES, KEW DIPLOMA COURSE 45

Graham Alderton

- Education:** 5 x GCEs; City & Guild in Communication; National Certificate in Horticulture; PA1 and PA6 in spraying.
- Employment:** Trainee Botanical Horticulturist, University of Oxford; Gardener, Zeals House, Wiltshire; Nursery Worker, Sandiacre Nursery, Surrey.
- General Information:** Graham hopes to continue working within the environments of a botanical garden as the work carried out within such places is of great importance.

Kate Blyth

- Education:** 10 x GCSEs; 2 x AS Levels; 2 x A Levels; RHS General Certificate in Horticulture.
- Employment:** Nursery Worker, Mercaston Tree Company Ltd., Derbyshire; Receptionist/Admin at Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. Sales and Administration Assistant, Bell Plantation Garden Centre, Northants.
- General Information:** Kate feels that the experience she already has will be a good base from which to continue her education in a subject that she feels passionate about. The broad-based training offered on the Kew Diploma would be a foundation on which to build a career in horticulture and give her the direction to specialise in a particular aspect of it.

Mark Cox

- Education:** 12 x GCSEs; 4 x A Levels; BA (Hons) Geography; RHS General
- Employment:** Self employed freelance garden design and maintenance; Horticultural student at Ness Botanic Garden, Cheshire; Intern Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- General Information:** In the 3 months spent at Kew as an intern, Mark was exposed briefly to the work being undertaken at the Jodrell Laboratory on the reclassification of plant families according to DNA, and also with the work Kew is undertaking on global plant conservation. Both subjects could be possible future careers, or could be fascinating steps along the way to becoming a head gardener/curator.

Jess Evans

- Education:** 11 x GCSEs; 4 x A Levels; RHS Level 2.
- Employment:** Rotational Trainee, RBG Kew; Gardener/Nanny, Winchester; Gardener, Mike Drewe, Devon.
- General Information:** As Jess has been successful in gaining a place on the Kew Diploma, she would like to develop and build her knowledge and experience in all areas of horticulture with a view to focusing on increasing her science and plant knowledge, including names, and horticulture skills. The Kew Diploma would give her the best

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foundation she could ask for to follow the career she wishes to follow when she graduates.

Sarah Hodges

Education:

11 x O Levels; 3 x A Levels; BA French and Hispanic studies; BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture with garden design.

Employment:

Horticultural Trainee, Chelsea Physic Garden, London; Horticultural Intern, Oxford Botanic Garden, Oxford; Student Intern, RHS Garden Rosemoor, Devon.

General Information:

Sarah's goal when setting out on a new career path was to more closely align what she was passionately interested in with a fulfilling career. Her ambition is to become an expert plantswoman. Upon completing the Kew Diploma her ultimate aim is to secure a senior position within a botanic garden, possibly one overseas.

Patrick Keough

Education:

High School Diploma, USA; Associates Degree in Specialized Technology, The Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades.

Employment:

Manager, My Personal Gardener, Atlanta; Supervisor, The Brickman Group, New Jersey; Landscape Construction Crew; Hertzog Associates Ltd, New Jersey.

General Information:

Patrick says "Furthering my education was always one of my goals. I believe I have great potential and I would like the opportunity to display my talents. Learning at Kew will allow me to advance both professionally and personally. The opportunity to learn at Kew will give me the training I require to achieve these goals. Working and living in another country will open my eyes and give me a better understanding of the world around me."

Christel Lagier

Education:

Baccalauréat in Science and Mathematics, France; Degree in Commerce with Finance Specialization; Cisco Certified Network Associate; RHS Advanced Certificate in Horticulture (ongoing); NVQ Level 1 in Horticulture, RHS Level 2 General Certificate in Horticulture; NCFE Hedge laying Level 1.

Employment:

Horticultural Trainee, Chelsea Physic Garden; Gardener, Kensington Palace; Student Intern, RBG Kew; Telecom and Networking Engineer, Cap Gemini Ernst & Young, France.

General Information:

Christel feels that botanic gardens can help play a wider role in the community. She is keen to participate in what are ultimately the main aims of botanic gardens - conservation, research and education. She feels strongly about the need to raise public awareness of the value of plant diversity, and of the importance of plants in our everyday life. Botanic gardens, and the Kew Diploma are certainly the best ways for her to pursue these goals.

Felix Merklinger

Education:

3 x GCSEs; 5 x A Levels; RHS Level 2.

- Employment:** Work experience in Mainau, Germany; horticultural work, maintenance contractors, Germany; Palm House, RBG Kew; internship at RBG Kew.
- General Information:** In a world that undergoes immensely fast changes, Felix hopes for the chance to work in areas that are evolution hotspots – areas with extreme conditions where plants and other organisms have to adapt quickly to survive. Felix would like to study plants in such areas, as that is where evolution happens.

Joe Robbins

- Education:** 9 x GCSEs; GNVQ in IT; RHS General; PA1 and PA6 AW Pesticide applications cert.
- Employment:** Rotational Trainee, RBG Kew.
- General Information:** Joe would ultimately like to work in a botanic garden environment where a key role is to educate horticulturists of tomorrow. Ideally his career would allow him to remain in close contact with plants, to allow him to increase his knowledge and understanding of plants, and also spend a large proportion of time passing knowledge to others to ensure that we have well trained horticulturists to look after collections in the future.

Neil Sleddon

- Education:** 9 x GCEs; 3 x A Levels; Certificate for Racecourse Groundsmen, Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced; PA1 and PA6 use of pesticides.
- Employment:** Gardener for Beech Hurst Gardens, Haywards Heath; Gardener, Brighton Borough Council; Seasonal Groundsman, Brighton Racecourse, Brighton.
- General Information:** Joe says “the ultimate objective of this period would be to arm me with the knowledge, skills and experience to then go on and become involved in the management of large scale projects. Although possibly someday in the future, I believe I would favour a new start project, whether a remedial operation akin to Heligan, creation of new landscapes or a conservation project based on the local landscape. My main reason for preferring this direction to an established project is the opportunity for personal creative input”.

Chloe Sutcliffe

- Education:** 9 x GCSEs; 3 x A Levels; BsocSci (Hons) Social Anthropology; MSc Anthropology and Ecology of Development; RHS Certificate Level 2; RHS Certificate Level 3 (ongoing).
- Employment:** Student Gardener, Henry Doubleday Research Association and Yalding Organic Gardens, Kent; Gardener, private employer; Horticultural intern, Chelsea Physic Garden, London.
- General Information:** Chloe says “I chose to pursue a career in horticulture because I wanted a vocation, rather than a job. Working in horticulture I am constantly learning new things, and my interest will never be one that is relegated to my working hours. The choices I have made, and will continue to make, about the sort of work I want to do are

motivated by a desire to enjoy myself, learn more about the world, and, as much as I can, to have a positive impact in it".

David Wallbridge

- Education:** 10 x GCSEs; 3 x AS Levels; National Diploma in Horticulture; RHS Level 3 Advanced Cert.; RHS Level 2 General Certificate. PA1 and PA6 in spraying.
- Employment:** Garden Centre Assistant, Wyevale Garden Centre, Dorset; Gardener, Pete Reay Beautiful Gardens, Dorset.
- General Information:** David's passion for horticulture began at quite a young age, when he finished landscaping his parents' garden when the local gardener couldn't continue because of a back injury. He enjoyed every second of it and was very pleased with the end result, as were his parents. He went on to study horticulture at Kingston Maurward College, and to work in a garden centre. In recent months he has begun to feel that his current job has become routine, and would like the opportunity to further develop his skills and vastly increase his knowledge of horticulture, which he will be able to do at Kew.

Jon Wood

- Education:** 9 x GCSEs; BTEC National Diploma in Graphic Design; BA(Hons) Graphic Design; NVQ Level 2 Amenity Horticulture; RHS Level 2 General Certificate; PA1 & PA6
- Employment:** Gardener, private garden in Wardington; Trainee Gardener, The National Trust's Hidcote Manor Gardens, Chipping Campden.
- General Information:** Throughout his career Jonathan hopes to continue learning as much as he can and has realised that it is necessary to make the most of the many sources of expertise and information available. As the next step in his career, the Kew Diploma would be a fantastic opportunity for Jonathan to further develop his interest in working with diverse plant collections and varied landscapes and in helping stimulate other gardeners and visitors.

No report was received of the Students' Union activities during 2007.

KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, 19TH MAY

by Pamela Holt, with added commentary and photos from Richard Ward

A fine evening enabled reception drinks to be served on the Orangery terrace for this social occasion where 66 diners attended, 11 of whom were students and their partners.

Master of Ceremonies Richard Ward called diners to their seats before announcing our President Tom Risely and his daughter Kate. Principal guest and new Director Professor Stephen Hopper and his wife Chris, joined President Elect Rebecca Bower and Kew Guild student representative Lisa Campbell on the top table.

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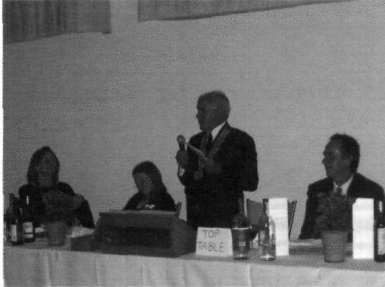
Master of Ceremonies Richard Ward called diners to their seats before announcing our President Tom Risely and his daughter Kate. Principal guest and new Director Professor Stephen Hopper and his wife Chris, joined President Elect Rebecca Bower and Kew Guild student representative Lisa Campbell on the top table.

During an excellent meal, several students passed among the guests selling raffle tickets to raise money for the annual study trip to Spain. A splendid array of prizes occupied a large table along with a laptop showing previous student study tours.

Allen Paterson (right) proposed a toast to the President after a witty reminiscence of student days with Tom, be it on the back of a motorbike, or botanising, concluding with descriptions of Tom's fine examples of landscape work in the Middle East or the golf course created in Spain.



Tom Risely (below) then responded and spoke of his vision for Kew Guild. For many years Kew Gardens trained apprentices from the parks or Kew students went on to a career in the parks. Membership has not increased lately, perhaps seen by some as more of a social club, and yet there is so much that could be done to widen its appeal. The Guild could swell membership through offering apprenticeships to overseas students notably from Morocco, Palestine or the Lebanon where the opportunity to train in one of the world's leading Botanic Gardens could be very beneficial. Tom also spoke of the state gardens in the USA, where a six-month working placement could be balanced with an internship at Kew. The Guild is certainly being given prominence with its influential design of the new student vegetable plots due to be completed in 2008.



Next, Professor Stephen Hopper (above, right of photo) spoke of his delight in being given the directorship and all the new experiences, particularly early morning strolls through the Gardens. Two sons were left in Perth, but his daughter and wife Chris came with him. The Director confessed that his wife is the gardener whereas his interests lean towards biological fieldwork and conservation.

One of his first tasks was speaking with staff and students to tease out their feelings on plant management and climate change to produce Kew's Mission: Inspire and deliver Science based Plant conservation Worldwide.



The Director is optimistic that people in urban environments can be inspired with living plants. Over the next ten years significant carbon emission reduction can be obtained by growing plants.

The President then announced that there were two recipients for the George Brown Award and jointly bestowed the certificate to Allan and Joan Hart in recognition of over 50 years of service to the Guild (left). Whilst Allan's work with the Kew Guild

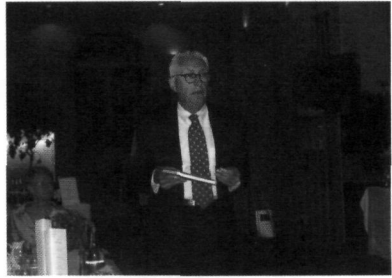
Award Scheme and Committee work was recognised, Joan had played an unofficial role in providing hospitality for numerous Guild social events.

Allan Hart is an award-winning Chartered Landscape Architect and a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture. He has served the Kew Guild for many years in a number of positions, including that of President (2002/3). Currently, he chairs the Awards Committee.

Allan is a quiet, reserved man not given to self-promotion, but he is a consummate diplomat and communicator who, throughout a long career, has reconciled the conflicting demands of commerce and design to produce award-winning results. His unobtrusive skills were immensely beneficial to the Guild during his Presidency, particularly in relation to the ongoing process of innovation and reform. Latterly his gifts have helped to pull together the various interests involved in the development of the Guild vegetable garden project.

Joan Hart (Associate Member of the Guild) is a co-nominee for this award because she has been an inspiration and guide to Allan over many years, and a staunch supporter of the Guild's mission. It is hard to imagine how Allan could have put so much into the Guild without her help and wise counsel.

Honorary Membership of the Guild was awarded to Dennis McGlade (right), a Landscape designer of considerable merit. He had worked in Barcelona with Tom and searched for plants with him. Dennis received his membership as an incredible honour and spoke of the high regard held worldwide for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.



Student Union representative Lisa Campbell (below, standing) introduced her fellow students and proposed a toast to 'absent friends'. A bouquet was presented to the Director's wife Chris and another to Tom's daughter Kate. Richard Ward auctioned the larger prizes with the Director entering with gusto, successfully bidding for a Photinia and his wife a Box plant, whilst a Cricket Bat signed by the 1st division of Surrey Cricket Club went for £60 to President Elect Rebecca Bower and membership of Friends of Kew for two adults went to Allan Patterson. The raffle and auction raised a total of £388 towards the students' annual study trip to Spain.



KEW GUILD EVENTS 2007 – Date Order

by Pamela Holt, Honorary Events Officer

Liverpool Weekend, 7th and 8th July

Saturday

At the entrance to the restored Victorian walled garden within Croxteth Hall and Country Park, President Tom Risely explained to the dozen assembled members how the Liverpool Botanical Collection was established at a time of great prosperity for the city. Much of this collection is now housed in the glasshouse range with teak houses, stove house and forcing pits. A wide variety of tropical plants including a collection of bromeliads and the National collection of fuchsia; conservatory plants such as coleus, selected cultivars of solenostemon, pelargoniums and cactus are also on display. The orchid collection originally started by William Roscoe in 1802 is housed here. This collection will play a starring role in the European Capital of Culture programme and Liverpool's Biennial both starting in 2008.

Several educational displays detail compost trials, herbs, vegetable plots and a mushroom house. Tom pointed out the chimneys and flues of the heated walls, which provide ideal growing conditions for fan trained peaches. Other fruit trees are beautifully trained into goblet shapes. Annual and herbaceous borders provide ample nectar and pollen for the observation hives of honeybees. Grape vines and other fruit may be found in lean-to glasshouses by the entrance. This Grade II listed park received generous support from the Heritage Lottery fund.

The group then made their way into Liverpool city centre to enjoy an al fresco lunch in the bright sunshine, before meeting John Edmundson, Curator of the Herbarium at the World Museum. This is a hidden gem beyond the public galleries containing many wood artefacts, seeds, and rare herbarium voucher specimens. Some of the collections are unique to Liverpool. It was a privilege to be able to view these privately. Thanks go to John for treating the Kew Guild to a fascinating and insightful tour of this eclectic collection.

Sunday

The University of Liverpool Botanic Garden at Ness, South Wirral, was founded in 1898 by Arthur Bulley, a Liverpool cotton broker with an insatiable appetite for unusual plants. Not only did he found Bees Seeds Ltd. but also sponsored plant hunters to scour the temperate regions of the far east for plants and seeds which could be cultivated in the British climate.

George Forrest was the first beneficiary in 1904, then Frank Kingdom Ward in 1911. After Bulley's death, his daughter presented the garden and an endowment to the University of Liverpool for a Botanic Garden with the proviso that at least part of the garden should remain accessible to the general public.

Dr. Hugh McAllister kindly gave a fascinating morning tour of the garden where Guild members were able to view the first *Pieris forrestii* introduction to the UK along with many notable trees, especially clones which do well here. From the Arboretum, rock garden and herbaceous sections to the ground cover and shrub areas, Hugh was able to describe the background to their introduction and cultivation techniques. Fortunately the

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heavy downpour came at the end of the tour and the visit concluded with lunch in the spacious new visitor centre café with its green roof.

The afternoon was spent at Port Sunlight, a 19th Century garden village founded in 1888 by William Hesketh Lever for his soap factory workers. The village consists of over 900 Grade II listed buildings and one of the finest war memorials outside of London.

Most spent several hours in the Lady Lever Art Gallery, home to the extensive personal collection of its founder William Hesketh Lever, the first Lord Leverhulme, as a memorial to his wife. A fitting end to a fascinating weekend.

North Norfolk Weekend, 26th and 27th May

Saturday

The weekend began at Framingham Arboretum with twenty Guild members, partners and friends for a personally conducted tour with John Simmons.

This private arboretum, owned by Sir Timothy Coleman, contains many fine and rare specimens and with splendid views from the summerhouse across the Norfolk countryside. Once a year John advises the owner on the running of this tranquil site and has prepared a lovely self-guided trail pamphlet. I found this particularly useful being held up in traffic queues near Thetford, arriving as folk were departing for lunch!

Late afternoon saw all assembled at Roamer House, Gresham where the Simmons family dispensed tea while everyone chatted. This was then followed by an informal tour of John and Val's retirement home garden pointing out interesting specimens of note, many acquired on his travels over the years. The day was rounded off with a delicious evening buffet in the relaxed atmosphere of their home.

Sunday

On a dry but grey morning John introduced the group to Keith Zealand, who manages one of the country's least changed Repton landscaped garden, Sheringham Park. This National Trust property acquired through various bequests ensured that the Upcher family estate, purchased in 1811, is well looked after. Humphrey Repton carefully designed the park and gardens taking advantage of the topography to site the house in a protected position from the winter gales coming off the North Sea. Henry Morris Upcher who inherited the estate in 1892 was a keen plantsman obtaining seed from Ernest Wilson's expeditions. His son Thomas took over in 1951 and greatly extended the Rhododendron collection, which numbered 65 species and hundreds of named cultivars. As the predicted wind and rain began, the group remained indifferent to the weather within the sheltered 20 hectares of specimen trees and rhododendrons.

Going on to East Rushton after lunch the Old Vicarage gardens did not disappoint despite the increasing wind and rain. We were able to meet both owners Alan Grey and Graham Robeson who played a pivotal role in creating a spectacular garden from several fields. In fact it is a series of gardens or rooms, each displaying a different garden style and planting. Close to the house is the sunken garden, a walled court, Dutch garden, and the Kings walk moving out to the Mediterranean garden, long borders, Apple walk and Exotic garden to name just a few. Dubbed 'The unstoppable gardeners' by Christopher

Lloyd there are still more areas to develop. A good plant sales area and fine tearoom makes this a worthwhile visit.

Some folk stayed on over the Bank holiday visiting Felbrigg Hall, Blickling Hall, Mannington Hall or Stody Lodge although the weather was appalling!

The Kew Guild are indebted to John Simmons' organisation, hospitality and personal touch for making this a memorable visit to Norfolk.

AGM Weekend in Sussex, 1st and 2nd September

Saturday

Many Kew Guild members took advantage of the fine weather to wander around the gardens at Wakehurst Place prior to the AGM in the mansion.

Tea and biscuits were served afterwards by Jan Collins, assisted by Pamela Holt. This was followed by a leisurely stroll along the garden paths with David Hardman, who introduced the group to Steve Robinson, warden of the Loder Valley Nature reserve.

Only fifty people per day are allowed in this 150-acre fenced off area. Wakehurst is the first Botanic Garden in the world to have its own Nature Reserve, which together with its sheep farming is considered a shop window for Defra.

The High Weald area with its deep valleys and streams provides a variety of habitats, from open meadow managed to allow species diversity, hazel coppice with its dormice and a plantation to provide wood products for the estate, to the sandstone outcrops covered in Bryophytes on the Francis Rose reserve.

