

THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2008-2009

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EDITORIAL

The Kew Guild is in good health, despite the financial markets' collapse and downturn in investment return during 2008 and beyond. The Kew Guild Committee has, with good management, maintained the annual subscription at £15 for many years. It has recently substantially reduced the cost of printing the Journal and has maintained the annual Award Scheme grants. Indeed, you will read in this Journal that the Award Scheme subcommittee are actively seeking applications for grants, and has surplus funds available. Go for it!

You will read herein of the many varied activities and projects that the Guild has been involved with and we urge members to promote membership to colleagues who have not yet joined, for mutual benefit.

Read particularly the results of Stella Ross-Craig's legacy to the Guild and the joint effort with RGB Kew that brought into being the Students' vegetable plots during 2008.

Please also keep us apprised of your family and business news which can be disseminated in this Journal.

And finally, we wish to give our own thanks to Nigel Hepper and David Cutler for their proof-reading of the Journal.

Floreat Kew.

Richard Ward Advisory Editor

Editor: Alexandra Ward. Advisory Editor: Richard Ward.
62 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AT
Tel/Fax: (020) 8878 6696. Email: kewguleditor@hotmail.com

President	president@kewguild.org.uk	Sir Peter Crane
Honorary Secretary	secretary@kewguild.org.uk	Kenwyn Pearson
Honorary Treasurer	treasurer@kewguild.org.uk	Jennifer Alsop
Hon. Membership Secretary	membership@kewguild.org.uk	Stewart Henchie
Events Officer	events@kewguild.org.uk	Julie Bowers
Press Officer	press@kewguild.org.uk	Bob Ivison
Awards Scheme	awards@kewguild.org.uk	David Barnes

Website: www.kewguild.org.uk

With grateful thanks to Anthony Ross for the cover design.

Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS is the 116th President of the Kew Guild and an Honorary Research Fellow of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He was Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew from August 1999 to September 2006.

A native of the Midlands of England Sir Peter was born and grew up in Kettering, Northamptonshire (b. 18th July 1954). He is the only child of Walter (Bob) Crane and Dorothy Crane (née Mills). Peter Crane attended Kettering Grammar School (KGS) from 1965 to 1972, where his interest in biology and ecology was encouraged and developed by the Head of Biology, T. C. Simmons, including through field trips to the Welsh Borders. He was also a very active participant in the Kettering Grammar School Local History and Archaeological Society and was strongly influenced by the school Headmaster and keen local historian John Steane. During his years at KGS Peter Crane played football, hockey and cricket, and he was also very active in the Scouts. He was one of the UK representatives at the World Jamboree held in Japan in 1971.

Sir Peter first visited Kew as a child with his parents although he has no memory of those early visits. He later visited on a trip with KGS and recalls visiting the Anatomy Section in the Jodrell Laboratory where he was given a tour and his first scientific reprint – on techniques for reconstituting and sectioning charcoal from archaeological settings – by Mr. Richardson. Peter Crane's earliest palaeontological experiences were collecting Jurassic belemnites, crinoids and other marine invertebrates from the ironstone quarries around Kettering, which were largely abandoned after the Second World War. These quarries supplied poor quality iron ore to small local iron and steel works, including the one between Kettering and Broughton in which his maternal grandfather had worked. By the time he left KGS Peter Crane had already developed an interest in plant evolution and palaeontology.

Sir Peter went to the University of Reading in 1972 with A Levels in botany, chemistry and zoology. In his first year he read botany, zoology and geology. In his second year he focussed on botany with a minor concentration in zoology. Between his second and third years of undergraduate training he was awarded a vacation studentship at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. He worked in the Herbarium with Dr. Keith Ferguson on the pollen morphology and taxonomy in Hibisceae. He spent the evenings studying botany in the School of Horticulture Library. In his third year at Reading he focussed on botany and completed a palaeobotanical project on fossil leaves from Alum Bay on the Isle of Wight, which became the subject of his first scientific paper. He received a First Class Honours degree in botany in 1975.

Sir Peter's PhD degree in botany from the University of Reading was awarded in 1981 for his thesis "Studies on the Flora of the Reading Beds (Upper Palaeocene)". His thesis was jointly supervised by Dr. Peter Barnard and Professor Tom Harris FRS, the former Head of the Botany Department. His external examiner was Professor William Chaloner FRS, a former Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, who has remained a lifelong friend. Peter Crane then served as lecturer in the Department of Botany at the University of Reading from 1978 to 1981. He was employed to teach the courses of Professor Vernon Heywood, the then Head of the Department of Botany, during Heywood's three years as Dean of the Faculty of Sciences. Among the courses he taught to undergraduates and masters students were basic and applied plant systematics, economic botany, palynology, paleobotany and British flora. In 1980 together with Professor Chaloner and Dr. Christopher Hill he hosted the First International Organization of Paleobotany

Conference at Reading. During his time at Reading Peter Crane played football for the University First XI. He also enjoyed cricket for the Reading University Academic Staff Cricket Club and captained the Academic Staff Football Team.

In 1981, after a very brief period working for the Nature Conservancy Geological Review Unit, Peter Crane moved to Indiana University as Post-doctoral Research Scholar in the Department of Biology, working with David Dilcher. During his year in Bloomington, Indiana, he began his research on fossil flowers from the mid-Cretaceous based on fossil material that David Dilcher had collected from Kansas. He also met and began his long-standing collaboration with his friend Steven Manchester.

After one year in Bloomington, Sir Peter was appointed Assistant Curator in the Department of Geology at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. He was promoted to Associate Curator in 1985, to Curator in 1990, and he became Chair of the Department of Geology in 1991. Early in his time at The Field Museum he met Elinor Hamer and they married in 1986.

Through the 1990s Sir Peter took on progressively more significant administrative roles, first as Vice-President, Center for Evolutionary and Environmental Biology with responsibility for the Departments of Botany, Geology and Zoology (1992-1993), and then as Vice President, Academic Affairs, with additional responsibility for the Department of Anthropology (1994-1998). He was appointed Director of The Field Museum by Willard (Sandy) Boyd, the President of The Field Museum in 1995, and assumed overall responsibility for the Museum's scientific programmes.

During Sir Peter's leadership of science at the Field Museum he established the Office of Environmental Programs and the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change. He was also instrumental in encouraging the development of 'Life Underground' a major exhibit on the soil ecosystem and 'Living Together', the introduction to other cultural exhibits at The Field Museum. He also provided the initial impetus for two successful interdisciplinary travelling exhibits 'Chocolate' and 'Pearls'. In 1992 he hosted the Fifth North American Paleontological Convention at The Field Museum.

In October 1997 Sir Peter was closely involved in the purchase of 'Sue', the world's most complete specimen of *Tyrannosaurus rex* for \$7.6 million at an auction at Sotheby's in New York. This was by far the most that anyone had ever paid for any kind of fossil. It made headlines worldwide. In collaboration with John Flynn, then Chair of the Department of Geology, he led the plan to prepare, study and exhibit this remarkable specimen at The Field Museum. The definitive scientific monograph on *T. rex* was subsequently based on this specimen. The fully prepared mounted specimen of 'Sue' was unveiled to the public in Stanley Field Hall at The Field Museum in May 2000. Attendance at The Field Museum that year exceeded two million visitors.

During his time at The Field Museum Sir Peter held several named curatorships including: MacArthur Curator (1992-1994) and A. Watson Armour III Curator (1994-1999). He was also Lecturer in Committee on Evolutionary Biology at the University of Chicago (1984-1999) and Professor in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago (1992-1999).

In 1999 Sir Peter returned to the UK to become the twelfth Director of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It had been his long-term goal to lead the largest, most prestigious and most influential botanical garden in the world. He returned as Director 25 years after having first been employed at Kew as a vacation student. Working with two successive and highly supportive Chairs of the Board of Trustees, Lord Blakenham and Lord Selborne, as well as other trustees and staff, his tenure at Kew saw strengthening and expansion of the gardens' scientific, conservation and public programmes on the variety of plant life.

During Sir Peter's time at Kew the annual Grant-in-Aid support from DEFRA (excluding capital and modernization funds) grew from £14.30 million in 1999/00 to £17.94 million in 2005/06. Annual capital and major project funding, from both grant-in-aid and from private sources, increased from £4.02 million in 1999/2000 to £10.65 million in 2005/6. Visitor-related income through the same period increased from £2.86 million to £7.01 million.

Between 1999 and 2006 Kew's annual scientific output was maintained at an average of 400 publications per annum (including many substantial books) but the number of scientific papers in higher impact journals increased from 13 in 2000 to 71 in 2005. There was also increased emphasis on plant conservation in Kew's scientific work. The total number of plant species use reports, conservation assessments, and species conservation plans supported, increased from 1,087 in 2000/01 to a peak of 6,996 in 2004/05.

Beyond science, during Sir Peter's tenure at Kew all major departments restructured, a new Pay and Grading structure was implemented and greatly expanded Volunteer Program was introduced. Investors in People accreditation (2004) and ISO14001 Sustainability accreditation (2005) were also achieved. The combined visitor admissions for Kew and Wakehurst Place increased by 66% from 1.14 million in 2000/01 to 1.9 million in 2005/06. Utilisation of the Kew website increased from 3.2 million page views in 2000/01 to 21.6 million page views in 2005/06 and the three 'Year at Kew' BBC Television Series (each 12 x 30 minute episodes) in 2004, 2005 and 2007 greatly enhanced Kew's national profile. The equivalent advertising value of print, media and television public relations for Kew increased from £4.3 million in 2000 to £26.8 million in 2005. A further Kew-based BBC Television Series 'Trees that made Britain' (8 x 30 minute episodes) aired in 2006.

Sir Peter's directorship was marked by major improvements to the infrastructure at Kew for the collections, for science, for the public and for staff. Some of the key projects included the refurbishment of Sir William Chamber's Orangery for catering and events (2000); installation of the Minka House in the Bamboo Garden (2000); the development of White Peaks for temporary retail, catering and exhibition space (2002); refurbishment of The Nash Conservatory (2005); expansion of the Victoria Gate complex for visitor reception, retail and catering (2005-2006); construction of the Davies Alpine House for public display of the 'alpine' plant collections (2006); installation of the Sackler Crossing for improved patterns of visitor circulation (2006); construction of the Wolfson Wing of the Jodrell Laboratory for improved research facilities (2006); planning and funding of the extension to the Herbarium and Library complex for improved collection preservation and public access (2006); and the development of the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art for improved public access to Kew's art collections (2006); and initial plans for what ultimately became the Rhizotron and Xstrata Treetop Walkway.

Improvements at Wakehurst Place included completion of the Wellcome Trust Millennium Building for the Millennium Seed Bank Project (2000); construction of the Visitor Centre for visitor reception, retail and catering (2003); and the redevelopment of the Stables Restaurant (2005).

During Sir Peter's tenure, Kew was inscribed on the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites. At this time Kew worked closely with Historic Royal Palaces during the refurbishment of Kew Palace and the construction of the associated new Visitor and Interpretation Centre. Other key heritage projects included a basic refurbishment of Sir William Chamber's Pagoda so that it could be opened for public access (2006), and a program to raise funds for the refurbishment of the Marianne North Gallery.

In September 2006 Sir Peter returned to Chicago to become the John and Marion Sullivan University Professor at The University of Chicago. He holds his appointment in the Department of the Geophysical Sciences and is also a member of the Committee on Evolutionary Biology. He is a Research Associate in the Department of Geology at The Field Museum and an Honorary Research Fellow in the Department of Botany at The Natural History Museum, London. He continues his scientific work and has also returned to the classroom where he teaches undergraduate classes in 'Biological Evolution' and 'Human Impact on the Global Environment'. He is also engaged in a very wide range of local and national off-campus activities.

Peter Crane was elected to the Royal Society – the UK academy of sciences in 1998. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, a Foreign Member of the Royal Society of Arts and Science, Göteborg, Sweden, and a Member of the German Academy Leopoldina. From 1998-2000 he was President of the Paleontological Society in the US and from 2004-2006 he was President of the Palaeontological Association in UK. He served on the Council of Royal Society from 2002-2004, the Ministerial Advisory Board for the Royal Parks Agency from 2004-2007; the Board of WWF-UK (2005-2007); and the Board of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (2000-2006). He was knighted in the UK for services to horticulture and conservation in 2004.

Sir Peter is an Honorary Fellow of Royal Holloway College (2000) and Birkbeck College in the University of London (2002). He is an Honorary Fellow *Honoris Causa* of The Worshipful Company of Gardeners (2005). Sir Peter holds two Honorary Degrees: Doctor of Design from Kingston University (2001) and Doctor of Science from the University of Portsmouth (2004). He has been named to receive the degree of Honorary Doctor of Science from the University of Cambridge in June 2009.

Sir Peter currently serves on the Boards of the Global Crop Diversity Trust, the Missouri Botanical Garden, the Chicago Botanic Garden, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas, the National Museum of Natural History in the Smithsonian Institution, The Latin School of Chicago, and the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

He is also a Member of Overseer's Visiting Committee to the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University; Patron, The Florilegium Society, Sheffield; a Member of the Scientific Advisory Board, Faculty of Life Sciences,

University of Vienna, Austria; Chair, US National Committee for DIVERSITAS; and a Member of the External Advisory Committee, Richard Gilder Graduate School, American Museum of Natural History, New York.

Sir Peter has received the Presidents' Prize of the Palaeontological Association for the 'best presentation by a researcher under 30' (1983) and the Bicentenary Medal of the Linnean Society of London "in recognition of work done by a biologist under the age of 40 years" (1984). Also early in his career (1985) he was named one of 10 'Outstanding Young Citizens' by the Chicago Junior Association of Commerce and Industry and he received the award from the then unknown Oprah Winfrey. He has also received the Schuchert Award of the Paleontological Society (1993) and the Hutchinson Medal of the Chicago Botanical Garden (2001). His book with Paul Kenrick 'The Origin and Diversification of Land Plants: A Cladistic Study' received the Henry Allan Gleason Award of the New York Botanical Garden, as the "outstanding publication in the fields of plant taxonomy, plant ecology or plant geography" for 1998.

At different stages in his career Sir Peter has spent periods as a Visiting Professor or long-term visitor in several locations. From April to October 1987 he was Visiting Professor in the Botanischer Garten und Institut für Systematische Botanik der Universität Zürich, Switzerland, and from January to May 1989 he was Visiting Professor in the Department of Botany at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He has also been a Senior Mellon Foundation Fellow at the Smithsonian Institution; Jean Andrews Visiting Professor, in the Department of Biology at the University of Texas at Austin, Texas (2003); Visiting Professor in the Institute of Botany, University of Vienna, Austria (1998). He has also enjoyed two periods as Senior Fellow, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science at Kagawa University in Japan (April – June 1998 and November – December 1998).

In 1996 Sir Peter served as a consultant for strategic planning at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco. He has held honorary appointments as Visiting Professor in the School of Plant Sciences, University of Reading (1999-2006); Visiting Professor in the department of Geology, Royal Holloway, University of London (2000-2006); Visiting Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences, Imperial College of Science & Technology (2002-2006); and Adjunct Professor at Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden in the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Yunnan, China (2004-2006).

Sir Peter has also served on numerous external review teams including the Smithsonian Institution's Science Commission (2001-2002). He has also chaired reviews of: the Museum of Paleontology, University of California at Berkeley (1997); the programs in Botanical Science, at the New York Botanical Garden (1999); National Botanical Institute, South Africa (2000); Botanical Gardens and Institute for Systematic Botany, University of Zürich, Switzerland (2005); the science and conservation programs at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St Louis (2006); and the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, Vancouver, Canada (2006).

Sir Peter Crane is known internationally for his work on the diversity of plant life – its origin and fossil history, its current status, and its conservation and use. He has written or edited eight books, written more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and published more than 150 other articles. Much of his most important paleobotanical work has been co-authored over the past two decades with his close collaborators Professor Else Marie Friis of the

Natural History Museum in Stockholm, Sweden and Dr. Kaj Raunsgaard Pedersen at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He also continues to work closely with his long time friend and colleague Dr. Pat Herendeen at the Chicago Botanic Garden. He continues his research on angiosperm evolution and is increasingly involved in matters related to the conservation of plant diversity.

Sir Peter lives in Oak Park, Illinois, just a few miles to the west of downtown Chicago, with his wife Elinor Hamer-Crane, his daughter Emily and his son Sam. Oak Park is the community in which Elinor's father grew up. Their home is a stone's throw from the house in which Ernest Hemingway grew up and very close to the home and studio of Frank Lloyd Wright.

ROBERT IVISON DMS, FILAM (Dip)PRA FIHort Dip Hort Kew
 Vice President 2008 – 2009



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

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

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

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

He judges for Communities in Bloom in Canada and the UK, London in Bloom and also for the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Accreditation scheme. He is also a trainer of Green Flag Award judges.

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

PAUL SADLER

You might say horticulture and gardening have always been in my blood since my grandfather (who I did not know) was a nurseryman in Hampton, Middlesex. The genetic link took a while to reappear, but after a one-year working holiday spent in Australia, horticulture, gardening and plants became my life. After taking a National Certificate in Horticulture at Lackham College, Wiltshire, I progressed to the 1-year traineeship at University of Cambridge Botanic Garden where my eyes were really opened to the plant world.



This experience led me to the greatest botanical garden in the world. The three-year diploma course from 2004-2007 provided me with so many memorable moments (including the birth of my first son in the hectic first year), as well as the overall experience and teachings. A couple of highlights included a tour of Hilliers Arboretum with Roy Lancaster and then taking tea at his house and enjoying the hospitality and vast knowledge of Alex George whilst on my travel scholarship to National Parks and Botanic gardens of Australia.

I have made many close friends from Kew, though it is only when you leave that you start to really appreciate Kew's diverse plant collections and its wonderful traditions.

Currently, I am a senior gardener for Dr M and Mrs T Sackler (generous sponsors of Kew's Sackler crossing) where the West Berkshire climate and chalky soils (with a clay cap!) challenge my horticultural skills. In addition to this I keep involved with horticultural matters through membership of the Kew Guild (2004) and Professional Gardeners' Guild (2007) – both of these offering the horticulturalists of today and tomorrow opportunities for career development and progression.

WOLFGANG BOPP

Wolfgang made his childhood hobby into his profession by undertaking a 3-year apprenticeship in Germany, learning about indoor plant cultivation as well as hardy nursery stock. This was followed by 18 months spent working in plant research within BASF and a similar length of time working as a nature protection officer, developing a wetland habitat and pruning more miles of hedges than he cared to count.



The UK for Wolfgang was intended to improve his English and give him more work experience by working at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens for 4 months. This was followed by an internship at the RBG, Kew and a summer working with Kenwyn Pearson at Cadogan Estates in central London. A three year Diploma Course allowed Wolfgang to learn more about botanic garden collections management and, as a direct result of his student projects, he was able to work at the World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Cambridge to support the team that published the World List of Threatened Trees.

Ness Botanic Garden was next, where he worked as Assistant Curator for glass and research, before he moved to the National Botanic Garden of Wales to become Curator and part of the team developing and running the Garden. In 2004 he moved to the Sir Harold Hillier Garden as Curator.

Wolfgang has been supporting various organisations such as Plant Network and the RHS and initiatives such as the Grow campaign and Heritage and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme, supporting the training and development of staff and students.

MARTIN STANIFORTH M.HORT (RHS), DIP HORT (KEW) (HONS)

Martin Staniforth started his horticultural career leaving school at 16 and starting an apprenticeship at the London Borough of Croydon Parks Department. Having spent four years learning the basics of horticulture, and studying for City & Guilds horticulture stage one and two qualifications, he decided to apply for the Kew Diploma. A successful application saw him starting Diploma course 19 in 1981, alongside other Guild members Louise Bustard, Alan Cathersides, Chris Crowder, Ian Gayton and Stuart Phillips.