As the path became steeper those who wished took their leave, whilst the intrepid majority accompanied Steve into the reserve. We were rewarded by hearing the Blackcap, whilst listening to a description of how the Hazel coppice is managed on a 10-year rotation. This produces beanpoles and material for the famous charcoal 'Barbekew'.

Coppice systems have evolved over thousands of years giving rise to specialised habitats and environments for wild life and associated plants. Despite fencing, deer present a problem by browsing, which in turn affects breeding birds.

Whilst admiring the meadow with its diverse Flora, Steve explained how he is learning new skills for this traditionally managed area. Using reciprocating mowers and other equipment to make mini bales, he then feeds the home-grown hay to the sheep in winter.

By the end of the afternoon, the fading light added to the air of otherworldliness and primeval atmosphere in the Francis Rose reserve where non-intervention is paramount. Here we examined the wonderful array of cryptograms covering the strangely shaped absorbent sandstone outcrops.

The day concluded with conviviality over a delicious evening meal arranged by David Hardman at the Ardingly Inn.

Sunday

A warm sunny morning greeted members who assembled at the National Trust property Sheffield Park, where volunteer steward Cecil explained that an early house here was mentioned in Doomsday book. Baker Holrode, the first Earl of Sheffield, employed Capability Brown to landscape the grounds and create two lakes from the stream. Vistas maximised views from the house to take in Fletchling church spire. However it was the third Earl who was responsible for most of the planting seen today, for example, sequoiadendron, nyssa, and rhododendron. He also developed the lakes adding the bridge in 1876, which has been undergoing restoration. Pulhamite rock is seen here too, created by a process known only to the family firm.

Arthur Soames bought the estate in 1910 and was responsible for the planting of an avenue of *Trachycarpus fortunei* to represent the aisle in Westminster Abbey, on the occasion of the coronation of George V. Five years ago most of these plants in 'Palm Avenue' were replaced following vandalism.

Head Gardener Andrew Jesson joined the group later, drawing our attention to some champion trees, notably *Pinus montezuma*, and *Quercus canariensis*. One Oak has a noctule bat roost – 47 being counted on one occasion! Much discussion took place on tree care and the conflict on managing the grounds for the general public benefit.

During the 1987 storm 2,032 trees were lost. Prior to this it took two gardeners two days to mow the grass. Now it takes them a week! This has opened up new vistas and opportunities for fresh planting particularly of new introductions from China and of course *Wollemia nobilis*!

After the vote of thanks many took their leave, sought lunch or visited the Bluebell Line, which is close by.

The McLaren Technology Centre visit, Saturday 15th September by Tom Wood

The innovative modern building designed by Sir Norman Foster, which houses the Corporate and Production headquarters of the McLaren Group, lies discreetly hidden in a new, totally artificial landscaped park just north of Woking.

On a perfect, bright September morning our select and enthusiastic group assembled in the designated and spacious visitor parking, among the well-established plantings of *Betula utilis* and *Pinus sylvestris* that gave cover and a feeling of seclusion (see photo).

We were greeted by Richard Davies, the Operations Manager of Willerby Landscapes Ltd, and gently ushered to the yet unseen main operations building. Our route through mature formal planting led us up and over a new landform to an aerial pedestrian walkway at the top level of the gleaming steel complex, above the main service entrance boulevard. Descending within to the ground floor and then by various passages through a series of workshops, we proceeded to the spacious main visitor reception, hospitality and display atrium with its lofty curving glass outer wall, which presented an unbroken panoramic view across the main ornamental lake to the open parkland and the contoured banking of the raised landform. At its base a tapering rill supplied a gentle continuous curtain of cascading of water for the whole length of the lake – an enchanting feature.



© Mike Clift

The reception atrium houses an impressive collection of winning racing cars, from the earliest small McLaren to the most recent Formula One models, each personalised for their respective famous drivers. There is a very long corridor displaying the glittering prizes of a dedicated and successful team. Glass cases banked from floor to ceiling bulge with every trophy from the motor racing world – we wandered freely indulging our senses in this unique collection!

Regrouping over excellent coffee in the state of the art hospitality area, Richard formally welcomed us to McLaren and gave a potted history of the company and some facts about the centre with particular reference to the exacting landscape requirements. The Building and the Site – growing (like Topsy), the group had occupied various and numerous premises scattered around Woking – the Centre, which stands in 62 hectares of Bonsey's Common, now accommodates them all under one roof in 60,000 square metres of floor space on a 20,000 square metre footprint.

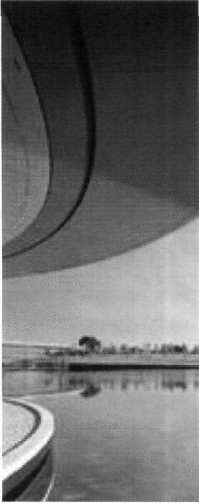
There was a planning height limitation of 11 metres above ground level, so the centre is sunk 16 metres below, with 5 working levels underground, and a maximum of 3 above, (the main atrium is a lofty single storey). 450,000 cubic metres of spoil was excavated and retained on site to create the main contoured landform. Much of the topsoil was re-constituted with composted green waste, which required artificial aeration and constant monitoring.

Terence O'Rourke were the Landscape Architects and Willerby Landscapes were awarded the Landscaping contract in the late 90's and co-ordinated a team of specialist suppliers into a procurement partnership to secure the plant material, and in many cases grow it on contract to meet the exacting specifications.

There are 100,000 trees planted on site. Many are semi-mature specimens for the formal plantings adjacent to the main building, with the remainder for shaws and screens blending with the natural woodland of Horsell Common.

The 30 hectares of wildflower meadows were established two years ahead of the main landscape, and provide habitat for a wide species range, including nesting skylarks and meadow pipit. There is a biodiversity plan, a Park Ranger continuously monitors flora and fauna and has recorded 24 species of butterflies!

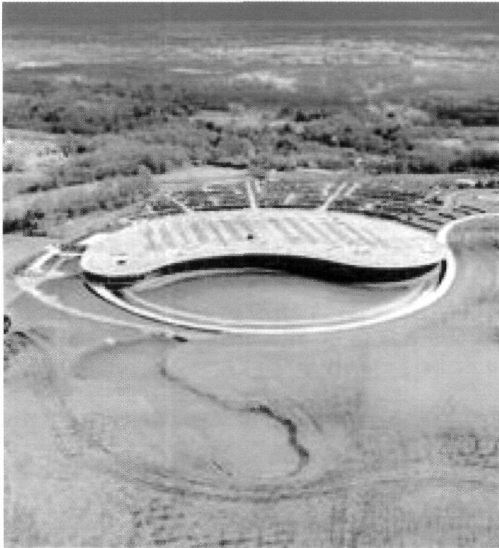
After a brief question and answer session, Richard introduced Cliffe Thorne, the Site Manager responsible for maintenance and development, who gave us a conducted tour of the complete site.



Emerging through the main entrance, we viewed the Ornamental lake and the five water features extending around two sides of the complex, graduating from the formal to the natural through a blend of static and moving aquatic plantings and reed beds with marginal sedges and ornamental grasses, to enhance the combined feature and an essential part of blending into the parkland.

Moving gently onward and upward past the Heliport we reached the top of the landform, with open meadows and parkland sweeping away to the common and giving panoramic views of the Surrey countryside, which can be enjoyed by all, as there are well maintained paths for public access. There are dense structural plantings of native trees, including *Betula pendula*, *Acer campestre*, *Salix caprea* and *Pinus sylvestris*, with *Corylus avellana*, *Cornus sanguinea* and rose species understory to screen the farms and dwellings on the boundaries of the parkland, whilst blending into the original common land.

Photographs by courtesy of McLaren



This is the only viewing point where the design features of the whole complex can be fully appreciated due to the effective mature screening. We then admired the formal landscape plantings. The main feature is a bold avenue of established semi-mature *Corylus colurna*, the Turkish Hazel, giving a regular and upright feature that defines and dominates the entrance and approach to the centre, and is flanked by supporting mature plantings in concentric rings contoured over the raised landform to screen, and also enhance the utilities of access and parking. *Acer platanoides*, *Betula utilis* together with *Pinus sylvestris*, *Aesculus*, *Quercus* and *Tilia*, some with ground covers of *Prunus* 'Otto Luyken' and *Hedera*, and others with finely manicured grass, cover the whole approach area.



Near the Entrance Boulevard, more colour had been introduced with *Malus tschonoskii*, *Cornus kousa chinensis*, *Prunus serrulata*, *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Sorbus aucuparia* and others, plus a variety of flowering shrubby understory.

Returning to the main entrance and reception we passed again the impressive water features, their sedges and grasses displaying the colourful fronds in the autumnal sunshine, and promoting considerable discussion on their relative merits. We indulged ourselves once more with a final and leisurely study of the car and trophy displays. In particular the BALI Premier Landscaping Award for 2005, won by Willerby Landscapes for the project, only a year after the official opening by Her Majesty the Queen.

As we left the complex and made our way back to the cars there was lively discussion on the unique nature of the project and all we had seen. Hard to believe we were visiting a motor production unit! So complete was the screening and seamless natural planting. We had learnt a great deal about teamwork, high standards and dedication to perfection and above all we had seen success. The meeting was a most enjoyable and enlightening experience. Our thanks are due to Richard, Cliffe and John Melmoe for their time and making it possible.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2007

by Allan Hart

The Award Scheme Sub-Committee for 2007

Allan Hart	Chairman
Marcella Corcoran	Hon. Secretary
Jennifer Alsop	Hon. Treasurer
Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Annabel Chantler, Emma Fox and Chris Kidd, with Lisa Campbell and Tim Stretton as student representatives.	

Stewart Henchie advises on the eligibility of all applicants, who must meet the basic criteria of having been a subscribing Guild member for at least twelve months.

The Fund available for allocation was £7,410, an increase of £670 over the 2006 figure. At the meeting held on 16th March 2007, £5,500 was to be allocated, with the remaining £1,900 left for distribution at the meeting to be held in July 2007.

Twelve applications were submitted and nine were successful – four students, two recent graduates and (most welcome) three older members.

Awards

Colin Hindmarch	£ 828.00	Redman
Susan Parker	£ 310.00	Turner



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	£ 20.00	Centenary
Lisa Campbell	£ 327.12	Redman
James Beattie	£ 770.00	Redman
Jane Gleeson*	£ 320.00	General
	£ 220.00	Arnold
	<u>£ 160.00</u>	Centenary
Total amount awarded	<u>£ 2,955.12</u>	

This total increased the amount available for distribution at the July meeting to £4,462.88.

*Jane was unable to obtain a visa to travel to Bhutan and returned the grant.

The meeting on 12th July 2007 approved the following awards:

Alison Scott-Brown	£ 370.00	General
James Cable	£ 800.00	General
Glyn Sherratt	£ 1,000.00	General
Vicky Whaley	£ 480.00	General
	<u>£ 470.00</u>	Redman
Total amount awarded	<u>£ 3,120.00</u>	

The remaining £1,334.88 was returned for investment in the General Fund.

Two applications from members of staff wishing to be part of a reconnaissance trip to Australia were rejected, as it was considered to be RBG core work and therefore should be funded by the RBG.

Another application from a staff member for Ph.D. fees was also rejected, as it was felt that the application was too open ended and the Award Scheme could not support a possible on-going request (four years) for further grants.

The Sub-Committee continues to review its Risk Assessment, and the letter to awardees, in addition to the requirement to submit a five hundred word account for the Journal, now requires the continuation of membership for a minimum period of five years.

Strenuous efforts have been made to call in outstanding reports, with only one now remaining.

The Ian Leese Memorial Fund, promoted by the School of Horticulture and administered by the Awards Scheme, now stands at £7,900 and we are grateful for ongoing received this year from Charles Funke and Ed and Brita Wolf. The Appeal for ongoing and further donations are welcome. Cheques to be made payable to "The Ian Leese Memorial Fund" and forwarded to Jennifer Alsop at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The Award Scheme is charged by the Kew Guild Main Committee to assess nominations and recommend appropriate nominations for the George Brown Memorial Award and Honorary Fellowships. It was with much embarrassment but great appreciation, that I found myself, together with my wife Joan, recommended for the George Brown Memorial Award! Honorary Fellowships were recommended for Dennis McGlade,

renowned American Landscape Architect, and Anna Pavord, distinguished author of horticultural classics, including 'The Tulip' and 'Naming of Names'.

This is my final report as Chairman, as I feel it is time to hand over the stewardship to a younger member, with more energy and ideas for improving the quality of service. I am delighted that David Barnes has agreed to accept the role of Chairman and I look forward to a continuing involvement with the Award Scheme under his guidance.

The Kew Guild is indebted to the sub-committee members, who continue to act in a dedicated and professional manner on its behalf. I would like to take this opportunity of adding my thanks and appreciation to all of the members who have served on the committee during my six-year term as Chairman.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO MONTSERRAT

by James Beattie



I was very excited to get my travel scholarship to Montserrat approved and to receive funding from the Kew Guild to make it possible. Montserrat is a UK overseas territory and is one of the islands that form part of the Lesser Antilles in the Caribbean. The island came very much into the public eye following the devastating volcanic eruptions that occurred from 1995-1997 that destroyed the capital, Plymouth. Many people evacuated the island, never to return to live. This saw the

population fall from around 11,000 to around 4,000 as it is today. Since the first eruptions the volcano has remained active, erupting and emitting large ash falls and has recently formed a new dome. During my visit all was quiet, with the volcano taking a rest, but the exclusion was still very much in place, making almost two thirds of the island out of bounds.

I went to Montserrat to become involved in a conservation programme in action, one which Kew has had a lot of input into, via Colin Clubbe and Martin Hamilton of Kew's Conservation Team and Stewart Henchie, The Kew Guild's Honorary Membership Secretary and Head of Hardy Display. My trip was run in conjunction with that of Stewart Henchie and I greatly valued working with Stewart on this trip. He was an endless source of information, from identifying plants in the wild to where best to eat!

The previous Botanic Garden, located in Plymouth, was all but destroyed by the volcanic eruptions, being buried in ash. However, it is possible that a large Cycad still survives there today. Today, a new Botanic Garden is taking shape on the island and this was the

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focus for my trip. It was my aim to help the Montserrat National Trust in their task of completing the Botanic Garden, so it can serve as an educational tool and can take a lead in plant conservation on the island. Part of this work included finishing the set up of the shade nursery and installing a misting unit.

Montserrat has two endemic plants on the island, an orchid called *Epidendrum montserratense* and *Rondeletia buxifolia* from the family Rubiaceae. There is a third endemic, *Xylosma serratum*, but this was only known from one location, which was destroyed by the volcano. I worked on collecting population data for these plants, but this proved very difficult with *E. montserratense*, as most known populations were in the exclusion zone. Some examples of these orchids existed in the Botanic Garden. I worked on these to clean them up from the dead, decaying and ash filled substrate they were growing on from when they had been rescued and tied them into mango trees in order to display them naturally. *R. buxifolia* proved more successful and I was able to obtain material for cuttings and set up the first vegetative propagation trials for this species in the newly finished misting unit.

Within the Botanic Garden, they are trying to recreate a naturally occurring seasonal ghaat (a water eroded gully), and part of my work with Stewart was heading off into the hills, guided by Mappie of the Montserrat National Trust, to research the typical plants found to provide a list for a planting plan. It was wonderful to explore this beautiful island on foot and see the range of plants growing here. Another highlight of the trip included a climb up Katy Hill, the highest peak of the island outside the volcano itself. Up high in the cloud-shrouded hills, the amazing Elfin Forest never ceased to amaze me despite the hard climb. The vast arrays of plants, particularly the epiphytic species, were wonderful. The views from the top were breathtaking; you could see all the coastline of this small island and truly view the vast scale of damage caused by the volcano.

My trip to Montserrat was a fantastic educational experience to a beautiful island and one I will not forget, so I would like to thank the Kew Guild for helping to make this trip possible.

THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS: THE DRY GARDEN – PRACTICE AND PHILOSOPHY

by Jim Cable

The Mediterranean Garden Society acts as a forum for those having a special interest in the plants and gardens of the Mediterranean climate regions of the world. From its inception it was multinational in composition and international in scope and reach.

The symposium was a fantastic opportunity, with generous sponsorship from the Kew Guild, to meet a wonderfully wide range of people. Exchanges of seed, skills and information were promised as the group forged new friendships. The symposium itself comprised a packed schedule of seminars, talks and visits, which, in a short report, is impossible to do justice to. Among many talented speakers we were honoured to have Heidi Gildemeister, who writes and lectures around the world to promote water-conserving gardening, Louisa Jones, author of 22 books on French gardens and food and Olivier Filippi who runs a Botanical Garden in the south of France.

focus for my trip. It was my aim to help the Montserrat National Trust in their task of completing the Botanic Garden, so it can serve as an educational tool and can take a lead in plant conservation on the island. Part of this work included finishing the set up of the shade nursery and installing a misting unit.

Montserrat has two endemic plants on the island, an orchid called *Epidendrum montserratense* and *Rondeletia buxifolia* from the family Rubiaceae. There is a third endemic, *Xylosma serratum*, but this was only known from one location, which was destroyed by the volcano. I worked on collecting population data for these plants, but this proved very difficult with *E. montserratense*, as most known populations were in the exclusion zone. Some examples of these orchids existed in the Botanic Garden. I worked on these to clean them up from the dead, decaying and ash filled substrate they were growing on from when they had been rescued and tied them into mango trees in order to display them naturally. *R. buxifolia* proved more successful and I was able to obtain material for cuttings and set up the first vegetative propagation trials for this species in the newly finished misting unit.

Within the Botanic Garden, they are trying to recreate a naturally occurring seasonal ghaat (a water eroded gully), and part of my work with Stewart was heading off into the hills, guided by Mappie of the Montserrat National Trust, to research the typical plants found to provide a list for a planting plan. It was wonderful to explore this beautiful island on foot and see the range of plants growing here. Another highlight of the trip included a climb up Katy Hill, the highest peak of the island outside the volcano itself. Up high in the cloud-shrouded hills, the amazing Elfin Forest never ceased to amaze me despite the hard climb. The vast arrays of plants, particularly the epiphytic species, were wonderful. The views from the top were breathtaking; you could see all the coastline of this small island and truly view the vast scale of damage caused by the volcano.

My trip to Montserrat was a fantastic educational experience to a beautiful island and one I will not forget, so I would like to thank the Kew Guild for helping to make this trip possible.

THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM IN ATHENS: THE DRY GARDEN – PRACTICE AND PHILOSOPHY

by Jim Cable

The Mediterranean Garden Society acts as a forum for those having a special interest in the plants and gardens of the Mediterranean climate regions of the world. From its inception it was multinational in composition and international in scope and reach.

The symposium was a fantastic opportunity, with generous sponsorship from the Kew Guild, to meet a wonderfully wide range of people. Exchanges of seed, skills and information were promised as the group forged new friendships. The symposium itself comprised a packed schedule of seminars, talks and visits, which, in a short report, is impossible to do justice to. Among many talented speakers we were honoured to have Heidi Gildemeister, who writes and lectures around the world to promote water-conserving gardening, Louisa Jones, author of 22 books on French gardens and food and Olivier Filippi who runs a Botanical Garden in the south of France.

The highlight of the symposium, for me, was a talk by Thomas Doxiadis, an architect and landscape architect, living and working in Athens. Thomas has firsthand experience of shaping very old landscapes, which are already inextricably linked with human activity, to suit new uses. Accommodating modern needs, primarily second homes and tourism, within historic contexts, needs a sympathetic touch. Too many beautiful places have been cut up in harsh ways for houses, hotels, roads and swimming pools. He strongly advocated the use of native Greek plants.