Following graduation he applied for, and was offered, the post of Gardens Supervisor for the Temperate and Australian Houses. Here he oversaw the re-flowering of the king protea *Protea cynaroides* in 1985 which had responded



to the improved conditions in the newly restored Temperate House. In 1986 he moved to the Temperate and Arboretum Nursery as Unit Manager responsible for propagation and production of new and existing collections of Kew's woody plants, tender and hardy. Martin was instrumental in renewal of the nursery with the removal of the temperate pits and building of a new propagation house incorporating a boiler house finished in 1993. During this period Kew was extremely active with plant collecting and received seeds from Korea, China, Western USA and Madagascar to name a few. This boosted plantings in the Arboretum and laid the foundations for planting in the restored Palm House. Martin has also been involved with plant collecting expeditions to Madagascar 1988 and Sichuan China 1992. In 1986 much interest was caused by *Ramosmania rodriguesii*, the café marron, a critically endangered taxon received into the care of the nursery and successfully propagated by David Cooke.

Finally in 2001 he accepted the post of Practical Training Co-ordinator, originally based in the Stable Yard but now in the School of Horticulture. Martin introduced the Rotational Training Scheme; this entry to botanical horticulture scheme started in Autumn 2001 and ran until September 2008. Many of the graduates have joined the staff or have gone onto the Kew Diploma. It has now been succeeded by the Kew Apprenticeship Scheme overseen by Kath Smith. Martin is heavily involved with the practical side of the Kew Diploma now worth 50% of the qualification as well as staff training and development for horticultural staff on the Kew site.

Martin is also involved in the wider horticultural industry, he attends the Lantra industry group for Horticulture, Landscaping and Sports Turf, is a steering group member of the "Grow initiative" a Greenskills industry working group to promote horticultural careers and is Chairman of the Surrey Horticultural Training Group, a members club to provide horticultural training to horticultural businesses in Surrey and the surrounding areas.

Pavord, Barbara Ravenscroft, Edward Rolls, Tom Risely, Norman Robson, Martin Sands, Trevor Neil Savage, James O Shea, John Simmons, Tim Smit, Terence Sutcliff, Tim Stretton, Peter Styles, David Taber, Mary Thorpe, John Tuck, John Watkins, John Woodhams.

03-08 Notice of Death of Members

The Honorary Secretary recorded the deaths of **Arthur Woodward 1947, Michael Weston 1961 and Bill Burt 1951** since the last Annual General Meeting. A period of silence was observed in their memory.

04-08 Minutes of 2007 AGM

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st September 2007 were approved as printed in the last Journal.

05-08 Matters Arising

There were no **Matters Arising**.

06-08 Honorary Secretary's Report

Kenwyn Pearson reported: The Committee of Trustees of the Kew Guild met five times during the year since the 2007 AGM and the Strategy sub-committee met three times in the same period.

Following a recommendation of the auditor all Trustees now sign a Conflict of Interests Statement and a Contract with The Kew Guild on becoming a Trustee.

Our President has encouraged all officers to submit a report on their area of work in advance of Committee meetings and this has led to more targeted discussions and greater focus. I would hope that the incoming President will allow for this practice to continue. It also reduces the length of proceedings of the meetings.

The topics of discussion over the year ranged over many areas including: The website in greater detail, including how it can be used in the future, and designated e-mail addresses for officers; Archives and their importance; The Journal, its future and its progress; The Kew Guild Students' Vegetable Plots and its opening at the Dinner this year; The Annual Dinner; Legacies and the spending of money for the benefit of the members and fulfilling our objectives, where possible using Reserves for specific projects; Review of prizes given to Students on Prize Day; The Award Scheme; The need to promote the Kew Guild at a greater level in the School of Horticulture; Reports from the students; Attention has been drawn during the year to increasing the public benefit of The Kew Guild and regular attention is drawn to rule changes in Charity law and guidance.

The George Brown Award was made to **Granville Turley** at the Dinner this year and an Honorary Fellowship to **John Brookes**. I have written to **Charles Jencks** inviting him to become an Honorary Fellow of The Kew Guild but to date I have had no reply from him. The Award of The Kew Guild Medal was made at the Annual Dinner in May of this year to **Roy Lancaster**, when he also opened the Kew Guild Students' Vegetable Plots.

It has become our practice over the last year or two to invite the new intake of Students to dinner after the first Committee meeting following an AGM and to introduce them to The Kew Guild. We now have a Student Representative from every year on the Committee.

I am pleased that there is still interest in joining the Committee to keep The Kew Guild running.

I welcome letters, e-mails and phone calls from the members and other interested parties and always try to respond to requests by return and see, where appropriate, that they are brought to the attention of the Committee at the next meeting.

The report was accepted by the meeting, proposed by **Stewart Henchie** and seconded by **Nigel Hepper**.

The President then invited the **Editor** of The Journal **Alexandra Ward** to give a report asking permission of the meeting as no provision had been made in the agenda:

The Events of 2007 Journal were produced on time and on budget (Editor £767.75, Printers £3,980).

I will be sending out the Brief for Contributors in October, with copyright forms, via the Secretary. Due to technological advances I propose extending the copy deadline to 31st January annually.

I would welcome any input of copy or suggestions from any Guild members for the betterment of the Journal. And thanks for all the help given in the production of The Journal.

The report was proposed for acceptance by **Peter Crane**, seconded by **David Barnes** and accepted by everyone present at the meeting. Alexandra was congratulated on an excellent production.

07-08 Honorary Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported on the finances as recorded in the 2007 Journal. **Jennifer Alsop** proposed acceptance of the accounts and it was seconded by **David Barnes** and accepted by all present at the meeting. **The Treasurer** also gained approval for her to appoint an Independent Examiner for the examination of the 2008 Accounts.

08-08 **Membership Secretary's Report**

The Membership Secretary reported that there were 317 Standard members, with 42 Staff members, 28 Student members, 3 Library Members, 14 Life Members and 8 Fellows making a total membership of 412. **Stewart Henchie** reported he had 215 members with e-mail addresses and he said that all the students were given application forms through **Emma Fox**. The students leaving every year were invited to update their standing order forms in order to maintain membership. **The Membership Secretary** was thanked for his report which was proposed for acceptance by **Jennifer Alsop**, seconded by **Tom Wood** and accepted by all present at the meeting.

09-08 **Events Officer's Report**

The Events Officer had submitted a report for the meeting which covered the Northumberland Weekend in April 2008, The Annual Dinner in May and the trips to Chester Zoo, Ryton Organic Garden and promoting the trip to Castle Howard and Harewood House in October 2008. **Tom Wood** felt that a special letter of thanks should be sent to Pamela for the way she had organised events for The Kew Guild over many years and this was agreed by the meeting. The Honorary Secretary was asked to write to her expressing thanks from the meeting for her hard work. The report was proposed for acceptance by **Brendan Mowforth**, seconded by **Tom Wood** and accepted by all present.

10-08 **Award Scheme Report**

The President invited the **Award Scheme Chairman** to speak and **David Barnes** reported as follows:

I would like to thank the members of the Award Scheme sub-committee for their support and work over the past year. I would like to pay particular tribute to **Allan Hart** for his excellent past Chairmanship and I am very pleased to report that he is continuing his membership of the sub-committee.

We met twice since the last AGM 2007, once in March and again in July.

Ten applications in total were considered with a total of £4,677.11 being awarded. These ranged from between £100 to £1,000. The total amount available to the sub-committee to be awarded was just under £11,500 and so while we are in a very strong financial position, we actually require more members to make applications. This will be the challenge for us in the future and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to make use of this scheme.

Colin Hindmarch spoke on the benefits of The Award Scheme and how he had benefited for a research project. He was complimentary of the fact that there was no age barrier for awards to be granted, something encountered with many bursary funds. He

urged greater publicity and for members to apply. **John Sales** spoke on the merits of The Awards Scheme and said it was important to urge members to apply for awards. He also urged the Committee to look in the future at ways of encouraging younger people to train in horticulture, and suggested using the Reserves of The Kew Guild in this way. The report was accepted by all present having been proposed by **Nigel Hepper** and seconded by **David Cutler**.

11-08 **The Kew Guild Garden**

Stewart Henchie spoke on the success of **The Kew Guild Student Vegetable Plots** in the Order Beds area of the Gardens. The Plots had been opened by **Roy Lancaster** in the afternoon of the Annual Dinner in May 2008, when he was also given the Kew Guild Medal. The gates are now installed, designed by **Emma Crawforth**, to help keep badgers away from the vegetables! He paid particular tribute to **Allan Hart** for his professional input and to all who had been involved in developing the garden which was proving a huge asset particularly with the public visiting Kew Gardens. **Stewart Henchie** was especially thanked by all present at the meeting for the tremendous amount of work he had done to make the project a success.

12-08 **Rules of the Kew Guild**

The President introduced the proposed new **Rules of the Kew Guild**, which had been publicised in advance of the meeting, and praised the amount of work done in advance by the Committee to clarify certain rules and bring them up to date. Several expressed the opinion that it would be good to have more staff members as part of the membership of The Guild, and it was confirmed that Students continue to have a concessionary rate. The main change to the Rules was that staff will be able to join after 3 months in the Gardens which it was thought may help membership. It was felt the proposals would help The Guild operate in a modern way and more effectively. **Colin Hindmarch** proposed acceptance, **Allan Hart** seconded acceptance as presented and everyone at the meeting agreed. **The Charity Commission** would now be informed of the amendments.

13-08 **Retiring President's Remarks**

The Retiring President said she thought it had been a good year for The Kew Guild, as evidenced by all the reports heard at the meeting. She had greatly enjoyed her year in office and was particularly pleased to be involved with the opening of the Students Vegetable Plots by **Roy Lancaster**, a project the Guild had been able to support because of the generous legacy of **Stella Ross-Craig**. As a further possible use of some of the legacy, the Committee were investigating how to give greater access to past Journals by making them available on The Kew Guild website and making them searchable – this was a potentially excellent project. She thanked the hard working members of the Committee and everyone for their contribution and their part in the Kew Guild. She wished The Kew Guild well for the future. The meeting applauded her Presidency.