Above: A fantastic show of *Crocus goulimyi* near fire-damaged Mani
Below: *Sternbergia sicula* near Sparti



Typically the schemes Thomas draws up for his clients have denser planting with more irrigation lines nearer to the buildings, thinning as you move out to allow the local natives to invade. This natural colonization requires some management and requires a gardener who understands the local ecology and the aims of this naturalistic style. This prompted an interesting and international discussion on what makes a gardener. In Greece, society is shaped by a people who have recently 'escaped' the rigours of the land and don't wish to go back! Thus gardening is often seen as a demeaning job and does not attract young people. There are garden labourers, many of them immigrants, and a rare breed of 'master gardeners' with at least some horticultural training.

Thomas showed some beautiful slides of one of his landscape projects. Agricultural land that had become desertified was

brought back to life by ploughing and planting *Vicia faba* to add nitrogen. Augmenting the dry stone walls of the region and planting natives such as *Lavandula stoechas* helped stabilize the soil. Terraces traditionally flank the streams of the area and this theme was drawn on to create a landscape that blended perfectly with the view beyond.

We were treated to fantastic views of the landscape Thomas clearly loves so much, as well as the devastation wrought by the summer fires, during our plant hunting trip with George and Chrysanthi Sfikas. Our route was via Mystras to Gythion (our base for two

nights) then via Monemvasia, Gerakas and Kardamyli to Kalamata for the last night before returning to Athens via Kiparissia.

George, of course, knew just where to find the wildflowers but shared another talent by singing old Greek folk songs to us during the longer bus journeys!

BRAZIL: FROM THE AMAZON TO THE PANTANAL

by Lisa Campbell



Lisa (left) making notes on the herbarium specimens

It was always my ambition to experience the Amazon Rainforest especially after working in the Palm House here at RBG Kew. Joining up with the Cristalino Project in Southern Amazonia, in the Mato Grosso state of Brazil, was a perfect opportunity. This is a key South American project that RBG Kew is supporting. It is run by Dr William Milliken, Head of the Tropical South American Team in the Herbarium and developed locally by a Brazilian botanist. My support to the project was to help develop educational support

material for an interpretative trail and experience work in the field. The botanist and the local Brazilian team were collecting herbarium material that was to be later identified by the experts at RBG Kew. I would also be taking photos of the material collected and this information would be stored as part of the herbarium collection.

I spent almost two weeks in the jungle with the Cristalino Ecological Team. Our first stay was in the Rio Cristalino State Park. This was the first time that anyone had an opportunity and permission to collect plant specimens for a botanical analysis. We tried to venture into different areas everyday that would provide a good sampling of different types of vegetation and habitats. We saw many flowering orchids, bromeliads, ferns, palms, legumes, and cacti. I helped the Botanist with pressing the herbarium specimens and then soaking them in alcohol to prevent fungal growth before we had a chance to put them in a dryer back at the University of Alta Floresta.

The second place we stayed at was in the Cristalino Private Heritage Reserve (RPPN). To my untrained eye, the general vegetation looked similar, however there are habitats here that are unique to the area, the most spectacular of which was a granite outcrop. Even the blazing sunshine didn't discourage me from taking time out to gaze at the horticultural wonder of flowering orchids everywhere. There were *Cyrtopodium* sp., a lithophytic orchid growing on the bare granite, *Dyckia* sp. and *Vellozia* sp., which I had never seen before. Many photos and notes later, it was time to end my expedition and return to the capital of Mato Grosso, Cuiaba.

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Chapada dos Guimaraes was my next trip, only a few hours from Cuiaba. This is a savannah area, and so an interesting contrast to the rainforest. I saw chusquea bamboo, *Bixa orellana*, 'Annatto', and many flowering marantaceae with our native Indian guide. At this stage of my trip I am almost fluent in Portuguese as English is rarely spoken.

My final destination was the swamplands of The Pantanal characterized by the beautiful flowering *Tabebuia impetiginosa*. I went with a guide for five days of venturing up



Posing beside a giant Bromeliad

river, swimming, fishing for Piranhua, all while I studiously took photos and studied aquatic plant species like nymphaea, many species of eichhornia, and salvinia. The dry pockets of rainforest in The Pantanal had great structural clumps of cereus and bromeliads, all happily growing under trees.

Finally, I would like to thank all the organizations that funded my trip especially to the Kew Guild for their bursary.

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP IN MADAGASCAR

by Daniel Haynes

In 2009, the mining company Rio Tinto will commence a 60-year operation to extract ilmenite from the forest sands of coastal southeast Madagascar. Ilmenite is processed to yield titanium dioxide pigment, and small volumes of titanium metal. The pigment is used to whiten, amongst other things, toothpaste and paint. Titanium metal is used in the production of artificial hip joints.

Rio Tinto have paid for the right to what is *beneath* the ground. But of course mining has as much impact above it. Mining ilmenite will involve the removal of large areas of littoral forest. The forest is already under pressure from local people who clear it for fuel, farming and building materials. Satellite and aerial photos first became available in 1950 and showed that this deforestation was already underway.

In order to gain an environmental permit from the government, Rio Tinto were obliged to commit to social and environmental programmes. These aim to limit the impact of the mine on the plants, people and wildlife of the region. Part of the commitment was to restore any forest cleared during extraction.

A number of organisations, including Kew, are providing advice and expertise to Rio Tinto's environmental staff. As part of this process, I went to Madagascar for three weeks in June 2006. My job was to provide information about how green waste recycling, or composting, can be used to aid forest restoration.

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Green waste will be used to enrich the forest sands, supporting the growth of newly planted trees in the restoration programme. To generate sufficient volumes of material would involve the use of industrial-scale machinery. Before travelling to Madagascar, I surveyed the recycling operation at the stable yard at Kew, gathering information on the costs involved – machinery, maintenance and labour etc.

Upon arrival in Fort Dauphin, Madagascar, I presented Johny Rabenantoandro, QMM Flora and restoration expert at the Environmental Programme, with my findings. He seemed slightly alarmed at the figures I produced, and suggested that instead we establish a composting test facility at the conservation zone in Mandena, one of three sites to be mined. This meant designing and building three wooden compost 'bins' like one might find in English gardens. Staff could then experiment with different raw materials to obtain a compost with the desired properties, before 'scaling up' the operation. Although Madagascar is clearly a different environment to Surrey, the essential principles of successful composting remain the same; a balance of 'wet' and 'dry' materials, regular turning to introduce oxygen, covering the heaps to prevent excessive moisture and to retain heat.

In an unexpected introduction to the art of carpentry, I built the composting bins with help from staff at the conservation zone. These were completed in time for my departure, and at the time of writing, staff are experimenting with recycling green waste. I very much hope this has started a process which will help Rio Tinto to deliver on the environmental pledges they have made to the government of Madagascar.

My visit was a very exciting introduction to an extraordinary country, but also a sobering insight into the scale of the problems that it faces, and I thank the Kew Guild for this opportunity.

OPERATION WALLACEA IN CUSUCO

by Colin Hindmarch

A Kew Guild award helped me join Operation Wallacea (www.opwall.com) in a six-week field trip to Cusuco, Honduras where I caught up with some basic science and investigated the population genetics of a cloud forest bromeliad.

Preparing for the trip was instructive and fun. It entailed sorting out equipment, travel schedules, vaccinations, export permits, fitness training and a three-day 'activity' first aid course. It also involved climbing instruction, organised and monitored by my daughter Emma, and a molecular biology primer, planned and supervised by my son, Charles. The Guild network also weighed in, particularly on the selection of the candidate species: *Catopsis hahnii* (a suspected high elevation specialist) and *Tillandsia guatamalensis*.

Groundwork for the science programme continued in Cusuco with intensive jungle training, followed by a time in base camp working on analytical techniques, testing molecular primers, devising a sampling strategy and refining the choice of species. I was in the field doing real biology.

Several rapid field assessments suggested that *Catopsis hahnii* might make the better experimental subject. Unlike the *Tillandsia*, it had a consistent appearance across the forest, making it easy to identify and sample. It also had a patchy distribution associated

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with open areas and was present at a range of altitudes, all of which increased the likelihood of significant genetic differentiation. There was also the possibility that as a high altitude specialist, *Catopsis* might have adaptations that could make it vulnerable to small environmental changes.

The search for *Catopsis* was refined using forest structure data, and over several weeks, leaf samples were collected from a range of sites, including the ridge-top elfin forest (Bosque enano). This involved scrambling over difficult terrain with packs and equipment under hot and humid conditions. The work was physically demanding and highly focused, but at times the mingling smells and cool green shades of the jungle closed in and helped me relish my good fortune: against the odds, I was in the field using molecular techniques to investigate the ecology of a rare and threatened habitat.

Bromeliads are long-lived and can be full of 'life' so they were sampled with care. Unblemished material was collected, bagged with a desiccant, labelled and taken to base camp for processing in a makeshift laboratory that had limited power, poor lighting and a leaky roof. This basic approach to science had limitations, but early results show a genetically varied population where genes segregate with geographic distance, and appear to exchange between two sub populations, but not a third. These results were immediately relevant to conservation practice and raised a few fundamental questions that are the subject of ongoing work.

Exploring funding opportunities was part of the 'expedition experience'. This exercise disclosed a bias towards early rather than late career initiatives – a few 'opportunities' even specified an age limit. By contrast, the Guild Award not only endorsed the substance of my project, it helped me, a late-career desk-bound 'biologist', to muscle in on the youthful science of field-based molecular ecology. For this, I am extremely grateful.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE NATURAL HABITAT OF THE FAMILY MAGNOLIACEAE, IN PARTICULAR THE GENUS MAGNOLIA

by Irina Noack

Having developed a particular interest in Chinese magnolias over the last 16 years in horticulture, it was always my desire to see these beautiful plants in their natural habitat. In April/May 2005 I was fortunate enough to undertake a travel scholarship to Yunnan province, China with the help of the Kew Guild, among others.

The genus *Magnolia* comprises 80 species of which 45 species originate from southeastern Asia. China is rich in native magnolias, in particular Yunnan province. An assessment of the state of Chinese magnolias and their close relatives paints a gloomy picture for their future in the wild. Many species have declined dramatically from the wild as the pressure for agricultural land and firewood has destroyed or fragmented the forests in which they occur. Collection of bark or other parts like flower buds for medicinal purposes and seeds for cultivation have also affected some species and China is now facing the consequences.

The first days of my visit to Yunnan I spent with botanists from Kunming Botanic Gardens and the Yunnan Academy of Forestry, introducing me to the diversity of

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Yunnan flora. The academy runs a 28-hectare arboretum with a collection of trees and shrubs native to Yunnan. On the basis of this collection, Prof. Suma acquainted me with differences of *Magnolia* ssp., *Michelia* ssp., *Manglietia* ssp., *Parakmeria yunnanensis* Hu. and many other species of the family Magnoliaceae.



Above: *Manglietia hookerii* x *Manglietia insignis*, Magnoliaceae in Wenshan County, Yunnan province. © Irina Noack, 2005

The following week I spent travelling southeast through Yunnan, from Kunming on the only street, which leads through mountains with the typical terraced farmland, towards Wenshan county close to the border of Vietnam. The scenery was breathtaking, and words cannot describe the beauty of this country, and I feel deep respect for the rural population. In Wenshan we visited the ex-situ base of Yunnan Academy of Forestry. Different genus of Magnoliaceae are first cultivated in their nursery and then re-introduced into a forest area in the mountains, on altitudes between 1,900

and 2,100 m. On our way through evergreen and broad-leaved forests, we spotted several wild growing magnolias. But the population of Magnoliaceae is small, and without the help of locals, familiar with the area, one would hardly find the plants. In a little mountain village, a farmer invited us for lunch, and afterwards showed us the sacred mountain of the village, where the farmers conserve a small population of *Parakmeria yunnanensis*.

During the two weeks in Yunnan I gained so many impressions, not only about Magnoliaceae, but also about rural life and the difficulties for the farmers to cultivate in a sustainable way.

Another great outcome of this trip is the newly developed contact between Kew and Kunming Botanic Gardens, which was followed by a first visit of the curator of Kunming, which I organised in September 2005 with the help of Tony Kirkham. The first seeds of *Michelia* ssp. from Yunnan will be sown in the Arboretum Nursery soon, and will hopefully be a great addition to the Arboretum collection at Kew.

PESTICIDES AND BENEFICIAL ORGANISMS: SIDE-EFFECTS OF PESTICIDES IN GLASSHOUSES

by Alison Scott-Brown

The following paper was presented at the above meeting hosted by the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants at the Biological Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, Berlin, Germany, 10th – 12th October 2007.

Influence of teflubenzuron residues on the predation of thrips by *Iphiseius degenerans* and *Orius laevigatus*.

Nemolt® is commonly prescribed as a control for western flower thrips, *Frankliniella occidentalis* (Pergande), on ornamentals and was recommended for use at RBG Kew to combat infestations of the glasshouse thrips *Heliethrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché). The active ingredient, teflubenzuron (a benzoylphenyl urea compound), disrupts the formation of chitin, preventing larval stages developing into adult thrips. Control is achieved through a slow decline of the pest population, which is ensured by additional applications of the compound over a specified period of time.

The biological control agents used to combat thrips in the glasshouses at Kew include a phytoseiid mite, *Iphiseius degenerans* (Berlese), and an anthocorid bug, *Orius laevigatus* (Fieber). Teflubenzuron was initially reported to be harmless to beneficials, however, more recent studies have demonstrated that benzoylureas affect a range of predators including anthocorids.

A short duration (24-hour) leaf-disc bioassay was used to determine the effects of teflubenzuron residues on the predation levels of *I. degenerans* and *O. laevigatus*, foraging on immature life stages of *F. occidentalis* and *H. haemorrhoidalis* on a range of different species of plants. The rationale behind the experiments was to investigate why, after spraying infested plants with the recommended concentration of teflubenzuron, thrips populations declined rapidly on some species of plants but not on others. It was unclear as to whether the differences observed after spraying could be because the insecticide was affecting the thrips or weakening the predators, and to what extent the plant host effected these interactions.

In summary, contact with teflubenzuron residues caused an increase in thrips mortality during the 24-hour bioassay; it was more active against *H. haemorrhoidalis* than *F. occidentalis*. Teflubenzuron did not cause significant mortality within 24 hours to either species of predator, although the foraging effectiveness of both predators was reduced in the presence of teflubenzuron. The teflubenzuron-predator interaction was also influenced by the species of plant. Thus the observations in the glasshouse at RBG Kew that populations of thrips on some species of plants decreased soon after spraying with teflubenzuron could be associated with these interactions, or to the fact that Nemolt® formulation was itself able to reduce thrips numbers even after the short exposure time. Further research into the effect that teflubenzuron has on the foraging behaviour of predators and the behaviour of thrips and over a longer exposure time would assist to evaluate its suitability for use as part of an IPM system for ornamentals.

Full publication:

Scott Brown, A.S.; Simmonds, M.S.J. and Blaney, W.M. (2003). Influence of a short exposure to teflubenzuron residues on the predation of thrips by *Iphiseius degenerans*

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A short duration (24-hour) leaf-disc bioassay was used to determine the effects of teflubenzuron residues on the predation levels of *I. degenerans* and *O. laevigatus*, foraging on immature life stages of *F. occidentalis* and *H. haemorrhoidalis* on a range of different species of plants. The rationale behind the experiments was to investigate why, after spraying infested plants with the recommended concentration of teflubenzuron, thrips populations declined rapidly on some species of plants but not on others. It was unclear as to whether the differences observed after spraying could be because the insecticide was affecting the thrips or weakening the predators, and to what extent the plant host effected these interactions.

In summary, contact with teflubenzuron residues caused an increase in thrips mortality during the 24-hour bioassay; it was more active against *H. haemorrhoidalis* than *F. occidentalis*. Teflubenzuron did not cause significant mortality within 24 hours to either species of predator, although the foraging effectiveness of both predators was reduced in the presence of teflubenzuron. The teflubenzuron-predator interaction was also influenced by the species of plant. Thus the observations in the glasshouse at RBG Kew that populations of thrips on some species of plants decreased soon after spraying with teflubenzuron could be associated with these interactions, or to the fact that Nemolt® formulation was itself able to reduce thrips numbers even after the short exposure time. Further research into the effect that teflubenzuron has on the foraging behaviour of predators and the behaviour of thrips and over a longer exposure time would assist to evaluate its suitability for use as part of an IPM system for ornamentals.

Full publication:

Scott Brown, A.S.; Simmonds, M.S.J. and Blaney, W.M. (2003). Influence of a short exposure to teflubenzuron residues on the predation of thrips by *Iphiseius degenerans*

(Acari: Phytoseiidae) and *Orius laevigatus* (Hemiptera: Anthocoridae). *Pest Management Science*, 59: 1255-1259.

I am very grateful for the financial contribution from the Kew Guild, which enabled me to attend the conference and to discuss and exchange information with internationally recognised experts on the side-effects of pesticides in glasshouses. Kew offers a unique site for studying the interactions of thrips and their control agents among a diverse group of plant species and the dissemination of research results can serve to advance methods in controlling thrips pests in all sectors of Horticulture.

MALAYSIA, BORNEO

by Tracey Stickler

I was fortunate to spend three weeks in Malaysia, Borneo, in 2004, where I had the opportunity to research the genus *nepenthes* in cultivation, as well as in the wild.

Most commonly known as Tropical Pitcher Plants, *nepenthes* are unique in that they are able to attract, trap and digest insects. Their carnivorous habit has interested many botanists and plant enthusiasts since the 17th century. Carl Linnaeus gave the Tropical Pitcher Plants the name *nepenthes* referring to a passage written in Homer's *Odyssey* where Helen pours the drug 'nepenthe' into the wine glasses of her guests in order to relieve any of their cares. The Greek definition of 'nepenthe' means without grief, and in 1737, Linnaeus found this to be the perfect definition for these exotic plants.

Tropical Pitcher plants are mainly found in Southeast Asia, with outlying species in Madagascar, India, Sri Lanka, Seychelles, Australia and China. They are divided into highland and lowland species, depending on the altitude in which they grow. Lowland species grow from sea level up to 1000m, while highland species grow 1000m above sea level. The highland species make up 70% of the genus, but often have very limited distributions.

There are close to 90 species of *nepenthes* worldwide, and 31 species are endemic to the island of Borneo.

Borneo is comprised of 752,000 sq km of mountainous ranges and tropical forests, making it the third largest island in the world. The island is divided into three nations – Indonesia, Malaysia and Borneo. Indonesia makes up two-thirds of the island, known as Kalimantan, while the northern and Northwestern parts of the island belong to Malaysia, known as Sabah and Sarawak.

It was in Malaysia, Borneo, that I spent my travel scholarship to learn more about these incredible plants. After arriving into Kuching, the capital city of Sarawak, I went straight into the forest to see my first *Nepenthes* in the wild. Within the first two days I was able to see four different species of *Nepenthes*, including *N. ampullaria* and *N. gracilis* (the Slender Pitcher Plant).

I spent a week with Peter Boyce, the manager at Malesiana Tropical, a large plant nursery based near Kuching. Growing over 100 varieties, they are one of the largest commercial growers of *Nepenthes* in the world. Malesiana Tropicals was established in 1998 with the goal of helping to conserve the important plant-life of Malaysia. They work closely with

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the Sarawak Forestry Department and the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre to preserve and conserve the region's botanical diversity.

I worked with the growers at the nursery to gain a better understanding as to how to care for these plants in cultivation. Each pot is heavily watered at least twice a day (trying not to fill the pitchers with water because it will wash out all of the existing enzymes in the acidic liquid), and the fogging unit is run all of the time. This is to prevent the leaves from getting too hot which would then shut down the root system, especially in a pot!

Malesiana Tropicals grow 99% of their nepenthes in a simple mix of moss and perlite, which is a moisture retentive, well drained, and low nutrition medium. They receive their nutrients by producing pitchers and digesting insects, rather than from the soil in which they grow. Therefore, they do not need to be fed. The nursery does feed the plants twice a year with half strength fertilizer to green up the leaves though.

I had a day visit to the highland nursery, up at 876m, about two hours drive from the lower nursery. The maximum daylight temperature is 35°C, and 18°C at night. The UV light is incredibly high up here, which is what these plants prefer. There is minimal shading and the mesh roof allows for the rains to come in. Drought is rare up here, as there is 7m of rain each year. A member of staff comes to the highland nursery about once a week to check on things and water if necessary.

Nepenthes ventricosa is a highland species from the Philippines. It is known for its swollen pitchers with a narrow waist. The nursery grows about 17,000 plants of this species, as it's one of the biggest sellers.

I spent the second week in the nearby forests and hills of Sarawak. I was able to see both highland and lowland species in sandstone and limestone rock. I saw *N. rafflesiana*, *N. mirabilis*, *N. ampullaria*, *N. gracilis*, *N. northiana* and *N. reinwardtiana* which produces two eye spots that are actually nectary glands to attract insects inside the pitcher.

I ventured into the Kerangas, which is the heath forest in Borneo. Many species of nepenthes can be found growing in this habitat. The soils in Kerangas forest are normally acidic. Most of the trees in the forest remain relatively short (up to 30m), and are closely packed together. Kerangas forests often occur on pure sand. *N. bicalcarata*, *N. albomarginata*, *N. rafflesiana* and *N. gracilis* are just a few of the species commonly found here.

The kerrapas forest, which is the peat swamp forest, is the exact same as Kerangas forest, but it is saturated. Peat swamp forests are extensive in Borneo. The water and soils are extremely acidic, where the pH is up to 3. The diversity of plants is less than those of tropical lowland or Kerangas forests, but there are plenty of nepenthes. I saw an entire kerrapas forest of my favourite species, *N. bicalcarata* which is called the Fanged Pitcher Plant.

Towards the end of my second week, I took a flight to Sabah in order to make my journey to Kinabalu National Park which covers an area of 754 sq km, and was named as Malaysia's first World Heritage Site in 2000. At 4,101m above sea level, Mount Kinabalu is the highest mountain in Southeast Asia. Within the hundreds of square kilometres of the Park, some of the richest flora in the world can be found, including nine

species of nepenthes. During the three-day trek, I saw *N. lowii* and *N. rajah*, which is endemic to Mount Kinabalu and is known to have the largest pitchers within the genus. I also saw *N. villosa*, which is another endemic species to the Park and *N. tentaculata* (*N. edwardsiana* x *N. villosa*) at about 1900m.

After a couple of days in the lowland tropical rainforest of Danum Valley, I met Jain Linton, the manager of the Tenom Agricultural Park. The plan was to travel through the Crocker Range Mountains and look at some of the nepenthes that grow throughout the area. The Crocker range forms 139,919 hectares of mountainous ranges in Western Sabah, with ridgetops up to 1,500m. It was established as a National Park in 1984, as it represents a critical water catchment area for the rice-growing communities in the surrounding valleys.

However, I was only able to see *Nepenthes gracilis* in the Park, as our Jeep got stuck in the mud. After hitching two rides, and a day later, we made it to Tenom Agricultural Park. The Park is set over 500 acres with 60 gardens, including a Bamboo Garden with more than 100 species, a Medicinal Plot Garden with trees such as sapodilla, nutmeg and hibiscus, a man made Forest Garden which represents a secondary forest planted with a mixture of fruit trees timber and palms, and a Native fruit garden planted with local fruits such as Durian.

I was successful in learning about nepenthes in cultivation, as well as in the wild. I was able to see 14 different species in the wild, and many more at Malesiana Tropicals. I think the most interesting part was learning about the various habitats that exist throughout the island. Thank you to the Kew Guild for making the experience possible.

PROFESSIONAL GARDENERS' GUILD CONFERENCE

by Sue Tasker

The Professional Gardeners' Guild held its biennial Conference, entitled 'Career Challenges for the Professional Working Gardener', in September this year at Pershore College in Worcestershire. I was able to attend thanks to the generosity of the Kew Guild in paying my fees.

The three-day event began with a visit to nearby Spetchley Park Gardens, followed by registration at the college and a tour of the grounds with David Feaver, Head of Horticulture. Friday morning's lectures were grouped under the heading 'Qualifications and Basic Training', with speakers including Pershore's David Feaver and Phil Rawsthorn, together with Fiona Dennis, scheme co-ordinator for the HLF Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme. The morning was rounded off with the Keynote lecture by Jim Buttress AHRHS VMH. Jim described his career in horticulture in a most amusing way, though he also made some pertinent remarks about training and the state of the horticultural industry today.

Friday afternoon consisted of visits to Bourton House and Abbotswood in Gloucestershire. These visits not only gave us the chance to appreciate two very different but equally beautiful gardens, they were an opportunity for delegates to mingle and exchange views and ideas.

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The final day of the Conference was entitled 'The Progression to Manager' and saw talks from Michael Walker of Trentham Gardens, Rupert Clark of Smiths-Gore and Duncan Coombs of Pershore College. The Ron Nettle Memorial Lecture was given by Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum at RBG Kew.

I've been a member of the PGG for some twenty years now, having graduated from the Kew Diploma course in 1981. Like many older professional gardeners, I have been concerned about the looming skills crisis in the horticultural industry. In order to talk seriously about this crisis, and possibly to help improve the situation in my capacity as a committee member of the PGG and as editor of its quarterly journal 'The Professional Gardener', I need to be in touch with current training provisions and possible career progressions for today's gardeners. This Conference has brought me up to date with both, and also allowed me to talk at leisure with gardeners of all age groups, determining the different viewpoints of each age and position, from assistant and trainee gardeners to Head Gardeners and Garden Managers. Besides renewing old friendships (including Tony Kirkham, John Watkins, Sophie Piebenga and Chris Crowder, all ex-Kew) I made several new contacts during the conference, which I believe will be valuable in the future.

KEW GUILD ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

by Allan Hart

This category of membership was inaugurated in September 2005 and is in recognition of the support given by wives, husbands and partners who continue to make significant contributions to the Guild. Associate members do not pay a subscription, as they are already covered by the membership of their partners. The Associate has the option, in the event of the death of their partner, to then pay the annual subscription and receive the Journal and other mailings.

The Guild would encourage all those eligible to apply for Associate Membership to Stewart Henchie, Membership Secretary, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

The following are currently registered as Associates – Jean Bell, Mary Curtis, Patricia Gibbons, Joan Hart, Winnifred Hebb, Helen Hepper, Valerie Hindmarch, Marie Therese Ross, Wiena Ward, Davina Wood and Joan Woodhams.

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This year, the Kew Guild is delighted to welcome Dennis McGlade, a distinguished practitioner of the art of landscape architecture, and an equally distinguished author Anna Pavord, whose books have not only involved rigorous horticultural and botanical research, but have the rare talent of making their subjects available to a wide audience.

Current Fellows are Derek Edwards, Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit, and Ed Wolf.

Dennis C. McGlade



Dennis' motivation to pursue landscape studies and practice originally grew out of his experiences gardening at his family's home in Chicago and their summer home in the country. His upbringing in Chicago cultivated an awareness of the built environment and influenced his design aesthetic, particularly through exposure to the city's architecture and cultural institutions. Dennis earned degrees in

landscape architecture from the University of Illinois, studying with Terry Harkness, and the University of Pennsylvania, as a student of Ian McHarg. He worked in Philadelphia at the offices of Vincent G. Kling and Partners, and Wallace, McHarg, Roberts and Todd prior to joining Hanna/Olin in 1978. He became a Principal 1984 and was appointed President of Olin Partnership in 2005.

Dennis has travelled extensively in the US and abroad. His interests in landscape design span from early modernist icons of the profession, such as Roberto Burle Marx, Garrett Eckbo, and Thomas Church, to contemporary European and Asian designers and projects. A devotee of the visual and performance arts, he appreciates dance for its exploration of space, and often uses musical metaphor to articulate his design ideas. For him, there is a social dimension to the design process that is found collaborating with team members or exploring ideas with staff and partners. His recent projects include the J. Paul Getty Center's Fran and Ray Stark Sculpture Garden in Los Angeles, California;

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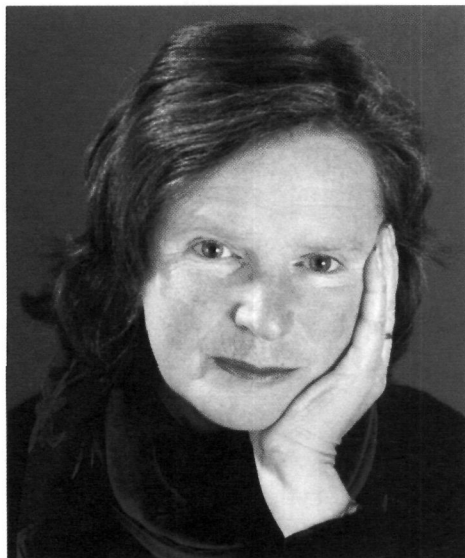
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Camana Bay in the Cayman Islands; Carneros Inn in Napa, California; and Midway Plaisance in Chicago. He was inducted into the Kew Guild at the 2007 Annual Dinner.

Anna Pavord



Anna Pavord is a highly regarded gardening correspondent for both the Independent and the Observer, a contributor to Country Life, Country Living, Elle Decoration, and the associate editor of Gardens Illustrated. Anna is renowned for her book 'The Tulip', published to wide acclaim in 1999. The subtitle – 'The story of a flower that has made men mad' – set it apart from a gardening monograph, as it charts political upheavals, social behaviour, economic trends and religious persecutions. This book was followed in 2005 with 'The Naming of Names' which describes the search for order in the world of plants, tracing 2000 years during which consensus of grouping and ordering was finally resolved.

Anna, in addition to chairing the Gardens Panel of the National Trust and sitting on the Parks and Gardens Panel of English Heritage, restored, over a thirty-year period, a derelict rectory garden, and has now started a new garden in Dorset. She was inducted into the Kew Guild at the 2007 Annual General Meeting held at Wakehurst Place.

EVENTS AT KEW DURING 2007

Excerpts selected by Alexandra and Richard Ward, who are grateful to Bronwen Davies, the editor of Kew's staff newsletter Vista, for permission to reproduce the following articles considered to be of historical interest to Guild members, and to herself and David Hardman for their various inputs on matters of accuracy.

January – Terrific viewing figures for the New Year at Kew

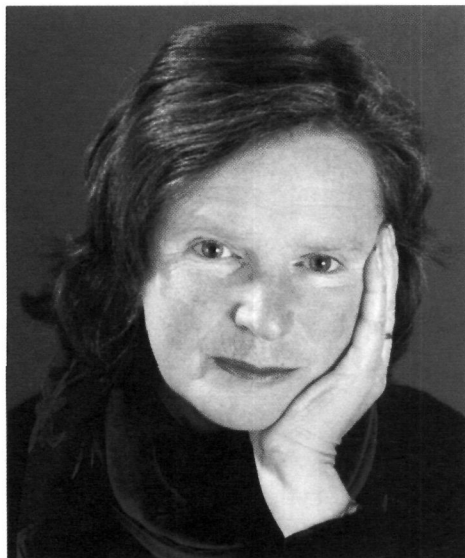
2.9 million people watched the first episode of 'New Year at Kew' on BBC2 on Friday 8 January at 8pm. This is a very high figure for BBC2, much higher than the first episodes of the previous series.

February – Consensus crafts new mission statement

The Director Prof. Steve Hopper wrote: "We have now agreed that our new mission statement is:

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To inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life.

This is the result of a thorough consultation process that began with a series of workshop and drafting group meetings, and was completed by the recent web survey. We had an excellent response to the survey, receiving 147 replies from staff and, including Friends and other stakeholders, a total of over 400.

The results gave us confidence that the statement proposed in the survey was broadly right but a significant number of people, particularly staff, suggested that Kew's research work should be recognised. This point has been included in the new statement, and it helps to distinguish Kew and Wakehurst Place from the other organisations involved with plants and conservation. The mission will be the backbone of our future planning and we are now working on a series of core strategies that follow through from the statement."

March – Marianne North Gallery Project gets approval from the Heritage Lottery Fund

After six months' assessment of our application, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) telephoned Jenny Mercer in Kew Foundation on 1 March with the terrific news that the Marianne North Gallery Project has been given a Stage 1 pass. The HLF operates a two-stage assessment process and passing Stage 1 is the first hurdle.

The MNG Project was submitted to the HLF with an application for funding towards 50% of the total project costs of £3,878,000. The Stage 1 pass comes with 50% funding toward further project development work – approximately £71,500 – which will fund part of a Community Outreach Officer and development of the access and interpretation plans, a survey of all the paintings, technical drawings and specifications for the building. The Stage 2 application is the final project specification and this will be submitted later this year.

March – Hanson Environment Fund's donation

Kew Foundation's Corporate team is delighted to announce that Hanson Environment Fund (an international aggregates firm) has committed £1 million towards the Rhizotron – a key element of Kew's new permanent Treetop Walkway due to open in May 2008. The Rhizotron is an exciting underground feature with multimedia displays where visitors can find out about the vital relationship between tree roots and micro-organisms in the soil. Visitors will be directed to enter the Treetop Walkway through the Rhizotron, before heading up into the tree canopy.

April – Kew's new interactive childrens' guide

Kids' Kew is the first official guidebook for children visiting Kew Gardens, aimed at 7-11 year olds (and their parents and carers), featuring exciting places to visit and things to do at all times of the year.

The 48 page guide is beautifully illustrated and produced in full colour, with a fold out map, stickers, activities, fascinating facts and bad jokes! Children can:

- discover plants that dinosaurs liked to eat, plants that eat animals, which tree chocolate comes from.
- explore our glasshouses and find out what it feels like to be in a steamy jungle.
- go on a wildlife watch and spot different animals that live at Kew.
- learn about what we do to help save wild plants from around the world.

The book includes 60 stickers of plants to hunt for at Kew – in the Gardens and glasshouses there are matching labels next to the plants. There are also lots of activities – quizzes, crosswords, colouring, join the dots, spot the difference, and things to do at home. The guide also directs readers to online resources at www.kew.org/kids. Here kids can check out Young Kew pages from Kew magazine for more amazing facts about plants, how to grow them and other fun things to do.

As well as providing a great way to look around the Gardens, Kids' Kew carries important messages about Kew's role in conservation, preserving plants for the future, and what people can do to make their home more plant- and eco-friendly.

April – Gatsby Charitable Foundation to support Kew's Henry Moore exhibition

We are delighted that the Gatsby Charitable Foundation has agreed to support Kew's forthcoming Henry Moore exhibition. The Foundation's interest in Henry Moore stems from a long-standing link between the artist and certain members of the Sainsbury family who made the original gift, or endowment, which enabled the Gatsby Charitable Foundation to be set up.

April – Herbarium and Library Extension project updates on Intranet

Following approval by the Trustees in June 2006, the project team have been hard at work preparing for the Herbarium & Library Extension (HLE). This building will provide an estimated 40 years of additional storage space and improve the environmental conditions in which specimens and books are stored. It will also increase public access to the Library Art and Archives collections by providing a public reading room and display areas.

April – Simon Owens appointed Head of Strategic Projects



Professor Stephen Hopper, Director, announced that Simon Owens, the current Keeper of the Herbarium, had agreed to occupy the above post, effective from 1 July 2007.

“This important position has been established primarily to help me support, facilitate and progress Kew's Breathing Planet Programme, thus contributing to our global plant conservation mission. The post will have a special focus on delivering resources and implementing strategic projects involving Kew's European partnerships, and assist myself and other Corporate Executive members with local and UK partnerships.”

April – Woodland Wonders festival 5 – 7 May

Woodland Wonders Weekend (5-7 May) is a hugely popular weekend celebrating sustainable arts and crafts set in Kew's conservation area. Harris Hawks, Falcons and Eagle Owls will grace the skies in the popular birds of prey demonstrations. Visitors can learn about dendrochronology (the dating of trees from ring growth) and the traditional practices of hedge laying, spinning, archery and pole-lathe turning; the more adventurous can take a lesson from the experts in woodland survival and yurt construction. Children can try to imitate the beautiful birds of prey by flying through the air on a specially constructed 70m zip-wire, be enchanted by traditional tales from the woodland storyteller and will love the human-sized badger sett, a permanent fixture, located just a stone's throw from this hub of activity.

Though the whole weekend is a chance to escape the modern world and immerse oneself in the traditions and skills being kept alive throughout Britain, it has, at its heart, the very modern ethos of sustainability. In addition, traditional maypole dancing and music from wandering minstrels makes Woodland Wonders a truly memorable, fun day out for the entire family.

May – Digital media interaction proves a hit with public

Over Easter, Kew hosted an experiment with BBC, Microsoft and BT using new mobile phone technology to offer enhanced content (text, audio, images, and video) for our visitors and the opportunity for user interactivity. This provided a richer and interactive experience on-site for our visitors.

June – Mediterranean festival entices our visitors

On Saturday 2 June, BBC London Radio's Vanessa Feltz broadcasted her Breakfast Show live from the beach here at Kew. The beach is one of the features of our summer festival focussing on the Mediterranean. The weather was glorious which helped add to the holiday-like atmosphere. The show was on air from 9am until noon and included interviews about Kew and the Mediterranean Festival with our curator Nigel Taylor and director of festivals, Michael Williams.

BBC London Radio had plugged the event at Kew all that week including information on the BBC website of behind the scenes tours of the Herbarium and Jodrell with Simon Owens and Mike Fay as well as other information about the Mediterranean Festival. The weather was fine which meant that Tony Blackburn's show was also broadcast live from the beach on the same day from noon until 2pm.

Kew's Mediterranean festival includes a beach near the Pavilion restaurant, an olive press in the Princess of Wales conservatory, a lavender avenue behind the Palm house, a pizza garden near White Peaks and a cornucopia of chillies in the Waterlily house.

June – Livingstone's call to reduce carbon emissions

Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, urged local businesses in the London borough of Richmond to change their workplace habits in order reduce their Co2 emissions. On a visit to Richmond on 7 June, the Mayor (p. 209) spoke at a panel discussion on



‘Sustainability in a World Class City’ at Kew with Councillor Serge Lourie, the Leader of Richmond Council (centre), Professor Stephen Hopper, and members of the local business community.

June – Saving Planet Earth

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the BBC’s Natural History Unit, and as a culminating event for the ‘Saving Planet Earth’ series, the BBC will hold a live broadcast event in the Gardens on the evening

of 6 July. It will be attended by Sir David Attenborough, Alan Titchmarsh, Graham Norton, Dick Strawbridge, Chris Ryan, Toyah Willcox and Brian Blessed, plus various live bands and a host of other celebrities.