14-08 Retiring members of Committee

The **Honorary Secretary** recorded thanks to **Brian Nash** and **Sandy Atkins** as retiring members of Committee and said he had written to them with thanks. He also recorded that **Sandra Leche** would be on the Committee for a further twelve months as a Vice President. Thanks had already been expressed in the meeting to **Pamela Holt**, the retiring Events Officer.

15-08 Election of Officers

The **Election of Officers** took place as previously detailed, namely:

President	Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS
President Elect	Professor Simon Owens
Vice President	Bob Ivison (first year), Sandra Leche (second year)
Honorary Secretary	Kenwyn Pearson
Honorary Treasurer	Jennifer Alsop
Hon. Membership Secretary	Stewart Henchie
Award Scheme Chairperson	David Barnes
Kew Gardens Representative	David Hardman
Committee Members	Jonathan Rickards Paul Sadler Wolfgang Bopp Martin Staniforth

16-08 Any other business

Under **Any Other Business** the **Honorary Secretary** read a letter from **CA Attwood** requesting whether Kewites who had reached retiring age could be granted a concessionary pass to Kew Gardens. **The President** replied that members of the Kew Guild could take advantage of the generous 50% discount offered by the Friends of Kew and also if a member was suffering hardship they could apply to The Award Scheme for assistance.

It was felt by the meeting that enough concessions were already made and the **Honorary Secretary** was asked to convey this to the member concerned.

There was a considerable debate on the **Annual Dinner** and **Richard Ward** attempted to stimulate the discussion on peoples' thoughts. There was a general feeling that the Annual Dinner should be held within Kew Gardens. It had been good to try another venue, and the ability to circulate among friends and members throughout the evening at the Coach and Horses was praised, however, the quality of the food and service was not good. **Sir Peter Crane** felt the event was better held within Kew, if a fair price could be negotiated. It was pointed out that members can apply to The Award Scheme for assistance with attendance, and the date is set well in advance. It was also noted that the

Students receive a concessionary rate. It was generally agreed that a buffet style worked well, with tables and chairs organised through the venue for people to sit while eating and **Tom Wood** suggested a buffet style meal in the Orangery would be a good option; **Brian Pitcher** made the suggestion that perhaps a garden party should be considered by the Committee as an alternative. It was also pointed out the importance of 2009 as the **250th Anniversary of the Gardens** and this should be promoted by the Committee, perhaps in conjunction with the Gardens' management. **John Sales** proposed action for investigating the dinner in Kew Gardens for 2009 and suggested the detail was left with the Committee. This was agreed by the meeting.

17-08 Inauguration of New President

The Retiring President, Rebecca Bower then installed **Sir Peter Crane** as the incoming **President** for the year 2008 – 2009. **Sir Peter** thanked The Kew Guild for their trust in electing him to the office of **President** and looked forward to the forthcoming twelve months, serving The Guild in whatever way he could. **Sir Peter** thanked everyone for attending and announced the **Date of the Annual General Meeting in 2009 to be September 5th**, held at Kew. The meeting was then closed.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE

Introduction by Professor Steve Hopper, Director

Professor Hopper welcomed all guests and friends. He said that this day was a day of celebration and wished good luck to all the outgoing students.

Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes by Emma Fox

‘Honoured Guests, Ladies & Gentlemen, may I echo our Director in welcoming you all to celebrate the achievements of today’s graduates and medal winners. Like Professor Hopper, this is my first Prize Day officiating in this capacity as I have been on maternity leave following the birth of my son Thomas in August 2007.

I returned to work in June this year, and so I would actually like to begin by paying special thanks to the staff of the School of Horticulture – to Judy, Rowan, Pam and our trusty volunteer Bridget and in particular to Martin Staniforth who as Acting Principal looked after the day to day running of the School and to our Head of Section Greg Redwood, for ensuring the smooth running of the Kew Diploma while I was away – thank you all. And so to the reason we are all here today:

One of the excellent qualities of the Kew Diploma is its international appeal. Every year students from the UK and around the world compete for one of just fourteen student places on our prestigious 3 year course. For the successful few, what follows may well change the course of their lives for good. This much is true for today’s twelve graduating students of Course 43, the international mix, includes students from England, Ireland, France, Belgium, Hungary, Canada, South Africa and even Wales.

Three years ago Course 43 all embarked on their life-changing journey, by enrolling on the Kew Diploma. Together they have experienced extremes of highs and lows. They have worked with and learned from some incredible people, and it is wonderful that so many of you have been able to join them and share in their special day. Course 43 have observed, studied, experienced and worked with a diverse array of plants and habitats. Between them they have travelled to some fantastic places in the pursuit of plants: from the dry forests of Peru, the grasslands of Hungary, the volcanic slopes of Montserrat, the rainforests of Brazil, the deserts of Namibia, the fynbos of South Africa, not to mention the bars and beaches of Spain and even the green roofs of Sheffield! The journey has been tough at times, but together they have persevered and battled on and [to the students] each one of you should be very proud of what you have achieved, for today you are joining a long list of influential horticulturists in becoming a Kew Diploma graduate.

But it was their first botanical adventure together that led to our Guest of Honour being here today. Course 43 were the very first group of Kew students to be invited to Clondeboyne – Lady Dufferin’s estate in Northern Ireland. Each one of us holds a special

memory from that weekend in September 2005 – as Lady Dufferin and her devoted team treated us all to the delights of her beloved Clondeboye and its unique collection of plants.

Lady Dufferin is an incredibly busy lady and so we are very grateful to her for taking the time to be here today. As Lindy Guinness, she is an accomplished artist well known for depicting life in the Irish countryside. As a landowner, she is responsible for managing Northern Ireland's largest area of broad-leaved woodland. Conservation Volunteers Northern Ireland have a tree nursery and base on her estate, and it is her passion and active enthusiasm for encouraging and supporting young people that has led to our annual team building event for each new intake of Kew Diploma students, something we feel very privileged to share. We are very grateful to you Lady Dufferin – many thanks.

And so now we should turn to our students and wish them well in their new lives and careers.

In the case of James Beattie, we hope to be able to welcome him back to Kew soon, as he has applied for a position in the Tropical Nursery.

Lisa Campbell will soon be starting a new life in Oxford, having accepted a maternity cover post as Assistant Glasshouse Curator at Oxford Botanic Garden

To Aude de Liedekerke we wish you well with your plans to join a Green roof project with Dr Nigel Dunnett at the University of Sheffield.

To Jane Gleeson, good luck - whether it's at Kew or elsewhere.

Sam Harvey is off for a well-deserved holiday and then hopes to take up a position as head gardener or gardener in a public or private garden.

Congratulations must go to Sandra King, who has been appointed to position of Head Gardener for the National Trust at Ham House.

To Lourens Malan we wish you well, as you embark on your new adventure to the island of St Helena, having been appointed to the post of Horticulture Support Officer in the Agriculture and Natural Resources Department – part of a 2-year project between Kew and the Government of St Helena

Gavin Meggy will be joining the Landscape designers and gardeners Sallis-Chandler – John Sallis-Chandler, a landscape tutor on our course, is in the audience today.

Thea Pitcher plans to develop her interests in the garden design and build sector by becoming self-employed

And Scott Taylor is already busy in his new role having joined the staff of Kew in my old stomping ground – the Palm House, so many congratulations to you.

Victoria Whaley plans to travel with her mum, before returning to Canada to possibly work in the tree industry.

And last but not least, good luck must go to Akos Zubor who plans to continue working in horticulture around the west London area, before eventually returning to Hungary.

So in closing, it just remains to thank you each and every one of you for all of your hard work. You have been excellent ambassadors for Kew both at home and abroad. Please continue this good work and remember that Kew will always remain open to you as a resource.

We will now turn to the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Kew Diploma Course 43. Thanks must go to all sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. In particular, I must thank the Kew Guild, whose President Rebecca Bower is on the platform. The Guild, an association of past and present Kew staff and students, have very generously supported the relocation of the student vegetable plots with the design and the construction of the “Kew Guild Students’ Vegetable Garden” near to the School of Horticulture. Special thanks must go to Allan Hart – the designer of the garden, and to Stewart Henchie who are both in the audience today, for all of their hard work in realising the plans. The first year students of Course 45 are the first year to use these new plots which were opened by Roy Lancaster OBE VMH, in May this year, and have already proved to be a huge hit with the visiting public.

The Kew Guild also gives several awards today, as well as in excess of £5000 towards travel scholarships. In addition, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Merlin Trust, the Bentham Moxon Trust, have all given grants to our students and Kew staff this year.

Now, to the prizes themselves. I would like to invite our Guest of Honour, Lady Dufferin, 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 Prize for Ecology & Conservation for outstanding work in these fields, donated by Dan Slack proprietor of the ‘Kew Gardener’, himself a keen conservationist and who is with us in the audience today;

Kew Diploma Honours grade

JAMES BEATTIE

Kew Diploma Credit grade

LISA CAMPBELL

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

The International Plant Propagators Society Award for the student achieving the best results in propagation, in this case for her grafting of *Betula* from Kew's Wilson collection and of Rhododendron from Castle Howard's Hooker, Forrest and Rock collections;

Kew Diploma Honours grade

AUDE DE LIEDEKERKE

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

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize donated by the local garden centre for the best overall performance in landscape studies;

Kew Diploma Honours grade

JANE GLEESON

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

The F Nigel Hepper Cup presented by a Kew botanist who is in the audience today. Mr Hepper has asked that the cup be given in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments;

The Kew Guild Prize for the best vegetable plot, for obtaining the highest marks in the project;

Kew Diploma Credit grade

SAMANTHA HARVEY

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, and we have Members of Court with us today, which also recognises the top student position;

The Kingdon-Ward Prize jointly awarded to the student attaining the highest marks in their final-year dissertation;

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 Donald Dring and Gilbert Memorial Prize sponsored by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees in memory of a former mycologist for the student attaining the highest marks in Entomology and 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 Gardener Arboricultural Prize sponsored by 'The Kew Gardener', for achieving the top marks in arboriculture;

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

Kew Diploma Honours grade

SANDRA KING

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

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade

LOURENS MALAN

The Fred Larkbey Cup sponsored by Mr Graham Larkbey in memory of his father who worked at Kew for 23 years as foreman in charge of all the extensive areas of bedding plants. Mr Larkbey has asked that the Cup be awarded annually to the best practical student each year;

Kew Diploma Credit grade

GAVIN MEGGY

Kew Diploma Credit grade

THEA PITCHER

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

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize awarded by the City of London Livery Company, to the person who has achieved the highest marks in Taxonomic botany studies;

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade

SCOTT TAYLOR

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

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

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade

VICTORIA WHALEY

Kew Diploma Credit grade

AKOS ZUBOR

That concludes the presentations relating to the third-year students. We turn now to second and first year awards.