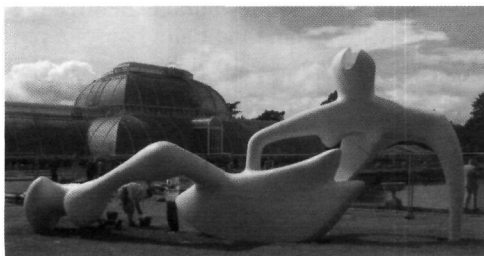
June – Barbara Hanson’s heartfelt thanks for a fantastic send-off

Barbara Hanson celebrated her retirement with many, many friends, ex-students and colleagues in the School of Horticulture recently. The space was packed with people who wanted to wish Barbara the very best in her retirement. It’s indicative of the type of person that Barbara is that she was genuinely surprised and touched by the warmth and high regard with which she is held by all those who’ve known her during her fifteen years at Kew. She began her career in the bookshop and after a short spell moved to the job she has held for the last fourteen years, a job she says she loved. Barbara was touched by the sentiments expressed in the cards and admonished: “I was only doing my job! I loved it. There are some great people here at Kew. I want to say a big thank



you to everyone who was able to make it. I will be getting round to people personally but it may take some time so I’d like this thank you to be included in Vista.” Above, Emma Fox, Head of the School of Hort. raises her glass in thanks for all of her hard work – Barbara raises her glass of Guinness in return.

July – First Henry Moore sculpture arrives in Kew



The first piece for the Henry Moore at Kew exhibition was installed on Monday 2 July after much careful manoeuvring. The Large Reclining Figure arrived at Kew in four pieces and was assembled on the panel lawn in front of the Palm House. The installation generated an enormous amount of interest from visitors. Lots of

children and adults came up to ask Laura Giuffrida, Exhibitions manager about the spectacle. "I hope you get it in the right order!" said one child whilst an adult enquired pointing at the hard hatted brigade "Is Henry Moore here?"

From 9 July onwards the bases for each of the remaining 27 outdoor pieces will be prepared and fenced off in a similar way. The sculptures will then be installed between 21 August and 5 September.

July – Smokefree England and RBG Kew

The ban on smoking in work places in England came into effect on 1 July. Although Kew has been "smokefree" for many years, the new law does still affect us.

Firstly, signs must be displayed prominently at all entrances stating that it is against the law to smoke on the premises. Signs must also be displayed in all vehicles used by more than one person (e.g. cars, minibus, tractors, and the Explorer). The Estates team is working on this. Anyone buying a new vehicle must make sure they remember to get a sign for it. We are liable to be fined for every missing sign.

Secondly, the smoking ban extends to places which are "substantially enclosed", those that have a roof or ceiling and three complete sides. This may affect some of the places staff currently go to smoke.

Thirdly, we have a duty to enforce the smoking ban. Fines can be imposed both on the person smoking where it is banned, and on the organisation for not stopping them smoking (or telling them to go outside).

July – Herbarium and Library extension rises out of the ground

Those of you who have not recently ventured in to the grounds behind the Herbarium may be surprised to see the progress that has been made on the Herbarium and Library Extension (HLE). The basement structure has now been completed and the columns for the ground to first floor are being built. The old drying room block has been demolished, leaving the adjacent hornbeam in place to become a central part of the final landscaping of the resulting courtyard.

If you have seen the tall red and white crane from afar, and want to come and see the diggers and dumper trucks in action, then there is a great viewing platform available. Come into the Herbarium and make your way to the glazed second floor C/D wing link corridor to see all the action unfold.

There is much to look forward to on completion of the works – and not only for Herbarium and Library staff. The new wing will include a large training room, dividable into two parts, with modern facilities and a great river view. There will also be a large rooftop studio providing accommodation for the currently scattered staff from IT, Digital Media, Publishing and Media Resources.

The new public reading room will allow better access to the library collections, and rare books and illustrations will be put on display in a special viewing area. The storage chambers for both Library and Herbarium collections will be fitted with a fire

suppression system, so that in the event of a fire starting, it would be stopped in its tracks. The collections will also benefit from increased security and temperature and humidity controlled storage areas, which are essential to prevent deterioration of Kew's irreplaceable assets.

The extension will allow plant specimens currently stored down at Wakehurst to be brought back to the Herbarium, and hence improve access to this essential resource for staff and visitors. Two walk-in freezers will allow insect pests to be controlled without the use of chemicals, and will enable large batches of dried specimens to be treated in one go.



The HLE has been designed with sustainability in mind, and will be fitted with an energy efficient temperature control system. This utilises a pair of boreholes which can extract heat from groundwater in the winter

and use groundwater for cooling in the summer. FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified wood has been specified for use in the project and construction waste from the site is taken to a recycling centre. Water efficient taps, dual flush toilets, energy efficient lights, occupancy sensors and superior insulation have all been included in the project.

The building will maximise the use of passive energy such as natural light, heat and ventilation. It will be insulated to reduce heat loss by up to an average 25% improvement over the building regulations. Air leakage will be reduced by an improvement of at least 25% over the Building Regulations requirement.

August – Substantial gift for ‘The Xstrata Treetop Walkway’

Kew Foundation is delighted to confirm that Xstrata plc, a global diversified mining group listed on the London and Swiss Stock Exchanges, has pledged £1.25m to support Kew's Treetop Walkway project. This generous gift is being paid by Xstrata from its corporate social involvement budget. The management at Xstrata considers that the company has greatly benefited from its listing on the London Stock Exchange and would like to ‘give something back’. They were inspired by the Treetop Walkway and wanted to support such a ‘relevant and imaginative’ project.

September – Future of the flagpole

This is an update on the future of our flagpole, once the tallest in the world. The flagpole now lies on the ground in three large pieces in front of the Marianne North Gallery. A meeting between HPE (Horticulture and Public Education), Estates, and other interested parties decided the next steps. It will be cut into more manageable lengths by HPE and taken to the Stableyard. Once there, the sound wood will be salvaged and sawn into

useable pieces. A segment, showing the extent of the decay will be temporarily placed on exhibition at the original site.

Until about three years ago, our flagpole passed its annual inspection, aided by various operations to reduce the height and pack out the rotten parts. Then three years ago we received a hefty report from the independent company who carry out the inspection, warning us that it was nearing the end of its life. We took some remedial measures, but finally in 2006 it failed the inspection. Mark Meager, the man who climbed the pole to attach the crane hook says that he found one place where he could thrust his arm through the rotten wood.

Now that it is lying on the ground, you can see the places where filler has been added and sheathing placed around it to try to prevent woodpecker action. However, we have hopes of finding some substantial pieces of timber that will be useful for other purposes.

Kew has rejected the idea of felling a 150-year-old tree to make a new flagpole, and will continue to use the metal pole by Victoria Gate. The cap and a small part of the pole top will be saved for our archive collections. Small pieces will be sold in the shop to raise funds. Other ideas include using lengths to clad the new Field Station in the conservation area; making a chunky woodland bench; making a table top; and if a large enough piece is found to be sound – carving a totem pole. The metal cabling, used to hoist the flag will be sold as scrap metal. We will not know the extent of what is possible to reuse until we have salvaged the sound wood. Meanwhile, if you have any ideas, pass them to me, Sue Runyard, Head of Corporate Communications, and I'll add them to the list!

September – Walking for charity

On Sunday 30 September at 10.30am, Kew Gardens will host a 5k Autumn Friendship Walk with Breast Cancer Campaign and Kew's Medicinal Plants appeal. This year we are encouraging walkers to theme their outfits to help us step into Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

September – Kew wins green credentials again

A message from our Director:

RBG Kew was the first World Heritage Site to gain ISO14001, the international standard in sustainable practices. This is not a 'one-off' award - we have to pass a stringent inspection each year, and we have just passed the latest audit, therefore we remain an accredited site. I want to thank the team of people, lead by Dave Barnes, who are responsible for ensuring that we passed our inspection. It takes a big effort from lots of staff, and in some areas we have to pull out all of the stops so thank you one and all'.

October – The Big Draw at RBG Kew

The eighth Big Draw runs throughout October 2007. The campaign invites everyone to join in, using drawing to engage with the past, present and future. Both Kew and Wakehurst Place have drawing events planned on Saturday 13 October.

Inspired by Moore at Kew, nine artists and Kew scientists have teamed up to offer a range of free 'drop-in' workshops aimed at all ages. Come and explore different approaches to drawing and be inspired by Kew's special work in science and conservation. And it's not just drawing! You'll work with found objects, just like Henry Moore. You'll make collages, take photographs, and create sculptures. Each of the artists will be running an activity that you can take part in. At the end of the day you'll have tried a whole range of creative activities, and you'll have things to take home.

November – Hilary Benn speech at Kew

On 29 October, Secretary of State for Defra, Hilary Benn, made a speech about climate change at Kew before setting a new report before Parliament. The full text is available on the Defra website. Here is an extract: "I think we all know why we are here, why climate change matters, and why it is a time above all for leadership". On that subject, I just mention that the UK was the first country ever to use carbon emissions trading, the first to put climate change at the heart of a G8 presidency, the first to call a debate on climate change in the UN security council and now we will be the first country in the world to put forward a legally binding framework for reducing emissions over time.

Such a thing would have been unimaginable nearly 170 years ago when Kew became a Royal Botanic Garden. But looking back to the winters that the first gardeners here had to cope with shows just how much our climate has changed since then, and how much the bill is needed.

On Christmas day 1840, the year William Hooker was appointed the first Director here, the mean temperature for the entire day was minus 4.4°C. On 20 January 1838, a particularly cold year for that time, the mean temperature for central England for the entire day was minus 11.9°C. There were 34 days during that winter where the average temperature was below freezing. Last winter, by contrast was one of the warmest in the entire 336-year record since 1772 and there were only three days where the mean was below zero.

We know that the world has changed and is still changing. We have just experienced the hottest 12-month period and the wettest summer on record, with floods that devastated large parts of our country and left many people homeless. And looking across this small and fragile planet, we have seen droughts in Australia and America pushing up global grain prices and floods in Africa affecting millions of people who depend on their environment for their livelihoods.

Kew has helped to change the world, and now reaches out across continents to protect and educate. It is not only a World Heritage Site but is leading international efforts to protect and conserve plants and biodiversity. And earlier this year, the Kew Millennium Seed Bank put its billionth seed into storage, helping to preserve more than 20,000 species for future generations.

Thanks to the work of dedicated botanists at Kew like Nigel Hepper, Britain has played a central role in proving that our climate is changing. You have tracked how, since the late 1970s, Spring now arrives sooner than before: whether it's wood anemones flowering 19 days earlier or bluebells opening out six days earlier.

Work such as this has helped to lay the foundations for Nick Stern's report into the economics of climate change that has done so much to change another climate – the climate for political debate – and to create a growing clamour for global action.

"The science is no longer in doubt. The sceptics are sidelined. Time is short. And it is clear that we have to do something for both moral and economical reasons."

November – BBC London webcam

BBC London have installed a webcam looking from Museum No 1 (Gail Bromley's office!) across to the Palm House. You can see it 'live' at http://www.bbc.co.uk/london/content/webcams/kew_palmhouse_webcam.shtml

December – Christmas at Kew is magic not manic

Both Kew and Wakehurst are preparing for the wonders of Christmas with late night openings, carol singing, shopping opportunities, and the chance to explore the gardens of both sites after dark. There's guaranteed snow in Kew's exciting new Snow Dome (1-23 December) and the chance to enjoy another magical Kew experience – ice skating in front of the Temperate House. Children can meet Father Christmas, join in the games and activities at Climbers and Creepers and watch our Christmas 'Planto'. The sculptures of the Henry Moore exhibition are set against the frosty winter backdrop. You can escape from the chill of the season in the glasshouses and follow our exotic glasshouse trail. There are free late nights to the public (from 4pm) on 14 and 15 December at Kew including Carol singing and horse drawn carriage rides along the Broad Walk.

December – New look for the constabulary

The Constabulary team at Kew will be wearing a new uniform as of 3 December 2007. The new uniform design gives much greater prominence to the Kew brand and Kew Constabulary crest, creating a look that compliments existing uniforms in use throughout the Gardens.

December – Kent/Kew Ethnobotany MSc 1997 -2007



The tenth intake of Masters Degree students has finished its first four days of Kew-based modules, to be followed by another four days in 2008. So far 72 students have graduated from the course, 90% of whom are now undertaking research or are in relevant posts.

Left to right: Mark Nesbitt (Kew staff), Carolina Isaza (Colombia), Cecilia Kelley (USA), Glyn Sherratt (past Kew Diploma student), Caissa Revilla Minaya (Peru), Elizabeth Howe (USA), Jessica Beaghen (past Kew Diploma student), Claudia Barfod (Denmark), and Nejma Belarbi (Canada/Morocco).

December – Steve Hopper expresses thanks to all

I'd like to send a heartfelt thank you to all staff, students, volunteers and contractors for all of your hard work during my first year at Kew. It has been a pleasure to meet many of you in person and I hope to meet even more in 2008.

Kew and Wakehurst Place face a promising year ahead as we embrace the need to increase our contributions to improving the quality of life for people, plants and fungi. Our 250th anniversary in 2009 is looming towards us and plans are in place to make it a year we celebrate the remarkable achievements at RBG Kew and also chart our way into the future.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Regards
Steve

2007 – A YEAR CONSOLIDATING THE SUCCESSES AT WAKEHURST PLACE

by David Hardman



Massed plantings of *Cyclamen hederifolium* outside the Visitor Centre

AGM

Members of the Kew Guild attending the Annual General meeting in September could not fail to be inspired as they entered the garden from the Visitor Centre. On a sunny

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AGM

Members of the Kew Guild attending the Annual General meeting in September could not fail to be inspired as they entered the garden from the Visitor Centre. On a sunny

afternoon the results of previous years' plantings of over 25,000 cyclamen were in full bloom. Amazingly this display of pink and white flowers had started in July and continued well beyond October and was in part a representation of the weather pattern seen in the year. Earlier in the year this area was covered in a splendid white carpet of over 100,000 snowdrops *Galanthus nivalis* that will continue to increase in years to come.

The AGM was held in the Mansion Dining Room and after the meeting members enjoyed a tour of the gardens and Loder Valley Nature Reserve. The garden tour was led by David Hardman, Head of Horticulture and Estate Management, and Steve Robinson, Loder Valley Warden, later entering Tilgate Wood, home to an array of wildlife where over fifty species of birds are known to breed including woodcock, kingfisher and tawny owl. Other visitors include osprey, common tern and hobby. Steve explained to the group the work involved in maintaining this historic woodland, which also houses the rare Tunbridge filmy fern *Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*. Members enthused on seeing it growing on a large sandstone outcrop. Moving into Hanging meadow and then back across Platts footbridge, the group returned through the gardens to end the tour at the School's entrance with some continuing on to the Ardingly Inn for a well deserved supper.

On reflection of the meteorological year (see table), it was a good job the planned work to dredge the **Black pond** in February was delayed until October for several reasons, including the lengthy process to obtain the necessary permits from the Environment Agency to do the work. The ground lay wet and it is questionable whether we would have cleared everything up before the spring peak period for visitors. This work was carried out in October by three members of the Logistics team with support from the Water Gardens unit. Approximately 800 cubic meters of very wet silt was extracted to the holding area to be spread on land later in 2008. It was a very challenging task as the underground springs continued to run and the vast quantities of water needing to be pumped away amazed everyone involved. Several old alder trees were removed by the arboricultural team – this has opened up the area, improving the health and general appearance of the pond.

After the wet early months, April was a very warm and dry month leading to concerns that another drought year was on the horizon. However, the drought never materialised and the garden plant displays benefited from the ground water reserves that held up well throughout the whole year. As a dry October ended, the rains returned.

The weather generally was not as warm as last year but the visitor figures for the financial year are as I write proving to be even better than those for 2006 and should exceed the 460,000 visitors.

Events

The **Director's Garden Party** was a new event this year to which invited local guests were introduced to staff and the work of Kew and the Seedbank. The event was held on the Mansion lawn and proved a great success on a balmy July evening. The Bluebell and Autumn Colour weekends were held using the now well-established format, which provides great pleasure to garden visitors.

On Sunday 18th March we finally saw the television screening of the **BBC's Antiques Roadshow**. The programme included the presenter, Michael Aspel, donning protective clothing against the freezing conditions to enter the Millennium Seedbank vault. This was in stark contrast to the sweltering sunny conditions in the garden when we hosted the team last July.

Christmas

The UK's largest Christmas tree is always special and this year we were more aware of the challenge faced in balancing the desire to create a special atmosphere during the Christmas events and Carol concert for our visitors, with the need to reduce our energy consumption and carbon emissions. We installed low energy one-watt LED lamps on the tree. It was just as striking but more importantly it reduced the electricity needed to power them by 93% and saved three metric tonnes in carbon dioxide emissions. These lamps will last at least seven to ten years, unlike previous lamps that were replaced each year.

In last year's report I mentioned that filming had taken place at Wakehurst Place of Ken Branagh's '**As You Like It**'. The film went on general release in the UK during July, with a preview for staff in the Seedbank.

Big Draw

Sarah Bell and Susan Allan of the Learning Programme met renowned artist Quentin Blake CBE, patron of the Campaign for Drawing, at the British Museum, to receive an award for Wakehurst's Big Draw 2006. The Bigger Picture, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew at Wakehurst Place, Sussex [Inspired by Heritage] won an award in the Highly Commended category. The fourth Big Draw event took place in October and once again children and adults participated in a range of art activities.

Sheep at Wakehurst

The small flock of Southdown sheep proved a great success with visitors especially near the Millennium Seedbank. During the spring the Wakehurst Place-reared lamb became available on the menu in the restaurant for the first time. The sale of this lamb helps towards the running costs of the Conservation Grazing project as we manage the herb-rich meadows of the Loder Valley Reserve and other areas of grassland throughout the estate. Concerns for their health were raised with the Foot and Mouth disease outbreaks in Surrey and Kent, so as a precaution the flock were kept out of public contact.

Staffing matters

In February the new Mission statement was produced and accepted by staff 'To inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life'.

On 15th February staff gathered in the Mansion to celebrate **Richard Lewis'** long service at Wakehurst. Known to all as 'Lou', his final day after 45 years service was 10th March, when on his sixtieth birthday he retired. His retiring speech recounted many of his memories and had some fascinating stories about his long career and the people with whom he worked at Wakehurst. He had started in the greenhouses growing tomatoes, peaches, grapes and flowers for the house when the estate was still privately owned by Sir Henry and Lady Price. Having seen the transition from private to a public garden managed by Kew, 'Lou' spent the latter part of his career working in the Logistics unit and representing colleagues as their union shop steward.

In December **Richard White** retired after his 'secondment' to Wakehurst from Kew. In his time at Wakehurst, he represented the Building and Maintenance departmental presence and provided the stability needed over the last 10 years during the many new developments. Initially at Wakehurst he was Clerk of Works for the Millennium Seedbank project, and then later managed the many building projects that are now in place.

Billionth seed

The Millennium Seed Bank collected its billionth seed and on Thursday 26th April it was presented to the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, at No. 11 Downing Street, ahead of an official banking ceremony at the Millennium Seed Bank on 22nd May. The billionth seed is from an African bamboo, *Oxytenanthera abyssinica*, and was collected in Mali, West Africa. Within Mali and other sub-Saharan African countries, this bamboo is used for house construction, furniture, basket and wine making. The bamboo is valuable to local people but over-harvesting has led to the species becoming endangered in Mali. The species is a priority for conservation for a number of reasons – its natural habitat is under increasing threat, it is a very useful plant, and it sets seed only once every seven years.

The Millennium Seed Bank Project is regarded as one of the most ambitious conservation projects and today holds the largest wild seed collection in the world. It has the capacity to store up to half the world's wild flowering plant species and already holds 88% of the UK's flora, including more than 75% of its threatened plant species.

Seed production from rare and endangered species in the living collections was coordinated by Jo O'Byrne (née Wenham) to ensure they are stored in the Millennium Seed Bank. In addition a number of seed collecting trips were organised for staff to gain experience and participate in the UK collecting programme.

Starfruit re-introduction at Greenham Common

Following on from last year, the horticultural and seed bank teams who joined staff from Plantlife, Natural England and West Berkshire and Buckinghamshire County Councils to try and secure the future of the Starfruit (*Damasium alisma*), a beautiful aquatic herb, were encouraged by news that several plants had established in their new home at Greenham Common in Berkshire. 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.

20 years after the Great Storm

To commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Great Storm, retired staff were invited for a celebration day which included a talk from Iain Parkinson and a tree planting ceremony on South Drive where a new avenue of oak and sweet chestnut has been planted. Nothing could prepare Wakehurst Place for the ferocity of the winds in the early hours at 16th October 1987. The garden was devastated by the storm with 20,000 trees either uprooted or decapitated.

An exhibition of photographs in the Visitor Centre told the story of the storm and Wakehurst's remarkable recovery. RBG Kew has invested many millions of pounds in this remarkable transformation of the landscape at Wakehurst Place, including the plantation of shelterbelts to reduce exposure to wind and the new garden plantings. Any evidence of the storm is firmly in the past.

Elm Preservation

Wakehurst holds a large collection of elm 'hedges' as a reference collection and the threat of Dutch Elm Disease (DED) still persists. James Pumfrey with the Woodlands unit supported the 'Save the Elm' campaign by volunteering their arboricultural skills on 24th and 25th March. This campaign is supported by the Arboricultural Association seeks volunteers to fell and safely dispose of selected elm trees in private gardens or farmland around Lancing, West Sussex to prevent the spread of Dutch Elm Disease. The work will protect the National Elm Collection of some 15,000 mature elms, which resides principally in Brighton and Hove. The collection covers many varieties and is considered to be unique in the world.

Horticultural Volunteers

Following a short recruitment drive to attract horticultural volunteers, over a dozen people were selected for a trial programme to assess whether a volunteer programme in the horticultural section will be viable. These volunteers generally attend one day a week and are located in all the units. The trial will be assessed and, if considered viable, will become a permanent feature at Wakehurst Place. This exciting development and progress will be reported in next year's Journal.

Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2007

2007	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year Totals
Month's total rainfall (mm)	80.3	126.4	59.1	5.8	96.3	122.5	125.9	59.7	31.1	49.9	82.9	78.5	918.4
Comparison													
2006	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
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]	[35.9]	[83.0]	[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}	{83.5}	{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) <small>*(combined)</small>	17 th 23.4	13 th 20.7	4 th 17.8	25 th 4.1	27 th 18.5	14 th 24.0	19 th &20 th 48.5	14 th 32.4	23 rd 18.0	9 th 24.3	18 th 28.5	2 nd 12.5	
Rainless days	7	9	16	26	13	12	10	16	18	18	15	14	
Highest Max Temp	11.4°C 18 th	14.3°C 17 th	19.1°C 27 th	27.0°C 15 th	27.1°C 24 th	28.2°C 3 rd	29.4°C 15 th	29.6°C 5 th	24.9°C 6 th	20.7°C 14 th	18.0°C 1 st	12.2°C 6 th	
Lowest Max Temp:	1.5°C 23 rd	5.0°C 6 th	5.3°C 20 th	8.3°C 3 rd	10.4°C 28 th	14.6°C 24 th &25 th	16.9°C 1 st	14.5°C 22 nd	12.1°C 26 th	9.9°C 24 th	5.5°C 23 rd	1.4°C 15 th	
Highest Min Temp:	8.3°C 19 th	6.9°C 28 th	7.1°C 6 th	11.5°C 25 th	13.6°C 25 th	13.5°C 15 th	15.6°C 16 th	15.0°C 25 th	13.8°C 21 st	12.3°C 13 th	8.6°C 8 th	7.5°C 6 th	
Lowest Min Temp	-4.5°C 26 th	-5.8°C 7 th	-3.1°C 22 nd	-0.3°C 5 th	2.3°C 29 th	5.9°C 27 th	6.6°C 30 th	7.9°C 7 th	4.5°C 18 th	1.4°C 23 rd	-4.3°C 24 th	-4.5°C 20 th	
Nights - air temp below freezing	6	7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	13	
Windiest day	11 th & 18 th SW 37mph	13 th WSW 27mph	6 th SSW 33mph	1 st NNE 25mph	10 th WSW 27mph	5 th & 21 st NNE&SSW 20mph	27 th WSW 25mph	15 th SW 26mph	28 th N 29mph	17 th N 28 th SSW 29 th N 18mph	10 th NW 18 th SSE 20mph	7 th NW 37mph	

APPEAL FOR COURSE 1 PHOTOGRAPH

Visitors to the School of Horticulture will be aware of our student gallery where past and present students can be viewed. Unfortunately we do not have a photograph of course one – 1963 to 1966. I have checked past editions of the Kew Guild Journal without success. If anyone could furnish an image, official line up or candid photograph; I would be extremely grateful. Please pass this information to students who you know studied at around this time as we can't guarantee that course one has Kew Guild members!

Photographs should be posted to Martin Staniforth, School of Horticulture, RBG, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.

IDEAS FOR CELEBRATING ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, 250TH ANNIVERSARY

In 2009 RBG, Kew will be celebrating its 250th anniversary; co-incidentally this also marks the 150th anniversary of Horticultural Training at RBG, Kew as Daniel Oliver, Librarian, commenced classroom sessions in 1859 encouraged by the first Director, Sir William Hooker. At the School of Horticulture we think that it would be fitting to celebrate this historic achievement and are looking for suitable ideas? Please send in your suggestions to Martin Staniforth, School of Horticulture, RBG, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB or email Kewdip@kew.org putting Kew 250 in the subject line.

KEW GUILD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA 2008

by Jim and Val Mitchell

With the incredible happy memories of the Grand Tour of the USA exceptionally organised by Past President Bob Hebb fresh in our minds, the planning of the Australian tour is on schedule to provide an equally enjoyable opportunity for Kew Guild members and friends. This event is fast becoming established as a tremendous Kew Guild activity and will become a highlight on the Guild calendar in future. This year it is attracting members and friends living not only in the UK but also from Spain, Chile, America, Spain, Turkey and Australia. It must only be second to the Kew Dinner in attracting so much overseas participation.

The Australian tour will follow in the footsteps of famous Kew Botanists Banks, Solander and Cunningham, walking through national parks, enjoying botanic gardens, seeing modern urban parks or relaxing by taking a ferry on Sydney Harbour, an exciting botanical, horticultural, landscape and cultural experience can be assured for participants on the 2008 Kew Guild Tour in Australia.

Visiting Botany Bay, first explored by James Cook in 1770 and staying on the foreshores of Sydney Harbour in the historic Rocks area, the site of the first settlers, along with a BBQ in a national park, having a beer watching the sunset over the Opera House or taking a dip in the surf will ensure a memorable Aussie experience for all. A highlight will be a visit to the Blue Mountains, the home of the Wollemi Pine, and to the government nursery where all the parent stock now distributed around the world were

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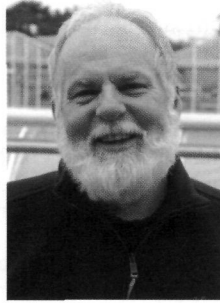
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The tour program will include stopovers in the scenic Illawarra Region of NSW, in Canberra the national capital, over the high alpine country and through Kosciusko National Park and on to Melbourne, the capital of Victoria. Additional pre and post Botanical Tours are also being planned by Kewites in other States including Western Australia providing an opportunity to see the famous wildflowers.

At the time of writing there were still a few empty seats in the two minibuses. Enquiries should be made to ourselves (contact addresses in the Journal).

THE KEW GUILD STUDENTS' VEGETABLE PLOTS

by Stewart Henchie, Head of Hardy Display Section



Left: Stewart Henchie, Honorary Membership Secretary.
Far left: Student Vegetable Plots looking South East.
Below: Looking North.
Below left: Looking South.



The idea behind the Guild having its own designated area within the Royal Botanic Gardens was proposed by Sandy Atkins, Guild Vice President, in January 2005. This was enthusiastically endorsed by the Kew Guild committee which requested that a small group under the direction of Colin Hindmarch, President, consisting of Graham Burgess, Allan Hart, Stewart Henchie and Nigel Hepper, investigate a suitable location.

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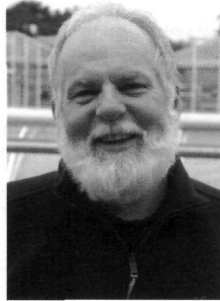
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part of the garden. The most appropriate seemed to be the re-provision of the student gardeners' vegetable plots which had been planned by R.B.G.'s consultants, Chris Blandford Associates, for a site immediately adjacent to the School of Horticulture and the Jodrell Laboratory.

The plots would be permanent feature able to be accessed by the public and providing a high profile point for the Kew Guild. The President requested Allan Hart, a Guild member and a registered landscape architect, to enter into discussions with the various interested parties and produce proposals for consideration by the committee.

Following extensive consultations with the School of Horticulture and staff in the Hardy Display Section, the Director, Curator, Nigel Taylor, numerous sketches and ideas were tabled before a final design was produced and agreed. An overall budget of £150,000 was agreed of which £70,000 would be contributed by RBG, Kew and the remainder by the Guild. A review of RBG Kew finances delayed the start date and Rebecca Bower, President 2007-8, worked diligently behind the scenes to enable the project to proceed.

Final details and specifications were produced by Allan Hart and tenders invited from leading landscape contractors – the most favourable quotation being from Gavin Jones Ltd being within the required budget.

The design of the plots is a contemporary take on a traditional kitchen garden using, where possible, sustainable and recyclable materials. The site of approximately 500m² accommodates 16 vegetable plots each 8.0 X 1.80m wide, surplus plots may be used to demonstrate green manuring techniques and also be used by school children.

Paving of traditionally patterned blue/black engineering bricks surround the plots, which are slightly sunken to enable surface water to drain into them – a sustainable requirement. Each individual plot has its own irrigation point. The garden is surrounded by a 2m high fence of Western Red Cedar with two gates leading off to a site storage areas and two more gates opening onto the Systematic Order beds and Bonsai House. The gates design is by Emma Crawforth, Kew Diploma student Course 44 a Kew Guild member. The strong fence is to keep the badgers out!

Historical varieties of fruit trees and vines will be planted and trained in various forms onto a stainless steel wire system fixed onto the timber fences. A (shed!) garden pavilion, with a granite paved terrace, will house external display panels illustrating the history and works of the Kew Guild, School of Horticulture and Stella Ross-Craig, the renowned botanical artist, a life long member of the Guild and its most significant benefactor. The pavilion constructed from slow grown Scandinavian Spruce will eventually have a 'green' roof installed with a planting designed by the three year Kew Diploma students to take account of the shade from the adjacent Horse Chestnut Trees – *Aesculus hippocastanum*.

It is anticipated that by the time you read this article all the above will be in place in time for the official opening scheduled to coincide with the Annual Dinner in May 2008.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND BENEATH AREA WHERE KEW GUILD STUDENT PLOTS ARE NOW SITUATED



During 17-19th October 2007 the firm Compass Archaeology, mail@compassarchaeology.co.uk, carried out a programme of archaeological recording and preservation in situ of the archaeology.

This article is from part of their report abstract dated January 2008 Project Rich 004.

‘The archaeological work revealed the foundations of a complex rectangular red brick structure with internal divisions, which appears to be a large late 18th century greenhouse or ‘forcing house’, (see top photo, facing East and below, facing West, © Stewart Henchie). A series of brick footings and internal walls and bases related to a building some 21.5m by 4.6m in plan, with a further wall marking an extension to the north. There was also fragmentary evidence suggesting a further large building existed to the north. The walls indicated at least two phases of construction, with the northern wall apparently being rebuilt or strengthened at a later stage, additionally areas of burnt residue possibly indicate the presence of a central heating source (stove or furnace) with a similar structure at the western end. The drainage regime is also indicated in the construction of the southern wall. There were very few datable finds from the cleaning exercise, with only a small group of post-medieval ceramics being a typical mixture of flower pot materials and the occasional sherd of utilitarian coarse ware. One clay tobacco pipe tentatively dated to the 18th century was also found.

Further analysis revealed that the greenhouse probably belonged to land originally in the ownership of the Earl of Essex (the Capel family) and is first shown on maps dating to 1771. The building does not appear on Rocque’s map of 1746 and therefore a date to the middle of the 18th century seems most likely, which also makes this building contemporary with the nearby Georgian Grade II Listed School of Horticulture building. The early function of these two

buildings was as a part of the kitchen garden serving Kew Farm (the Capel’s family home) and predating the inclusion of this land into the Royal Botanic Gardens. Later map evidence in 1840 indicates that the newly discovered building may have been a ‘peach house’ or ‘vinery’.

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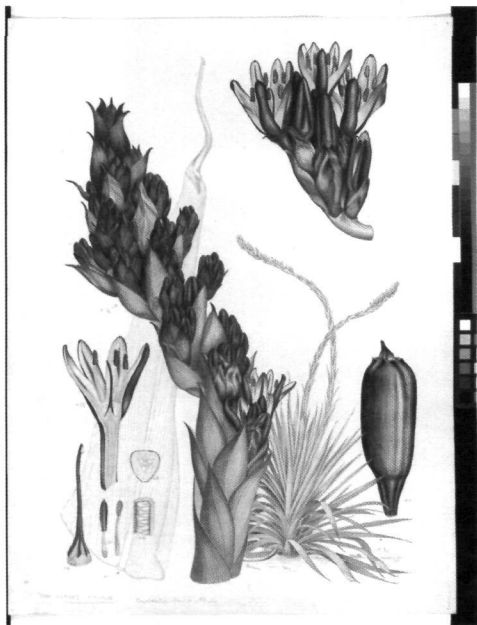
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NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2007

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Mike Clift (1958) former Guild Hon. Sec. has sent the following: Chagford is notable as being one of the centres for northern Dartmoor. It was in April that that location had another claim to fame. In one of its hostels, a group of their local friends gathered to celebrate the 45th wedding anniversary of Anne and Terry Sutcliffe (1959.) Mike also mentioned that he visited South Africa in August with members of the N. Hampshire Organists Association touring through Jo'burg, Pretoria, Capetown and Durban.

Miss Mary Grierson, who was the official Kew artist based in the Herbarium until her retirement some thirty years ago, is still a member of the Kew Guild. Many Kewites will know her works published in books, Kew calendars and postage stamps. She retains a keen interest in the current changes at Kew through the visits of Marilyn Ward, Ray Desmond, Nigel Hepper and others. Aged 95, Mary lives in her own flat in Richmond, although because of failing eyesight she can no longer make the botanical drawings and paintings nor the fine needlework for which she is famous.



Left: Mary Grierson drawing a plant in the Herbarium, 1972

Right: *Doryanthes palmeri*, watercolour on heavy paper, cultivated in the Australian House, 1966 – one of Mary Grierson's splendid orchid watercolours.

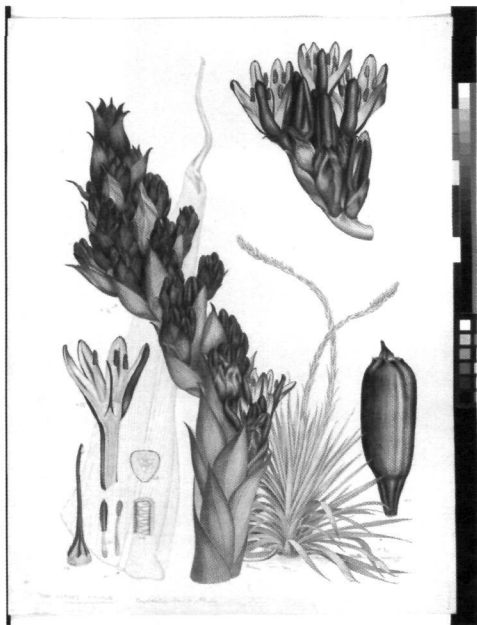
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Judy Hancock took over as Administration Officer at the School of Horticulture in August 2006. She follows a line of illustrious predecessors in the post, latterly Barbara Hanson who worked for the Diploma Students for many years. We asked her to tell us about herself since she is the one to whom all the students relate during their time at Kew.

Actually, before she transferred to the School of Horticulture she had already worked at Kew since 2002 in the Human Resources Dept as Assistant Personnel Officer, so was au fait with Kew's organisation and knew many of the staff. Judy is a keen gardener herself and does 'weekend duties' watering plants in the Tropical Nursery at least once a month. She has also taken on a staff vegetable plot and enjoys the challenges of veg. growing particularly when there is not a lot of sunshine around, she says. In her spare time she is studying RHS Level 2 Certificate. Among her other qualifications, she gained a distinction in the Certificate in Personnel Practice with the Chartered Institute of



Personnel Development. She has also worked in adult and junior education, including a spell as a mother's help in Rome as she speaks Italian. This was useful when she worked in a London publishing firm that specialises in works in Italian.

Judy is member of the Kew Guild, a person of many parts and she has made an excellent impression in the School, so we all wish her a successful and happy career there.

Colin Hindmarch (1968) President 2004/5 is mostly involved in policy work these days and probably does not get out as much as he would like. Recently he published a paper with a group from Cranfield University on growth and sustainability (Hindmarch et al, 2006). This has been cited by government (POST, 2007) helping to increase its policy impact. He has also contributed to the debate on how best to protect the biodiversity of European overseas territories (Hindmarch, 2007) and is helping to set up research programmes on tropical and sub tropical biodiversity in these fragile, mostly island ecosystems.

In 2006, Colin joined the board of the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum and was lead author of its submission to a recent parliamentary inquiry into the governance of the UK Overseas Territories (FAC, 2007). The submission explained that inappropriate systems of governance were damaging rare and exquisite island ecosystems and undermining their dependent social and economic systems, and then it concluded by suggesting a few modest reforms.

But it is not all policy work: with the help of a Kew Guild Award, Colin spent six weeks in Honduras last year (2007) investigating the population genetics of a cloud forest bromeliad (see report in this Journal). The project needed a lot of preparation and was physically demanding; but it was fun, got him out into the fresh air, 'grounded' his

strategic thinking and produced interesting results that will be followed-up as resources become available.

Colin and Valerie still live in their native Northumbria. Their family continues to grow and be a source of fascination, surprise and support. Preparing for Honduras for instance, would have been difficult without the expertise and commitment of Charles and Emma. The most recent family member, Billy, arrived in September 2007 and lives in the West Country.

Hindmarch, C. (2007): Biodiversity on the far-flung outposts of Europe. *Biologist*, Vol. 54, Number 2, May 2007.

Hindmarch, C., Harris, J., Morris, J. (2006): Growth and sustainability: integrating ecosystem services into economics. *Biologist*, Vol. 53, Number 3, June 2006, pp. 135-142.

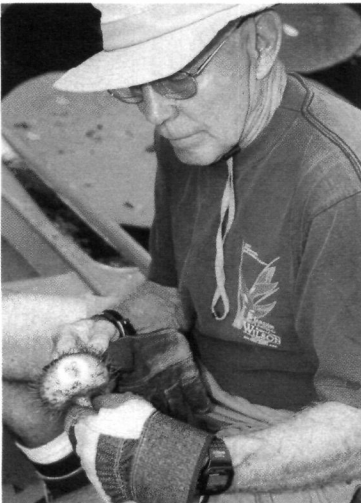
POST, 2007: Ecosystem Services. Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, postnote number 281, March 2007, pp. 1-4.