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; The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize is presented by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor. As Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society this is awarded to
EMMA CRAWFORTH

The Institute of Horticulture Prize sponsored by the Institute is awarded to the person gaining the best overall performance in the first year; The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject. The winner of both awards is
KATE BLYTH

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory to the person who has given the best 'item of interest' talks to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. This year's winner graduated from the Rotational Training and is now living in South Africa. Unfortunately she is unable to join us today. She is
NICOLA WILKINS

We now move on to the Travel Scholarship prizes:

The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travel Scholarship is the top second year travel scholarship award, presented by the Trustees of the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Young Peoples' Trust to allow a Kew Diploma student to travel overseas. This year's winner travelled to China's capital, Beijing and to Chengdu in Sichuan Province to look into the glasshouse requirements and the cultivation of Chinese *Cymbidium* orchids. She is
MEI LENG LIM

The Stella Ross-Craig Travel Scholarships have been awarded for the first time this year. Administered by the Bentham-Moxon trust in memory of the famous botanical artist, who requested that her bequest be used in support of botanical and horticultural students.

Our first scholarship winner looked at 'British meadows and their re-creation'. He visited a number of nature reserves across the UK including visiting ancient and restored meadows. He is
ALWYN CRAVEN

Our next recipient travelled to the Republic of Mauritius to work with the National Parks and Conservation Service and study the islands flora. He worked in a nursery run by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and helped to collect rare, endemic seed with the Millennium Seed Bank team. He is
SAM CROSFIELD

Another second year student travelled to Kyrgyzstan in the Middle East to study bulbs in the wild. While there he visited Bishkek Botanic Gardens where he gathered information on bulb cultivation techniques. He is

PATRICK HAYES

Our next Stella Ross-Craig travel scholarship winner visited Mauritius and Rodrigues to investigate the role of horticulture in conserving the native flora of the islands. She is

TESSA MILLS

Three further second year students also received Scholarships to visit Chile, The USA and Tasmania respectively, unfortunately they are unable to be with us today – they are

JOSEPH ATKIN

CRAIG RUDMAN

TIM STRETTON

The Margolas Study Tour Award provided by the Margolas Trust in recognition of the conservation value of the project, goes to

DAVID ALICHA for his Scholarship to Cameroon

We will now move on to the staff prizes.

The John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships are available from a bequest of Mr Scott-Marshall who was a former editor of 'Gardeners' Chronicle'. Coincidentally all three of the prize-winners here today are diploma graduates themselves.

The first of our John Scott-Marshall prize-winners now works in Kew's Hardy Display Section. She travelled to Ireland and to sites around the UK looking at native orchids and at cut flowers gardens, in support of two projects she is involved with in her current role at Kew. She is

LUCY HART

Our next winner is from Kew's Temperate House who has accepted a joint award with a colleague who unfortunately can't be with us today. Together, they travelled to South Africa to observe and experience the regions flora to gain a better understanding of the plants requirements when grown in cultivation. He is

ANDREW LUKE

The final prize-winner in this category travelled to the East Coast of USA visiting the principal collections of tropical plants in Pennsylvania, Missouri and Florida. He is

CARLOS MAGDALENA

John Scott-Marshall Travel awards were also presented to

ALISON CHAPMAN

NICHOLAS COOPER

KATIE PRICE

PATRICK WOOD

They are unable to join us today but we congratulate them on their awards.

We now move onto the presentations to the Rotational Trainees.

The Certificate of Training in Botanical Horticulture with Merit to**TRICIA HARRIS****JOE ROBBINS****JESSICA EVANS** who unfortunately can't be with us today.The Certificate of Training in Botanical Horticulture**ELAINE GRIMES****VANESSA THOMAS**

That concludes the horticultural awards and I will now hand the proceedings back to our Director – Professor Hopper for the presentations of the Kew Medal.’

Kew Medal Awards 2008

LAURA PEARCE for bravery and courage shown whilst working overseas. Laura showed herself to be an exemplary and exceptional Kew team member when, without hesitation, or thought for her own safety, she assisted a badly wounded colleague in a very dangerous situation.

TOM REYNOLDS As a member of staff and senior research fellow for the past 42 years, Tom has made an invaluable and exceptional contribution to Kew. In addition to producing an outstanding record of publications, numerous students, visitors and staff have benefited from Tom's enthusiasm, support and willingness to share his knowledge in the field of phytochemistry. He is a valued teacher in the School of Horticulture – there is a Tom Reynolds Prize – and his scientific ability and tireless dedication is recognised through this award.

PETER MACNAMARA for his invaluable, and exceptional, contribution to staff and visitors during his 28 years with the Kew Constabulary. His good humoured advice and common-sense approach to situations, plus unswerving support to colleagues, provided an excellent role model – especially for new team members.

The Director invited Lady Dufferin to say a few words. She was most appreciative of all the kisses from the students as they received their prizes and Diplomas! She said that her contact with Kew began when Michael Blackenham had been Chair of the Kew trustees and she had wanted to continue her outreach work, particularly during the Northern Ireland troubles. Past Dufferins had worked on networking with Queen Victoria and past Director Sir Peter Crane had given great encouragement when Kew students first spent a week at her 2300 acre estate, Clondeboye. Lady Dufferin urged the outgoing students to go out stamped KT, for Kew trained, and, as they say in Ireland ‘do it right’.

The Director invited Lord Selborne, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, to thank Lady Dufferin.

Lord Selborne stated that Lady Dufferin was the custodian of a remarkable property; an inspirational person and someone who uses their great facility to the benefit of the community. She is a landowner contributing to society through a successful business. He gave particular thanks for the ongoing and important partnership with Kew, and thanked her most sincerely for coming all the way to Kew today to present the prizes and Diplomas to the outgoing students.

Outgoing student Jane Gleeson gave a vote of thanks on behalf of the students:

‘Lady Dufferin, Lord Selbourne, Lady Mayoress, ladies and gentlemen.

Many thanks for coming today to help us all celebrate the Diploma students, the rotational trainees and the Kew medallists.

The KD is like giving birth – except that the excruciating spasms last three infernal years! You are required to shed blood sweat tears and other un-named bodily fluids pushing a large mass of material through a small exit that will be stretched beyond your worst fears, and possibly ruptured.

Like in any institutionalised labour you are prodded, poked, assessed, measured, weighed but there is one difference – thankfully the KD has yet to introduce TR ultrasound probing... But there is always next year! Yet, as with labour pains, the suffering is soon forgotten to be replaced by happier memories, and I believe the same is true of the KD.

And the last three years have offered many joyful and auspicious moments. Not least the weekend in Clandeboye with the generous hospitality of Lady Dufferin where we were guided around the impressive gardens by Lady Dufferin and the unforgettable Head Gardener Fergus; the estate by Estate manager John Whitchel; and BCTV NI nursery by the inspiring Pascal.

We played blind football and had a go at off road driving and blind driving. If you have seen any of the electric gators roaming round today you may think we were still practising the latter.

We have been recipients of much hospitality and generosity throughout the whole three years, officially and unofficially, from colleagues, friends, both in and outside Kew all of whom have given of their time, energy and expertise – they are too many to name. But such kindnesses have saved floundering Students from shifting irreversibly into a state of idiocy and moral febleness.

We visited Wales, Wakehurst, Wisley, Eden, Spain and Castle Carey rubbish dump. We have been to Hungary and were warmly welcomed by Akos' mum and aunt – James was so impressed he went back a second time and stayed the night.

More intrepid travellers amongst us went to Brazil, Peru, Montserrat, Jerusalem, Namibia and Rotherham.

We have plunged augers, peered at theodolites, waxed lyrical about bonded gravel and can correctly pronounce both Lutyens and Jekyll. But the greatest pleasure of the KD has been my diverse and talented course mates.

James, always cutting a dashing figure no matter how sleep deprived, and with an enviable ability to absorb, retain and cogently churn out facts at the 11th hour. A committed sleep-mate in many a narcoleptic moment (apologies once more to the lecturers) but never my bedmate – well, not unless you count a rainy cold afternoon in Cornwall – Thea joined us for a very chaste threesome!

Lisa – our very own Celtic tigress with her poise precision and focused aim. She is fiercely organized and conscientious. Also well up for fun, and true to her Irish roots can dress up, party and share the craic – the Irish craic not the English meaning!

Continental, cool, composed and ontologically chic Aude is the urban sophisticate of Course 43. On the trip to Wakehurst when most of us were relishing the beauty of the Loader Valley reserve, Aude sidled up to me and said “Jane, I prefer concrete”. She is her own woman and abhors dogma and constraint; that is why she cheats at table tennis. Her future is bound to be both innovative, urban, and close to concrete.

Sam – what a combination of northern gritty determination and angelic beauty! Sam has stamina enough for all twelve of us. Also the most uplifting belly laugh! Unbeknownst to many she has put in many hours of work to further the cause of global peace by fearlessly making all Gumley residents do washing up promptly! Her plant ID skills are unquestionable, but when it comes to the animal kingdom there is a certain species blurring – she often greets people with “Alright chicken?”!

Sandra, perfection itself – glamorous, graceful, skilled, level headed. I could go on... Ham House are lucky to get her. But there is an Achilles heel – “when it comes to talking scouse she has acquired only one word and that reveals something macabre about her – that word is ‘Merder’ – claims to have got it from watching Brookside.