FAC (2007): Government Inquiry into the Governance of UK Overseas Territories.

Ian Leese, who died suddenly in 2005, is still fondly remembered by students and staff. On Friday 12th May staff gathered to witness the planting of a fine *Malus yunnanensis* in the lawn between the Grass Garden and the Secluded Garden. Ian passed through this area on a regular basis en route to the School of Horticulture where he was the Principal of the Kew Diploma course. He was also a keen supporter of the Kew Guild (see Obituary in vol. 14, 441-442; photo. 241)

Patrick Nutt (1953) of Longwood Gardens featured in their 50-year celebrations in October 2006 and in 2007 he went to Brazil on another Amazon trip, 14-23 February. Dina Gallick of Kew Course 32 (now at the Eden Project but not a Kew Guild member!) came along too and proved to be a good collector, according to Patrick. The objective of the trip was to re-find a dwarf variety of *Victoria amazonica*, as well as the normal one.

Several years ago a group from New York Botanical Garden claimed to have found the dwarf one up the



Left: Patrick Nutt holding the fruit of the dwarf *Victoria amazonica*.

Below: Flower of dwarf *Victoria amazonica*.



Rio Branco. Captain Moacir located it and took them there. Patrick says the flowers are very different from those he knew in Kew's old T-Range. He collected seeds and has some germination and its DNA is being studied. Prof Ghillian Prance (former Kew Director and Kew Guild member) who has written on Victoria is also excited by the find, which is about to be published.

Prof Simon Owens on 1 July moved from The Herbarium where he was Keeper for 12 years, to become Head of Strategic Projects at Kew, as well as Acting Head of Wakehurst Place while Andy Jackson is on sick leave. He had a write-up in Kew Magazine Winter 2007, pages 28-29 'Ambassador at Large'. This important position has been established primarily to help the Director facilitate and progress Kew's One Planet Programme, thus contributing to our global plant conservation mission. Simon had a great send off from the Herbarium on 27th June and he was presented with a print of a herbarium specimen from Spain and an amazingly iced cake. (The Assistant Keepers managed the Herbarium from July until the appointment of the new Keeper, Professor David Mabberley of The Plant Book fame, who was to take over in March 2008.)

Stephen Robbins (1976) has sent the following account of his life: I was the youngest of twin boys born on 15 August 1950 at Bath. I was educated at Bath and joined Bath Parks Department in July 1965. I became an apprentice with the Department and was given day and evening classes. The Department was under Mr Daws and later Mr Stan Hitt (ex-Kew). I passed various City and Guilds, Certificated Gardeners and GCE Examinations.

I was at Kew between 1972 and 1975. The course was then under Leo Pemberton. Whilst at Kew I was in the Clog and Apron Race, Student Representative for the Kew Guild and Secretary to the Students' Union. Two things that stand out were being captain of the students against staff cricket team on Kew Green, which the students won; and being a member of the 'Polythene Gang', which was in force when there were power strikes. I worked at Kew with Alan Titchmarsh for six months in the office.

From Kew I went on to the 'Grotto', then the staff of the Institute of Parks and Recreation Association. It has changed its name several times. After the 'Grotto' I joined the Parks Department at Hartlepool Borough Council. It was initially for two years, but I have been here for 30 years. I became involved in changing the image of the town, and Britain in Bloom. Since I have been at Hartlepool I've taught horticulture and botany for several years at the Cleveland College of Art and Design, lectured to various groups in the town and become involved in several wildlife trusts. I am Vice Chairperson to the Hartlepool Natural History Society and NE representative of the British Gull Society.

Over the last few years I have become involved in local history. Several articles have been published in journals; some on local history topics, others on horticultural subjects such as Giant Redwoods, Market Gardening in the Tees Valley. At present I'm involved in leading walks and giving talks on 'History from Headstones' and 'Myths and Legends of Hartlepool'. I have even been involved in a séance for local history. There's more work to do on these latter subjects.

Martin Staniforth took over as Acting Principal of Studies from Emma Fox while she was on maternity leave from mid-July to the end of the year and until her return sometime in 2008. Martin also continued to cover his existing role of Practice Training Co-ordinator. However, Emma promised to sit on the interview panel for Course 46.

Harvey Stephens (1995), head of Saville Gardens, Windsor Great Park, has over the last few years developed a New Zealand Garden there, in conjunction with the New Zealand landscape designer Sam Martin. In May 2007 the Duke of York opened this garden, which is to be a showcase of New Zealand native plants.

Terry Sutcliffe (1959), celebrated his 45th wedding anniversary during 2007. See Mike Cliff's report, above.

Sue Tasker (1987) had lapsed membership until recently. She writes that on leaving Kew she worked for seventeen years as Head Gardener for the Lake District National Park at their headquarters and visitor centre at Brockhole, near Windermere. Retiring through ill health in 2004, she has been self-employed since then, concentrating on writing and editing, with a little bit of advisory work and specialist pruning thrown in for good measure. Sue is Vice Chairman for the Professional Gardeners' Guild and Editor of the quarterly journal, *The Professional Gardener*. Although she has been married to Keith Parker (also ex-Kew) since 1988, Sue continues to use her maiden name for all things horticultural. Sue and Keith live in Cockermouth and have a son who is now 18. Keith is head of Leisure and Environmental Services at Copeland Borough District Council, based at Whitehaven, Cumbria.

Nigel Taylor, Curator of Living Collections, often hits the headlines as spokesman for Kew. This year he was interviewed for *Defra's Landscape* magazine, which was published on a full page. He has also moved his office from Aiton House to the Library on the first floor of No.1 Museum, with the same telephone number.

Journal advisory editor **Richard Ward** (1963) was elected President of the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens from July. The Club meets every Wednesday evening for dinner at 20.00 hrs. at the Coach and Horses Hotel, 8, Kew Green. Visitors are welcome. Kew's Director, Steve Hopper is an Honorary member, Prof. Simon Owens is a Friend and during the years various members of Kew Gardens staff have paid visits in various capacities.

The Club awards an annual vocational award to the Diploma student who has done most in the community at large during the year ending September. (See www.kewrotary.org.uk).

Richard is also a committee member of Richmond in Bloom, and continues running his small landscape contracting company in the Kew area.

Norman Waumsley (1948) was pleased to receive the new certificate of membership. Unfortunately he cannot get to Kew from Loughborough nowadays as he and his wife are 85 years old.

John (Log) Whitehead waited nearly all year for a hernia operation and by November, managed to get away botanising endemics, including *Arbutus pavari* and *Cyclamen rholfianum* in the Wadi Kuf east of Benghazi, Libya.

OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

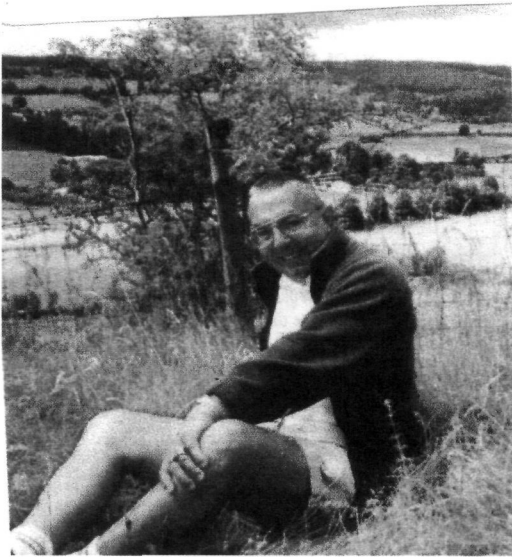
A long-established procedure in standard journalism is for data to be gathered towards Obituaries before people pass on. This is so that when this happens the process is quicker and more efficient. Prominent persons actually employ professionals to continually update the data.

When we compile Obituaries for the Kew Guild Journal we rely on information from friends and family and also scan Journals via the index for relevant information. With some Kewites there are massive gaps. This is a pity, for part of the function of the Obituary is to not only celebrate the individual but to celebrate the sorts of links and energies of the Kew Guild persona.

I am happy to receive ongoing key data from Kewites at graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk. If you can give us permission to publish all or part in any Journal it could help with synergistic articles. Please make sure that you make the permission very clear.

DON EVELMY

1945 – 2007



Many were deeply saddened to hear of the death of Don Evemy. He and I were in the same year and I have written a separate piece below, relating to the time we spent together.

His life in gardening began in the early 1960s as an apprentice at Ealing Parks Department under Fred Boddy and subsequently became a student gardener at Kew. He was always a good organiser and mixer so these interests encouraged him to take on the role of Secretary of the Football Club while he was a student. The same organisational skills were brought to bear when we planned the Kew Gardens' Guyana Expedition. Don applied for and won The Ernest Thornton Smith Travel Scholarship. The trip was a great success and Stan Rawlings, the then Assistant Curator of

the Tropical Department, sent a note congratulating us on the quality of the living specimens sent from South America to Kew.

So much of horticultural education depends on academic research based on sound practical skills. The expedition experience added to the Kew training provided Don with all he needed to further his career. It was to be a career of giving to others. He became a Horticultural Training Officer at Ealing Borough Council and after working with various

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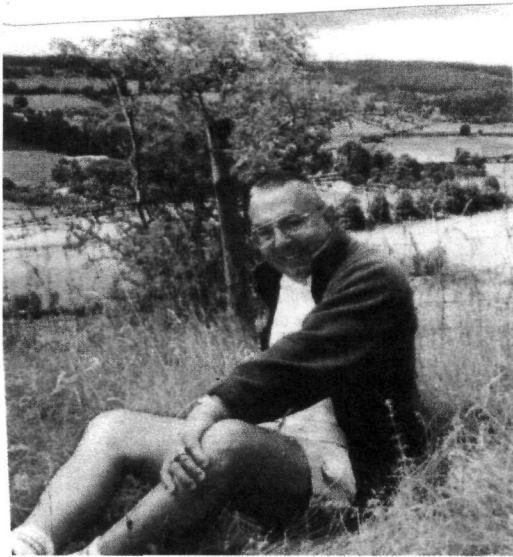
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local Parks' Departments joined South London College where he taught City and Guilds Horticulture becoming Senior Lecturer in the 1980s. As he worked he added to his knowledge, going on to teach horticulture, conservation and ecology at Norwood Hall, Richmond College and Birkbeck College.

A former student, Jessica Beaghen, who went on to study at Kew herself, said in her eulogy at his funeral that she was speaking for what must have been thousands of students when she described how Don shared his enthusiasm and excitement for his subject. He was a 'unique, inspirational and an opinionated man, a lovable person who enriched the lives of many. To him it was more than just a job; it was his passion. He made us feel worth the energy and work he put into his classes. He had a great sense of humour but was often sensitive with it'. A fellow-apprentice from the Ealing days, Dave Cooke, spent time with Don in the last ten years exploring his wide interests including bird watching, plant hunting and architecture, especially churches.

In 1997, heart problems led to a quadruple by-pass operation and his retirement. However he was very active during the remaining ten years and in his own words, 'more happy and content than he had ever been'. His passing at the age of 62 and 10 months was far too soon for many. His funeral took place at Westminster Cemetery in Hanwell on 6th September 2007 with family and past students present and he now lies in the very graveyard where, amongst other tasks, he had spent a lot of time cataloguing the tree species.

He is survived by his mother, Mildred and sister, Sue, and remembered with great respect and affection by a much wider family of those who were touched and moved by his generosity of spirit.

KEW ADVENTURE

by Graham Burgess

As a boy and after my mother had tucked me into bed I used to climb out onto the window ledge and pull the curtains behind me so I could watch the sun set. I had regularly read Captain Hornblower. R. N. in the comfort of an armchair downstairs and as I watched the clouds change shape and colour I was reminded of those old sailing ships exploring the wild seas and discovering far away lands.

I grew older and sailed into the seas of plants and eventually I ended up at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. There I met, not Captain Hornblower, but a similar soul called Don Evemy. We became bound together by a common and deep desire to explore those faraway places. I had been to his family home in Browning Avenue and seen his tarantulas and bird-eating spider and in our many conversations we had tested each other. Then one evening in The Coach and Horses as we were talking about such aspirations and each being half way through a pint we looked each other in the eyes and said, "Shall we go to the jungles of South America?" The joint answer sealed by a clinking of the pint jugs was "Yes".

We made a plan which included an enormous amount of scrounging as neither of us had any money at all. Don wrote a letter to the Chairman of Bookers, the shipping company. It was written on an old typewriter and for those of you who remember those ancient devices you will know what I mean when I say some of the letters were half-red and

some half-black. Nevertheless the naïve and ambitious request for free transport to and fro to South America won their approval. I can imagine the fun the Board must have had receiving and discussing the request. I was student rep to The Kew Guild so I asked if we could approach the members. Again they agreed and a special document went out. Don and I were blessed on many occasions as we collected envelopes at The Jodrell Gate. The envelopes contained monies of various amounts and Don applied for The Ernest Thornton Smith Scholarship and £800 was added; and so on until we had enough to go. We scrounged film from Kodak and medical supplies from various manufacturers. It was to have been an expedition of five from Kew but bit-by-bit others fell away leaving just Don and I. I had no doubts and neither did he, so off we went.

At Liverpool docks we boarded Booker Viking to discover that we were not to travel with the main crew below decks, we got the owner's suite. You would not believe the number of times Don and I just looked at each other in amazement at where we were and what we were experiencing. The Captain understood also, so one sunny day he summoned us to his bridge and said "Go up into the crows nest, we will soon be sailing into Sir Francis Drake Channel". As we looked out the frigate birds came out as they had done when the old sailing frigates made that same journey. The ship changed from a modern cargo ship to the frigate the birds were named after. We were away from the daily toil of England and in timeless space.

Don was the perfect companion. When we finally arrived in Georgetown after many adventures we had to wait for the Festival of Divali to finish so we threw ourselves into mixing with the local community, because Don had no bias against any man, whatever race or creed. We shared a good sense of humour so when at the very formal meeting arranged to welcome 'dignitaries from Kew' we were asked "Why Guyana?" We replied that it was the local Flora, the fact that English is spoken and the fact that Miss Guyana won the Miss World contest that year. After that response the word went round the room and we entered a whole new world of diplomatic relaxation and facilitation. It changed from a pretty formal do to one of those parties you only get in the Caribbean and parts of South America. We had already sailed through customs when a key official said Don looked like his brother. The customs house was closed down and we retired to a back room full of 'contraband rum'. The subsequent discussions did not include a lot of botany.



Do you sense this could go on for a long time? I have not told you a fraction of the adventures we had up to this point.

We eventually went north into the swamp forests of Venezuela collecting plants for Kew. So near the edge were we that at one place we were asked, "Do you know Mr Durrell". An electric storm prevented us leaving to return to Georgetown, we

were nearly lost, but finally we crossed the River Essequibo on Christmas Eve beneath a darkening sky full of green Amazon parrots in pairs. We both knew they paired for life and we looked at each other again, not speaking. Between us was a stuffed alligator or caiman (p. 232), a souvenir of a very dangerous outing in a wooden dug-out canoe.

After Christmas we went south, crossing into northern Brazil. There we were almost killed by wild peccaries but most of the time we were out of time, once meeting true Amerindians.

Through all of this, Don was the sort of person you need have no doubts about. Once a commitment was made all one's energy could be put into the joint effort of achieving the shared objectives.

Our trip back was not without excitement. Firstly the bulk of the crew started to go crazy. Someone had put the evil eye on them and they believed it. The Captain diverted and replaced the crew. Then we set off again onto the heightening ocean with the ship crammed with Demerara sugar. The captain came to our suite and said we had to batten down any furniture and stand by for a rough ride. He looked worried and so he should have been. He was steering the ship as far as he could away from a hurricane. We almost sank as we saw the whole of the bow of the ship and the mid-structure disappearing under the waves and heard the propellers revving as they were raised out of the water. When you go on an adventure with someone like Don there is so much you just cannot share with anyone else and so it remained with us. We would meet in later years, look each other in the eyes again and say nothing. I carried the alligator off the boat and finally as I struggled down the stairs of the double-decker bus dropping me near my mother's house in Manchester, I dropped it. It tumbled down the stairs and the end of its tail snapped off, never to be found again. That's another tale. The sharp toothed caiman has been in my offices ever since.

His desire to go on adventurous exploration was completely satiated, and so was mine. In the spring-fed pond beside my office and home I have an ancient boat. It represents my wanderlust, following that expedition completely gone. It is going nowhere that boat. He took the journey of local education and I turned down a job in the Caribbean.

Been there done that. The experience consolidated what he was and I know it never left him. That same belief in the most basic and good things, things natural and the honest and strong sense of purpose remained at his core. Throughout his subsequent career there will have been lucky ones like me who sensed it and were able to tap into a wonderful and great power. It is timeless and although he has died I believe that is only another adventure and one we must believe we can share in. The fruits of this new journey with Don will not be won by feeling sorry for oneself too much at this time of loss or by having any negative feelings whatsoever. We need to ask, 'What sort of thing would he be doing today, tomorrow and next year'. Then, if we agree it is a good sort of thing, do it either alone or with a mate like Don.

ANDREW PATERSON

- 2007

Andrew Paterson grew up in an isolated and sparsely populated seaside hamlet, Currabinny, in Cork. During the winter months it was a very quiet place and Andrew, as

an only child, was left to his own devices. His cousin, Roland Goslett writes, "...apart from enjoying the outside activities living next to the sea offers, he became a voracious reader about the natural world – particularly about fish and shells, plants and the butterflies he collected. Most significantly he was blessed with a photographic memory so he absorbed and retained all this information making him a fascinating companion with a huge general knowledge."

After the folding of his retail business in the 1960s, Andrew's father went on to farm mink and later switched to mushroom growing. Horticultural influences came from his mother who was a keen gardener, his grandfather, a prize rose grower, and two spinster great-aunts whose garden was always a great source of interest.



Leaving school he started practical training at Anne's Grove Gardens in Cork and then on the estate of Lord Talbot of Malahide near Dublin. Lord Talbot acted as an informal patron to Andrew and introduced him to the owners of many major gardens of Ireland. He had such regard for Andrew's knowledge that he wanted him to be his horticultural literary executor but he died before this could be formalised.

Andrew went on to study at the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, before heading to Kew in September 1970. Stewart Henchie, a fellow student and friend from that time recalls how Andrew was always perfectly attired. "Andrew always dressed well but he carried his books/notes in a plastic bag – often a Harrods bag (an early recycler)".

Stewart writes that Andrew had enormous plant knowledge, "...he always seemed to know the ones that were unusual or uncommon." While doing the Diploma work, Andrew passed the Intermediate exam of the National Diploma in Horticulture in 1971 and the Final in 1972, as well as achieving the best academic results for his year on the Kew course. In 1973 he received his Diploma with honours, the CP Raffill Prize for the best individual study and the coveted Ernest Thornton Smith Travelling Scholarship. Apart from the academic, his talents were many and as a member of the drama group he played the part of a vicar in a film entitled 'Carry on Kew'.

On leaving Kew, Andrew entered a career combining Horticulture, Botany, General Science and economic and social development in the area of tropical agriculture. In 1979 he completed an MSc at Bath. He worked in many places including Ghana where, on behalf of Tate and Lyle, he studied *Thaumatococcus daniellii* and alternative sugar sweeteners. In 1980 he was in Saudi Arabia beautifying military installations in Tabul and Riyadh then on to Hong Kong for two years working in New Territory development. 1986/7 found him in Pakistan on a small farm development project, which included the introduction of improved deciduous fruit varieties and appropriate improved rootstock. In

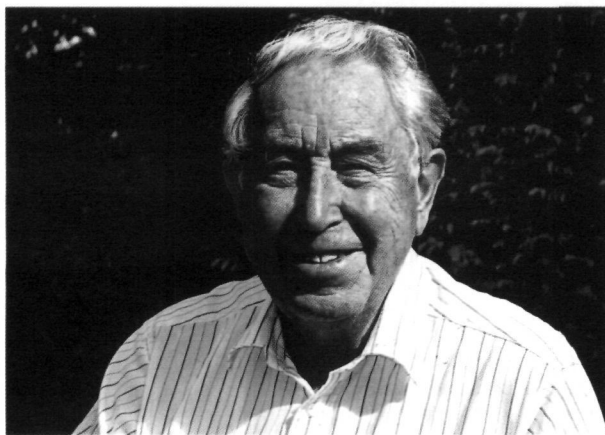
1987 he was involved with The Maraca Rain Forest Project in Thailand followed by two years in Kuwait. In 1990/1 he worked a series of short-term consultancies including, in 1994, a spell in Gambia with his wife, Catie, and two children, Matthew and Nicholas, on a U.N. funded project as Technical Advisor on extension services for Women in Horticulture. In 1997 he gained an MSc in Agricultural Studies.

He was ever a gentle and very focussed man with a clear and scientific approach. Roland Goslett says, "I never recall Andrew being anything but even-tempered and a person of great natural charm and good humour, completely without malice." He continued that Andrew's wife, Catie, was the greatest influence on his life. Andrew called for her help in 1989 just before an operation to remove his tumour and from then on she sustained him for the next 18 years. "Catie, in any mode, is a force for nature and she willed and bullied Andrew into getting well and living a normal life again. Catie ensured we all were able to enjoy Andrew's company for as long as we did, and for much, much longer than perhaps any of us expected." He always attended Kew Guild events when he could, and in fairly recent times made the effort to come to the Dinner in a wheelchair.

Stewart Henchie writes, "At the students' prize giving of September 1973, Sir Emrys Jones, who presented the prizes, ended his speech with a philosophy: 'Let me leave the land that little bit better, a little bit more fertile than when I had it of old.'" It is a farmer's/grower's creed which fits Andrew's contribution to horticulture, especially with those he worked with abroad."

ALAN RAVENSCROFT

1929 – 2007



Alan Ravenscroft was born in Wigan where his father was a Master Tailor. At home he had a greenhouse where he grew grapes and was developing an interest in horticulture but he was also drawn to chemistry. He wasn't sure which career to pursue but after working in a nursery outside Preston he became truly hooked on Horticulture. He left school and went to study at East Malling Research Station and subsequently the Universities of Copenhagen and Nottingham.

In 1948 Alan entered Kew from the School of Horticulture at Sutton Bonnington. He was elected Student Gardeners' representative at the AGM in 1949. It was at Kew that he met Barbara Saunders who was working in the Museums department. They married in 1959. He stayed on at Kew for a while after he finished his training and then became Assistant Curator at the RHS Garden at Wisley.

In 1954 he joined Harrogate Borough Council as Assistant Superintendent of Parks. He and Barbara moved into a 200-year-old house in Upper Nidderdale. There was no real garden when they arrived but over the years he never lost touch with practical skills and made a personal paradise from scratch. Years ago he noticed the effects of global warming as particular plants responded to the warming up of the area.

In 1972 when there was a great re-shuffle in the parks-world he became Director of Parks for the district, which covered 225 sq. miles. For 26 years he was Show Director for the North of England Horticultural Society and he judged all over Britain, including Chelsea and in France.

It had long been Alan's ideal to provide horticultural training for people with learning difficulties and in the 70s he set up Horticap, a charity providing horticultural training and employment based at Bluecoat Wood Nurseries in Harrogate. After his retirement he was able to devote time and energies in an advisory capacity.

He became a Council member of the RHS and it recognised his significant input by awarding him a Veitch Gold Medal for his contribution to horticulture. He was also awarded the medal for distinctive service to Horticulture in the north of England by The Northern Horticultural Society which runs the Harlow Carr Gardens. He was also made a Fellow when the Institute of Horticulture was founded.

To his wife, Barbara, and children Jane and John, we send our condolences.

VERNON RIPPON 1930 – 2007

In the insecure world of a transitional South Africa, Kewite Vernon Rippon was a victim of its violence, murdered after returning home from dinner with friends. Vernon's death has led to a huge sense of loss amongst his personal friends and the larger community. He was known affectionately as Durban's 'Mr Gardening' and over the years inspired gardeners of all ages through his prolific writing and the setting up of numerous Garden Clubs and Societies in the Durban area. He was one of the leading lights in the Durban and Coast Horticultural Society and his influence spread into the realms of Garden Shows and Competitions, which have become institutions. He was instrumental in starting The Garden of the Year competition in 1966 and 'on one occasion had the wonderful experience of judging in KwaMashu. Two ladies and a guard in a land-rover took him round. There were over 300 gardens and houses. The first prize was a year's free rent and the runners-up got half a sheep'.

Sheila Astill, President of the Durban and East Coast Horticultural Society, described this extraordinary man as 'botanist, ecologist, gardener, landscaper, nurseryman, floral artist, designer, decorator, lecturer, photographer and traveller'. And one senses much more. Tributes speak of his caring ways, his generosity, his quick mind and sense of humour.

At the age of 6, Vernon was asked what he planned to do with his life. He answered without hesitation that he wanted to be 'one of those men who cut hedges'. His path was set in green. After schooling at Assegai Bush and Graeme College, he set off in 1949 to spend five years in Port Elizabeth in the Parks Department. It was there that Frank Long persuaded him to apply for the Kew Course. On arriving in England he first worked at



Jean Urry sent this photograph (Vernon's photo on the bench) telling us 'Uncle Vernon's friends are on the left and his family on the right. Far right is my sister, then I am next, my mother (uncle Vernon's sister, aged 84) and my son, James. The ceremony was lovely – the Durban Botanical gardens are beautiful – the Bromeliads are all starting to flower. Sheila, the lady wearing a cap, who is the head of the garden judges, gave the address, and I said a few words for the family. Sheila made the wreaths. After the ceremony we all had a glass of champagne.'

gardening and imaginative paving into many of the town's parks and gardens. One of his influences was the exciting work of Brazilian landscape architect, Roberto Burle Marx. He soon gained his NDH and was helped to 'think big' by the dynamic Cedric van Ryneveld who was the then Deputy Director of Parks. Vernon was a great champion of indigenous plantings and through his inspiration set the trend for generations of students to follow.

It has been said 'If ever there was a person who has contributed to society in relation to his profession it must surely be Vernon Rippon. He has been on more committees serving in different capacities than probably any other person in South African horticulture'.

Our thanks go to Jean Urry for her help in compiling this Obituary and we send our condolences to all of those who feel the loss of this extraordinary man: friend, colleague, inspiration.

Hampton Court Palace Gardens and then entered Kew in October 1954. He gained his Kew Diploma, a Certificate for General Examination in Horticulture from the Royal Horticultural Society, a Certificate in Land Surveying from Richmond Technical College, and a Botany qualification with Distinction from London University. He won the Dummer Memorial Prize and was Secretary of the British Botany Club. He then left Botanics to go to Aalsmer where he learned commercial dynamics in a cut flower and pot plant nursery followed by six months experience with a landscape firm in Jersey.

At 28 he was back home in South Africa where he was snapped up by Durban Parks Department where he was given an almost free rein. He introduced avant-garde planting, container

PETER CHARLES SUMMERWELL
1946 – 2007

Peter passed on suddenly at home on April 2nd 2007 aged 61 years. He came to Kew on the 3 year Kew Diploma Course in October 1966.

He met and subsequently married Ursula who was a propagator grade in the then Decorative Department, working under Fred Burnell and of course Fred Larkbey.

Peter and Ursula moved down to Exeter where they set up a small nursery. Unfortunately after a few years Peter's health deteriorated and the nursery was sold. Peter and Ursula have a daughter Heidi and a son Edward.

The funeral was held at Sidwell Methodist Church on Friday 13th April followed by burial at Crossways Burial Ground.

We offer our condolences to the family.

MICHAEL WESTON
– 2007

On the 3rd January 2008 Susan Weston advised us that her husband, Michael, had passed away on 29th November 2007. We will be preparing a full Obituary for next year's Journal.

ARTHUR WOODWARD
1917 – 2008

We regret to announce the passing of past Guild President Arthur on 5th February 2008. Full details will be published in the next Journal.

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2007

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2007	TOTAL 2006
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Donations and legacies	566			566	356,386
Membership subscriptions	5,346			5,346	5,573
Investment income and deposit interest	23,186	5,262		28,448	17,872
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and other membership activities:					
US Tour				-	25,972
Annual Dinner	2,623			2,623	1,875
AGM Soiree	247			247	1,485
Other events and income	5			5	143
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Awards and prizes:					
Donations and legacies		1,350		1,350	17,921
Total incoming resources	31,973	6,612		38,585	427,227
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and membership activities:					
US Tour				-	25,972
Archiving project	50			50	6,142
Journal of The Kew Guild	6,061			6,061	5,006
Annual Dinner	3,295			3,295	2,454
AGM Soiree	272			272	1,774
Presidential boards				-	927
Presidents' medals	594			594	-
Kew Guild certificates				-	8
Other events and membership activities				-	215
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Award making: Awards	310	5,015		5,325	2,427
Prizes	495	14		509	509
Student fellowship	270			270	74
Kew Guild Garden	80,000			80,000	-
Governance costs	4,553			4,553	4,945
Total resources expended	95,900	5,029		100,929	50,453
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses	(63,927)	1,583		(62,344)	376,774
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Unrealised gains on investment assets	1,285	1,175	2,189	4,649	19,273
Net movement in funds for the year	(62,642)	2,758	2,189	(57,695)	396,047
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as restated	434,815	74,377	104,701	613,893	217,846
Total funds carried forward	372,173	77,135	106,890	556,198	613,893

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Other recognised gains and losses:					
Unrealised gains on investment assets	1,285	1,175	2,189	4,649	19,273
Net movement in funds for the year	(62,642)	2,758	2,189	(57,695)	396,047
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as restated	434,815	74,377	104,701	613,893	217,846
Total funds carried forward	372,173	77,135	106,890	556,198	613,893

THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2007

	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Investments		227,043		222,394
Current assets				
Stock of Kew Guild medals		3,590		3,590
Debtors		9,278		10,404
Cash at bank and in hand		401,867		387,446
		414,735		401,440
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		(85,580)		(9,941)
Net current assets		329,155		391,499
Net assets		556,198		613,893
Funds and reserves as restated				
Unrestricted general fund		83,528		66,446
Unrestricted designated funds		288,645		368,369
Restricted funds		77,135		74,377
Endowment funds		106,890		104,701
Total funds		556,198		613,893

The financial statements were approved by The Committee on 11 April 2008 following the completion of the audit. 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 Financial Statements, including the Auditor's Report, should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, Honorary Treasurer, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.

PRESIDENTS OF THE KEW GUILD

1893/94	-	1940/41	A. D. Cotton
1894/95	G. Nicholson	1941/42	W. L. Lavender
1895/96	G. Nicholson	1942/43	A. J. Brooks
1896/97	G. Nicholson	1943/44	J. W. Besant
1897/98	G. Nicholson	1944/45	Miss E. M. Wakefield
1898/99	G. Nicholson	1945/46	A. Blackburn
1899/00	G. Nicholson	1946/47	S. W. McLeod Braggins
1900/01	G. Nicholson	1947/48	J. Richardson
1901/02	G. Nicholson	1948/49	Dr. W. B. Turrill
1902/03	W. Watson	1949/50	F. G. Preston
1903/04	W. Watson	1950/51	G. H. Pring
1904/05	W. Watson	1951/52	H. Spooner
1905/06	W. Watson	1952/53	Sir Edward Salisbury
1906/07	W. Watson	1953/54	H. H. Thomas
1907/08	W. Watson	1954/55	T. D. Maitland
1908/09	W. W. Pettigrew	1955/56	T. Sargeant
1909/10	W. W. Pettigrew	1956/57	Dr. C. E. Hubbard
1910/11	R Hooper Pearson.	1957/58	C. W. Robinson
1911/12	R Hooper Pearson.	1958/59	F. Flippance
1912/13	Lieut. Col. Sir David Prain	1959/60	G. C. Johnson
1913/14	W. Goldring	1960/61	Dr. C. R. Metcalfe
1914/15	W. J. Bean	1961/62	W. J. C. Lawrence
1915/16	L. Gentil	1962/63	F. G. Harcourt
1916/17	Miss M. Smith	1963/64	J. S. L. Gilmour
1917/18	C. H. Curtis	1964/65	S. A. Pearce
1918/19	J. A. Gammie	1965/66	P. W. H. Conn
1919/20	G. Stanton	1966/67	T. H. Everett
Part 1920	Sir Arthur Hill	1967/68	F. P. Knight
1920/21	J. Jones	1968/69	E. W. B. H. Milne-Redhead
1921/22	C. Cundy	1969/70	C. R. Stock
1922/23	E. H. Wilson	1970/71	Dr. P. J. Greenway
1923/24	J. M. Hillier	1971/72	F. H. Eul
1924/25	M. T. Dawe	1972/73	Prof. J. P. M. Brenan
1925/26	W. Dallimore	1973/74	N. J. Prockter
1926/27	R. L. Harrow	1974/75	G. R. Groves
1927/28	W. Irving	1975/76	C. E. Cherry
1928/29	W. N. Sands	1976/77	Prof. K. Jones
1929/30	J. Coutts	1977/78	W. Nelmes
1930/31	F. S. Sillitoe	1978/79	W. E. Storey
1931/32	D. Bliss	1979/80	S. W. Rawlings
1932/33	G. T. Lane	1980/81	J. L. Norris
1933/34	A. Osborn	1981/82	B. L. Perkins
1934/35	W. Hales	1982/83	Dr. P. S. Green
1935/36	W. L. Proudlock	1983/84	A. Woodward
1936/37	C. P. Raffill	1984/85	C. J. Mitchelmore
1937/38	R. E. Gill	1985/86	Dr. M. Y. Stant
1938/39	H. J. Davies	1986/87	J. B. E. Simmons
1939/40	L. G. Godseff	1987/88	T. R. N. Lothian

1988/89	P. Maunder	1998/99	R. C. Ward
1989/90	E. W. Curtis	1999/00	Prof. E. A. Bell
1990/91	M. J. S. Sands	2000/01	A. P. Paterson
1991/92	F. N. Hepper	2001/02	P. A. Nutt
1992/93	Prof. Sir G. T. Prance	2002/03	A. Hart
1993/94	J. O. Taylor	2003/04	Prof. D. Cutler
1994/95	J. Sales	2004/05	Dr. C. Hindmarch
1995/96	Prof. G. Lucas	2005/06	R. S. Hebb
1996/97	T. Wood	2006/07	T. Risely
1997/98	T. W. J. Dumont	2007/08	Miss R. Bower

VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE KEW GUILD

1896-1924	W. B. Hemsley (died 7th October 1924 in office)
1902-1908	G. Nicholson (having been President from 1894, died 20th September 1908 in office)
1909-1913	W. J. Bean (having been Treasurer since 1893)
1913-1925	W. Watson (died 30th January 1925 in office)

There appear to be no further appointments until:

1959/61	J. Hutchinson	1983/85	F. N. Hepper
1960/62	J. D. Snowden	1984/86	A. P. Dunball
1961/63	C. F. Coates	1985/87	A. D. Schilling
1962/64	E. K. Thomas	1986/88	J. K. Burras
1963/65	E. Brown	1987/89	R. I. Beyer
1964/66	C. Jones	1988/90	A. G. Burgess
1965/67	A. B. Melles	1989/91	Prof. K. R. Jones
1966/68	V. S. Summerhayes	1990/92	N. Gilmour
1967/69	F. L. Squibbs	1991/93	J. Woodhams
1968/70	F. Ballard	1992/94	C. Hindmarch
1969/71	W. Howell	1993/95	R. Mowforth
1970/72	E. F. Coward	1994/96	L. Bustard
1971/73	H. G. Butcher	1995/97	R. Adams
1972/74	S. W. Rawlings	1996/98	J. Gaggini
1973/75	G. H. Preston	1997/99	Prof. E. A. Bell
1974/76	G. E. Brown	1998/00	K. F. Pearson
1975/77	D. V. Wells	1999/01	G. Turley
1976/78	A. J. W. Cheek	2000/01	L. A. Pemberton
1977/79	P. S. Green	2001/02	M. J. Griffin
1978/80	B. E. Humphrey	2002/03	I. Leese
1979/81	L. A. Pemberton	2003/04	Miss J. Cowley
1980/82	B. E. Lowe	2004/05	Miss. S. Atkins
1981/83	Miss. D. M. Catling	2005/06	S. J. Henchie
1982/84	A. Hart	2006/07	D. Hardman
		2007/08	Miss E. A. Leche

HONORARY SECRETARIES OF THE KEW GUILD

1893-96	J. Aikman	1952-59	W. M. Campbell
1897-01	W. Watson	1960-66	J. R. Sealy
1902-09	W. N. Winn	1967-76	F. N. Hepper
1910-13	H. Cowley	1977-78	S. Owens
1914-21	A. Osborn	1978-84	Dr. M. Y. Stant
1922-23	A. C. Bartlett	1984-89	Mrs W. Worth
1923-39	E. G. Dunk	1989-91	M. Maunder
1940-41	W. M. Campbell	1991-94	Mrs S. Atkins
1941-46	A. D. Cotton	1995-97	K. Pearson
1946-51	Joint: W. M. Campbell/ S. A. Pearce	1998-02	M. Clift
		2003-05	T. Risely
		2006-	K. Pearson

NOTE In 1967 the post of Assistant Secretary, with responsibility for taking the Minutes, was created. From 1967 to 1987 this post was held by M. J. S. Sands.

EDITORS OF THE KEW GUILD JOURNAL

1893-02	W. Watson *	1946-51	Joint: S. A. Pearce /W. M. Campbell
1902-07	W. J. Bean	1951-56	E. Nelmes
1907-10	Committee	1956-74	G. E. Brown
1910-13	H. Cowley *	1974-76	M. J. Dawes with G. E. Brown and F. N. Hepper. A Hart and M. J. S. Sands as sub- committee
1913-21	A. Osborn *		R. C. Ward
1921-22	A. C. Bartlett *	1976-99	Mrs J. Day (née Hirsch)
1922-39	E. G. Dunk *	2000-05	Miss A. Ward (Advisory Editor R. C. Ward)
1939-41	W. M. Campbell *	2006-	
1941-46	A. D. Cotton		

* The post of Editor and Secretary were combined (W. Watson 1897-1902)

PRINTERS OF THE KEW GUILD JOURNAL

1893-20	Taylor & Francis, Red Lion Court, Fleet Street, London
1921	Brentford Printers & Publishing Co Ltd, Albany Works, Brentford, Middx
1922-27	Taylor & Francis
1928-32	Horties Printing Co Ltd, Burnley and London
1933-45	South East Essex Recorders Ltd, High Road, Ilford, Essex
1945-51	Brentford Printers & Publishing Co Ltd
1952-67	H. J. Rowling and Sons Ltd, 36 York Road, London SW11
1968-73	H. J. Rowling and Sons Ltd, 1-3 Haydons Road, London SW 19
1974-88	Rowling Printers Ltd, 144 South Street, Dorking, RH4 2EU
1989-05	Rowling Printers Ltd, 5 Horsham Road, Dorking, RH4 2JN
2006-	The Green Tree Press, 1 Parham Drive, Eastleigh, Hants, SO50 4NU

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