Anthropologists tell us that male adornment cuts across cultures and the ritualistic male displays of dominance are normal – the men of course 43 fought out the battle for supremacy in the arena of hair. In fact you could say C43 has been obsessed with their hair – it has been clipped, extended, bleached, dread locked, twiddled and stroked.

Take Lourens. Do not be deceived by his recent hair cut. He has swung from shorn Buddhist to Biblical mass of hair and beard that vindicate Darwin's ideas in one fell swoop. He is given to exasperated prophetic utterances – 'people have eyes but cannot see; ears but they do not listen'.

Vanessa returning to St Helena to warn Lourens on his way. I just hope she remembers to tell them his worrying compulsion to be photographed with phallic objects thrust between his legs is in fact harmless! Trying to vindicate Freudian theory too.

Gavin – is it possible not to like Gavin? Hard working and great fun. As his fellow country man said of him "That boy – his mother trained him well". With good natured charm and a willingness to lend a hand he always lands on his feet and people give him things – books, iPods, houses. I only hope that the IOC see sense by 2012 and make extreme wheel barrowing an Olympic sport, since Gavin is up for gold!

Thea – thunderbolt and fizz of Course 43. She has inexhaustible energy and is full of can-do attitude. You would know Thea was in the school computer room before you darken the door, since a sound reminiscent of Aintree racecourse greets you in the corridor as Thea punch types her latest project! She famously sleep-walked through a Hungarian Catholic Seminary wearing only a hand towel and little else – it can't have been witnessed since there were no reports of a sudden drop in vocations...

Scott, the baron of the bromeliads. He plays the African drum like a white boy (his own words!) and is certainly a force to be reckoned with – he managed to sack Lourens in four minutes flat in Management role play! I hope he eats organic food since any artificial growth stimulators will only result in the same fate as any living thing that gets too tall for the palm house – cut down and deaded off from the database!

Vicky, Victoria Canadensis, so uniquely herself that she is in her own mono-specific genus – ardent, overflowing with verve and adventure. I foolishly tried to warn Vicky of the deeply held suspicion that the English have of enthusiasm, especially first thing in the morning, and that a muffled grunt suffices for good morning or thank you. Vicky was having none of it and remained her sincere and exuberant self! Brimming with wanderlust, I know she will love her travels.

Akos, initially mistaken as the quiet and studious one... Well, he is certainly a Renaissance man with broad interests matched by great intellect. He is decent, stubborn, subversive and has a casual disregard for paltry nuisances such as project deadlines. He is in love with his wife, his family, his country and palinka. Akos' English improved exponentially once he arrived at Kew – I'm sure one of his earliest phrases, easily evoked by handing him a Günter's surveying chain, was "the stupid English and their bloody traditions".

So there we have it. We have cajoled, comforted, irritated and co-operated with each other for the past three years through many a dark long night – the light at the end of the

tunnel was not an illusion after all. We may feel like a newborn, bloodied, oozing, wailing and disorientated, but we have got through that narrow exit and as far as I know nothing ruptured.

As I said earlier there are simply too many people to thank individually. However there are, of course, some people who warrant a special mention:

Lady Dufferin, who has travelled a long way to be with us today and who has been such a great supporter of the Diploma students and of Kew in general. Principal of the School Emma, her first of many broods, who welcomed us onto the Diploma course and has guided, supported, nudged and at times shoved us through to the end. Greg, Head of GG&T – when not devising timetables, Greg is coping with applying chaos theory mathematics to episodic stochastic events that generate random fractals... In other words trying to get his head round the diploma marking system! Thank you for all your hard work. Martin for so daintily and valiantly stepping into Emma's shoes. Judy and Pam – the school office is the nerve centre of the diploma organisation and administration, and a refuge for students in need of mothering and comforting to lift them back out of various states of regression. Rowan has driven and shepherded us, rescued many a project from being sucked into the black hole of the computer network and shown great tolerance and forbearance when dealing with students driven to extreme pedantry by Ident tests.'

COURSE 46

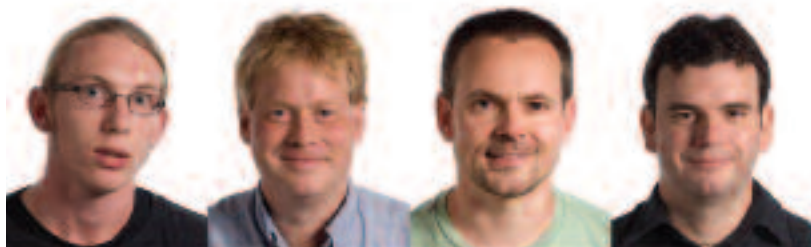


Emma Allen
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develops. Neil has worked in a lot of different countries that have given him inspiration and a direction to work towards.

Alison Chapman

- Education:** 10 x GCSEs; 3 x A levels; BA (Hons) Mandarin, Chinese, French, Spanish; Beginners' Diploma in Botany; RHS Level 2; NVQ Level 3, part completed; Manual Handling; Niftylift Training.
- Employment:** Work experience, Great Dixter, East Sussex; Jardin des Plantes, Paris; Horticultural Trainee, Painswick Rococo Garden, Gloucestershire; Horticultural Trainee, Temperate House, RBG Kew.
- General Information:** Alison's career aim is to help preserve plant biodiversity. In her view this is a task that needs tackling from a variety of angles – through in-situ and ex-situ conservation work, education about the importance of our environment, consultation with businesses, maintenance of botanical reference collections and setting up international agreements on land use, among others.

Duncan Fairley

- Education:** 1 x Standard Grade 3; 4 x Standard Grade 2; 2 x Standard Grade 1; 1 x Intermediate 2 Level C; 3 x Higher Level B & C; SVQ Level 2.
- Employment:** Horticultural Trainee, Grounds and Gardens, The Pope Nursery, Sutherland; seasonal worker, Skibo Ltd. Skibo Castle, Sutherland.
- General Information:** Duncan would like to progress his learning to as high a level as possible for his own satisfaction, then get into an area of horticulture where he could share his knowledge with other people who are as passionate about the subject as him. Duncan is a confident public speaker, so teaching, lecturing, consultancy or similar would be a good career for him.

Richard Greaves

- Education:** 10 x O Levels; 4 x A Levels; BA (Hons) in Natural Sciences; PhD in Biochemistry; BTEC National Diploma in Horticulture; NPTC PA1 and PA6A.
- Employment:** Volunteer Gardener, National Trust, Hampstead; Volunteer Gardener, Capel Manor College, Enfield; Band A General Horticulture, RBG Kew.
- General Information:** Richard's ambition in horticulture is to obtain a position as a senior gardener in a botanical or heritage garden. Richard's ideal job would include management and planning responsibilities, but would also retain a strong practical component. He is particularly interested in new planting possibilities in a changing climate.

Steve Haines

- Education:** 8 x GCSEs; 3 x A Levels; National Certificate in Horticulture; Amenity Tractor Use; PA1 and PA6.
- Employment:** Horticultural Student, Birmingham Botanic Gardens; Gardener, Lapworth House, Warwickshire; Planteria team member, Wyevale Garden Centre, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- General Information:** Stephen feels that he has been very fortunate to travel extensively and has been privileged to explore some fantastic habitats. He has been inspired by the natural world and feels an obligation to protect it. Stephen says, “Kew has an incredible reputation which naturally stems from its employees, past and present”. He believes he would thrive in the learning environment of the Kew Diploma, as he is eager to expand his knowledge and to play a part in conserving the remarkable biodiversity of our planet.

Nimai Hedemark

- Education:** Northern Sydney Institute of Technical and Further Education College; Certificate III, Horticulture (Parks & Gardens).
- Employment:** Gardener/Maintenance, Peninsula Horticultural Services, Australia; Retail and Maintenance Assistant, The Mosman Gardener, Australia; Landscape Assistant, Greenwood Landscapes, USA.
- General Information:** Jair wants to spend the next 3-5 years formally studying Horticulture. At the same time he would like to work in a situation that would allow him to marry his practical experience to his ongoing education. Jair doesn't know where fate will take him, but he would like to be ready for just about anything, be it a Nurseryman, an Arborist, a Landscape designer, perhaps growing Vanilla or Western Australian Sandalwood.

Sara Miller

- Education:** Ontario Secondary School Diploma; 6 x Ontario Academic Credits; Bachelor of Landscape Architecture (Hons); Associate Member of the Landscape Institute, ALI Associate Member of the Landscape Institute.
- Employment:** Landscape Architect – Grant Associates & Lloyd Bore Landscape Architects, UK; Design Consultant/Landscaper, Ontario; Conservatory Greenhouse Worker/Caretaker, Bovey Greenhouse & Rutherford Conservatory, University of Guelph, Ontario; Horticultural Internship, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Hawaii, USA.
- General Information:** Sara feels that the expert and diverse knowledge and skills that she would gain from participating in the Kew Diploma will provide an opportunity for her to enhance and expand her current career as a landscape architect. She feels confident that Kew will provide her

with a solid foundation from which she would continue to learn and grow independently. It would allow her to forge new professional paths in the areas of horticulture ethnobotany and plant conservation, while achieving her goals as a landscape architect.

Guy Moore

- Education: RHS Advanced Level 3; NPTC Level 2; RHS General Level 2; NVQ 2 in Amenity Horticulture.
- Employment: Gardener, Pine Lodge Gardens, St Austell, Cornwall; Gardener, Trevena Cross Nurseries, Helston, Cornwall; Gardener/Farm Hand, Ponsodane Farm, Penzance, Cornwall.
- General Information: Ultimately, Guy would like to help raise public awareness towards unique floral habitats such as the Fynos. He would like to work in a botanical garden and be involved in maintaining a Mediterranean collection. He would also like to be involved in field expeditions, collecting plant material and developing a thorough understanding of the associated environment.

Anne Rostek

- Education: Abitur (equivalent to A Levels); Graduate engineer; Geselle apprenticeship in a perennial nursery.
- Employment: Apprentice Gardener, Germany; Student Volunteer, Knightshayes Court, Devon.
- General Information: Anne says, "I am applying for the Kew Diploma because I am convinced it is the best horticultural qualification in the world. It will prepare me best for the challenges that horticulturists such as head gardeners have to face in their everyday working lives. I want to increase my plant knowledge, practice the techniques involved in maintaining all gardens and learn about the general management of different types of gardens. I am very interested in Kew's international connections and research work".

Alex Summers

- Education: 10 x GCSEs; 4 x A Levels; BSc.Hons. Zoology; National Certificate in Practical Horticulture and Plantsmanship; National Certificate in Horticulture; NPTC CS30.1 Maintenance of Chainsaw; CS30.2 on Site Preparation and Basic Crosscutting; PA1 and PA6 Spraying Certificate.
- Employment: Trainee Horticultural Technician, Cambridge University Botanic Garden, Cambridge; Assistant Rights of Way Contractor, R P Hunt Services, Loughborough.
- General Information: Alex is determined to pursue a career that works alongside ex-situ organisations within horticulture, in particular botanic gardens. He aims to achieve a curatorial or senior management role in a

horticultural institution that contributes to the conservation of the world's wild and cultivated flora. The Kew Diploma would provide an unparalleled opportunity to develop further the horticultural and technical skills required to maintain and manage collections.

Craig Williams

- Education:** 9 x GCSEs; 2 x A Levels; Foundation Certificate in Graphic Design; RHS Level 2 Certificate in Horticulture; NVQ Level 1 in Horticulture.
- Employment:** Garden Manager, L'Arche Lambeth, London; Assistant Gardener, Alan Smith, Kent.
- General Information:** Running a garden staffed mainly by people with minimal verbal communication and various degrees of obsessive compulsive and autistic behaviour has given Craig a unique perspective on the relationships we have with our surroundings and each other; what it means to achieve a goal and what each individual has to offer. It has given him skills, patience and determination to use the knowledge and experience the Kew Diploma offers to extend opportunities for therapy through gardening.

STUDENTS' UNION REPORT SEPT 2007 – SEPT 2008

by Tim Stretton

The school year began with the induction of Course 45 in September. Events during this 3-week period included a team-building weekend in Clandeboye, a welcoming barbeque hosted by Course 44 and the Clog and Apron Race, won by Felix Merklinger.

September also witnessed the opening of the Kew Guild Student Vegetable Garden by Roy Lancaster in which the first years were to be displaying their vegetable growing expertise. The plots were a huge success and the designs of individual plots superb, even getting a double page spread in the Daily Telegraph. The vegetable sales put on by the students were popular and money was raised towards their third year Spain trip.

As the first year group were placed around the gardens, Course 43 began their final lecture block in October. Highlights included a trip to Cornwall where they visited the Eden Project and an ecology field trip to North Wales enjoyed by all, even in the tropical Welsh rain!

After Christmas, Course 44 began their second lecture block and enjoyed some interesting subjects and managed to get through the intense Mondays of turf management, surveying, plant identification tests and hosting the KMIS lecture series. This lecture series ran from September to April and included Travel Scholarship lectures

from Course 43 alongside well known speakers such as Diarmuid Gavin, Ted Green and Christopher Bradley-Hole.

The final lecture block of the year from April to June was the first for Course 45. They enjoyed a week at Wakehurst Place where their Plant Physiology lectures continued among tours of the Seed Bank and the gardens. Post-lecture block, Course 45 also visited Bonn where they botanised at the Botanic Gardens, visited the historic town and gardens of Bruhl and were given a talk on the development of a new technology for creating water-repellent coatings which was based on water repellent plant surfaces such as lotus leaves.

During this period, the second year travel scholarships began. Some of the places visited by students included Kyrgyzstan (Patrick Hayes), USA (Emma Crawforth and Craig Rudman), Chile (Jo Atkin), Tasmania (Tim Stretton), China (Mei Leng Lim), Mauritius (Sam Crosfield and Tessa Mills), Cameroon (David Aliche) and the UK (Alwyn Craven).



June also saw the re-emergence of the Kew v Wisley football match where a hurriedly put together team of Kew students and staff were aiming to get one over the old enemy in their own backyard (see photo). After half time, the visiting team went 5-3 up and were steadily cruising to victory until the Wisley team unleashed their secret weapon – a Japanese girl with an eye for goal – and Kew were duly crushed 5-7.

Other highlights of the school year included Matti Nissalo making the national finals of the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition, Lourens Malan and Scott Taylor receiving 5-week scholarships to work at the Botanic Garden in Jerusalem and the Halloween party in the cricket club. The year was completed with Course 43's prize day in September with Lady Dufferin as the guest speaker.

KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, 19TH MAY

by Pamela Holt, with added photos from Richard Ward

This year the event was combined with the Kew Guild opening of the Student vegetable garden. In glorious sunshine President Rebecca Bower thanked all who were involved; from the design carried out by Allan Hart, Gavin Jones contractor, Dave Adams contracts manager, Osmo for the pavilion, Britland Steel, RBG estates department, Catie Paterson and Stewart Henchie. She then invited Roy Lancaster to declare the garden officially open (see photo below) with a ceremonial cutting of a raffia swag with garden shears – in the absence of the specially commissioned Britland Steel gates into which wonderful vegetable outlines were being laser cut, based on Kew student Emma Crawforth's



Left: President Rebecca Bower; Middle: Professor Steve Hopper (left) and Sir Peter Crane; Right: Roy Lancaster opening the Garden
Photos © Martin Sands.

winning design. (See photo of the gates in News of Kewites on page 339) Members and guests admired the hard landscape features and the illustrated guild information boards placed on the pavilion. The creation of this garden was made possible through the generosity of the Stella Ross-Craig legacy.

Eighty members, friends and guests enjoyed a buffet style meal in The Coach and Horses Hotel afterwards, where The George Brown Award recipient was Granville Turley, the very first Kew Guild Medal was bestowed upon Roy Lancaster, and Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild was presented to John Brookes, by President Rebecca Bower. Past Director Sir Peter (with Lady Elinor) Crane, and present Director Professor Steve (and Chris) Hopper also attended. Richard Ward officiated as Master of Ceremonies. A splendid array of raffle prizes (including an auction of the signed shears used by Roy Lancaster earlier) ensured that the students successfully raised £341 towards their annual trip to Spain. Members may wish to diary the annual Dinner on 22nd May 2010.



Left, Rebecca Bower presenting the George Brown Award to Granville Turley; and (right) the Kew Guild Medal to Roy Lancaster.
Photos © Richard Ward.

An introductory tour led by Head Gardener Robert Jameison allowed the group to understand the history, philosophy and background to the plant introductions. Currently seed collecting expeditions now lean towards Edinburgh. Aluminium labels give not only the plant name and location but also batch and expedition number. Twelve thousand trees have been labelled with four and a half thousand to go! A board of trustees was set up for administering the estate with their main meeting once a year but day-to-day running is carried out by his Lordship, now in his 70's, as his son David is not so interested. Three students are taken on in the summer but permanent garden staff numbers five, including the Head Gardener. Robert Jameison became Head Gardener in 1984 taking over from his father. Robert's brother is the propagator and other family members work in the tearooms.

Back in the 1930's twenty-four garden staff were employed many to harvest the fields of daffodils when a market garden was in full swing. Interestingly Charlie Erskine is currently on the board of Trustees and took part in one of the collecting expeditions with John Simmons and Hans Fleigner.

Lunch was taken in the elegant Earl Grey tearooms before exploring the rest of the extensive natural source plantings. Charles 2nd Earl Grey failed to register the trade mark for the now famous Earl Grey tea marketed by Twinings. This was specially blended by a Chinese mandarin using bergamot to offset the taste of lime in the Howick well water.

The new Arboretum is divided into six geographical zones covering 65 acres containing over 11,000 trees and shrubs. European plants are growing around the cricket ground and further fields from the estate can be planted if needed for the expanding collection. The arboretum was officially opened in 2006 by Roy Lancaster, and Lord Howick received the RHS Veitch Memorial Medal for his support for arboreta and the development of this new arboretum in 2007.

It was a great pleasure to welcome one of our older Kew guild members John Ward (94) with his daughter-in-law Susan, from Gateshead. Our visit was further enhanced with red squirrel sightings along the terrace.

A return visit to Alnwick Castle was made on Sunday touring the poison garden with a young knowledgeable guide. The giant tree house was explored before taking lunch in the recently opened visitor centre. Several members visited National Trust gardens in the afternoon, notably Craggside with its impressive hillside location.

Chester Zoo, June 21st by Joan Hart

A warm welcome made up for the damp chilly weather, when a group of Guild members were met by Mark Sparrow, Plant Curator of Chester Zoo, for a guided tour concentrating on plant conservation (as well as enjoying the animals). The Zoo was established in 1934 and when Mark arrived ten years ago, the planting mainly consisted

of carpet bedding, with the greenhouses filled with bedding plants – all looking rather out of place amongst the wild animal enclosures! Since then, some £900,000 has gone into plant conservation work, concentrating on endangered species, and the Zoo now produces a ‘Garden Guide’ to encourage visitors to notice the rare and special plants as well as the animals.

Mark has spent time and effort researching plant species that grow in the countries where the animals originate. He has used appropriate trees and shrubs in their large outdoor enclosures and around the buildings, (there are now only two small areas of bedding left), giving the whole zoo a natural, wooded atmosphere, where the animals look healthy and happy. Some animals, particularly the Chimpanzees, Apes and Gibbons, will destroy anything that is planted in their enclosures – Laurels, *Berberis* and some Rose species managing to survive. The standard of maintenance is high, with fourteen staff (four in the nursery) looking after the grounds. There are no volunteers helping in the zoo at present.

Extra funds are raised by offering ‘Keeper for a Day’ at £200, or ‘Gardener for a Day’ at £100, when people are supervised working with the animal or plants of their choice. There were three million visitors last year and they have 30,000 family memberships. With no government funding and a £20,000,000 turnover, the zoo relies heavily on private sponsorship – a grant of two million pounds from Jaguar Cars enabled them to build the ‘Spirit of the Jaguar’ house in 2001, filled and surrounded by South American and tropical plants.

Mark’s first project was the now well-established Glorious Grasses Garden. We also visited the Andes Garden, the Wildlife Garden, the VIP Border (Very Important Plants), the Rock Garden, the Roman Garden (created to celebrate the Millennium) and the Joseph Banks Garden, built two years ago, to display plants discovered by Joseph Banks. The Dragons in Danger garden complements the Komodo Dragon enclosure, giving a tropical, desert island feel. Throughout the zoo, animals and plants live side by side in complete harmony.

After a delicious buffet lunch at Oakfield House – used for weddings and special events – we enjoyed watching the Red Pandas climbing enormous trees and visited the glasshouses (some open to the public) which cover 400 square metres and house the Orchid collection (1,000), Carnivorous plants and Cacti. Larger replacement display plants such as Bougainvillea are bought in from Holland, and smaller plants, purchased from local nurseries, are also grown on there.

Crossing the new bridge (to be completed in summer 2008), which links the two areas of the zoo and passes over the Cheetah enclosure, the tour concluded with a walk through the very dark Bat House. Built in 1998, day and night are reversed and the bats are actively flying overhead. Our visit lasted over five hours and the rain did not dampen our enjoyment. Even those who had previously not liked zoos, remembering the bare ‘olden days’ enclosures, felt that Chester Zoo, filled with happy, lively animals and rare, exotic plants, was a good place to be. We were grateful to Mark for spending so much of his

time to give us such an interesting, informative tour, and were full of admiration for the planting transformations he has made during his time at Chester Zoo.

We will be back!

Ryton Garden Organic, July 12th

This was a well-attended day despite a few members dropping out for personal reasons. A guided tour with volunteer John Sargent helped orientate the group as well as learn something of the origins and ethos of the Henry Doubleday Association. Ryton Garden Organic was set up in 1985 from an open meadow to be a centre of excellence for organic horticulture.

Set within 10 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, there are 30 individual gardens including a rose garden, Cooks garden, demonstrations of organic methods of looking after soil, compost trials, green manures, cultural pest and disease control, and fruit growing systems. This last included Silvanberries, Marionberries and Worcesterberries. The Jostaberry was exhibiting large individual black fruits on a bush like a gooseberry, but minus the thorns, being a cross between a blackberry and gooseberry.



Heritage Seed Library Garden – Nick Boyes, left, and Andy Humphris, Richard Hart, M. Roberts, R. Chuter, John Sales, Peter Barnes, Joan Hart, and Barbara Roberts.

The Paradise garden designed by Kew Diploma holder Isabelle Van Groenigen is a tribute to the well-loved garden presenter Geoff Hamilton, a keen advocate of organic gardening. The Heritage Seed library was set up in 1972 when the EU took old vegetable varieties out of the catalogues. Lawrence Hill collected seed held in the bank at Wellesbourne. Eight young women prepare and packet seed which is distributed free to the developing world. Members of Ryton Garden Organic

receive free samples in February/March and may swap packets with other members as charging would break EU regulations. Over 800 varieties of rare vegetable seeds have been saved from extinction.

Within this building is a fine interactive display interpreting the vegetable kingdom designed to appeal to all age groups.

A solar panel provides the power for an imaginative water feature whose swirling pools sound like waves on a shore. This is situated within the Biodynamic garden where all sowing and planting operations are undertaken in conjunction with the moon's phases. Prior to the First World War the system was widely used before man became more reliant on chemicals and fertilisers. I can vouch for this as my coal miner grandfather used such a system for his allotment grown prize-winning leeks. The group then retired to the excellent restaurant for lunch.



The Biodynamic Garden with volunteer guide John, Mr and Mrs Roberts, and Mr and Mrs White.

The afternoon was spent exploring the rest of the garden and browsing in the organic gift shop, with several visiting the National Memorial Arboretum near Alrewas in Staffordshire on Sunday.

The National Memorial Arboretum, July 13th



Armed Forces Memorial

The National Memorial Arboretum is situated near Alrewas on Croxall Road, just off the A38 between Lichfield and Tamworth in Staffordshire. These 150 acres (60 hectares) of over 50,000 trees are devoted to the concept of remembrance, with services held in the Chapel regularly. Formerly a gravel and sand pit, the site was gifted from Lafarge Aggregates in 1997.

Dominating the site is the Armed Forces Memorial dedicated on 12th October 2007, in the presence of HRH the Queen, HRH the Duke of

Edinburgh, HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. It is the UK's tribute to the 16,000 men and women who have been killed on duty or as a result of terrorist action since 1948. Sited on a raised circular area, the grass banks planted with upright

Cupressus, the memorial has been designed to allow a shaft of sunlight to fall across the sculpted wreath on the central stone at precisely 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month. It is approached via The Causeway and a fine set of stone steps. Resplendent with an obelisk, dramatic human sculptures and giant Portland stone walls inscribed with names of the fallen, this is a place for contemplation.

Many trees reflect the particular memorial, for example *Cedrus atlantica* for North Africa, *Acer* for the Canadian memorials, and yellow-fruited *Malus* and *Sorbus* in the Golden Grove, planted to celebrate the lives of couples who have been married for fifty years. The first tree was planted by HRH The Duke of Kent, on the occasion of the Queen's Golden Wedding Anniversary. An inner wheel of the grove has golden *Ulmus* and prostrate *Juniperus* with golden *Chamaecyparis*, *Taxus baccata* '*Fastigiata Aurea*' and *Fraxinus excelsior* '*Jaspidea*' within a second circle. As part of a millennium project, Girl Guide groups from Staffordshire planted 10,000 golden *Crocus* and *Narcissus* on the inner and outer banks of the golden grove in 1999. In the Mediterranean Campaigns section, *Lonicera nitida* hedging cut in the shape of the Maltese Cross can be found. *Alnus*, the Alder, in the Royal Artillery Memorial garden, is a tree once used in the making of charcoal for black gunpowder. Alder in old English – 'alor' – then 'aller' (without the 'd') became part of many place names. Alrewas was one of them, meaning 'alder wash'.

Symbolism abounds – a section of the Burma railway alongside a wooden building which houses many graphic photos and artefacts from this section of World War Two; a pair of

open gates representing being set free, on behalf of the National Prisoner of War Association; and the Merchant Navy Convoy with a grove of 2,535 trees which represents all the merchant and fishing vessels lost between 1939 and 1945.



Wind in the Willows

The Home Front takes the *Wind in the Willows* for its theme with carved wooden sculptures of Badger, Mole and friends along with willow weaving and rustic wood seats. The Beat is an avenue of *Aesculus hippocastanum* representing

both individuals and divisions of the Police force. I overheard a guide state that this tree was chosen as it was a strong wood used for policemen's truncheons. I find this strange, as the wood is generally known to be soft, light and rather a weak timber. Perhaps

Castanea sativa was the original timber of choice? Many trees have individual dedications to a loved one, most noticeably in Roadpeace Wood dedicated to those killed on our roads.



Shot at Dawn

One of the most moving sections set in a tranquil glade is 'Shot at Dawn' where 307 posts radiate behind a blindfold sculpture of a young serviceman. Each post represents a young man shot for cowardice or desertion in the First World War. Today servicemen in similar situations are said to be suffering from shell shock or post-traumatic stress.

The memorial to Private Harry Farr, executed in 1916, was unveiled by his daughter Mrs. Gertrude Harris in June

2001. She fought a fourteen-year legal battle until her father was granted a posthumous pardon on 7th November 2006, by the then defence secretary Des Browne. Sited nearby an open sided shelter with seats and glass panels, it enables quiet contemplation and wildlife observation.

Sadly not all the trees are flourishing owing to difficult site conditions – shallow and waterlogged soil, and compaction. Far too many have bamboo canes and ties restricting growth, many are damaged, have dead branches, bleeding canker or are totally dead. Much of the maintenance is by volunteers but doesn't seem to extend to the trees. However the vision of this tribute is very impressive, designed to be part of the National Forest. This is Britain's boldest environmental project to create a new forest for the nation, across 200 square miles embracing parts of Leicestershire, Staffordshire and Derbyshire. In just over ten years, seven million trees have been planted with the woodland cover almost trebling. Eventually this woodland will create a green link, stretching between the ancient forests of Charnwood and Needwood.

Castle Howard Arboretum, October 18th

A dry sunny day with a cold wind began with volunteer guide Caroline explaining the background to the new Arboretum at Castle Howard.

The Arboretum began with planting in 1975 by the late Lord Howard and James Russell VMH, who sold his nursery in Sunningdale and moved to Yorkshire. It opened to the public for the first time in 1999 and has been laid out with great vision for future generations to enjoy. The Study and Visitor Centre was officially opened in May 2007 by Lord Selborne KBE FRS Chairman of the Trustees of Kew. The John Simmons Centre



was so named in recognition of the massive contribution that John has made to the Arboretum since 1997, when the Arboretum Trust was formed jointly with Castle Howard and The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

The trees and shrubs have been sourced in three main groups – from early plantings of rare and interesting woody plants already in cultivation; also often from historically important introductions via cuttings or grafting; and the bulk of the collection from field

expedition seed-raised plants. These include Kew, Wakehurst and many from one of the Arboretum's benefactors, Lord Howick, from his nursery at Howick, Northumberland.

Larix, originally planted for timber, provides shelter for the more tender plants. Rhododendrons have been brought over from Ray Wood and many seedling acers have come from Westonbirt. A stumpery is said to have inspired Prince Charles to create his own following a visit to Castle Howard.



Eucalyptus neglecta with Caroline, volunteer guide, talking to Rod Peach, Kenwyn Pearson (foreground), and Brendan Mowforth (right).

Wet areas have lakes and appropriate plantings from *Salix* and *Taxodium distichum* to *Pterocarya fraxinifolia* and *Alnus*. *Acer rubrum* 'October Glory' was much admired for the brilliant reddish pink autumn tints. A Quercetum was pointed out, and also the magnificent monarch birch, *Betula maximowicziana*, which not only exhibits lovely yellow autumn colours but a superb form too.

Within a pear glade, which originated from Long Ashton, the group admired an oak cruck barn style construction summer house, roofed with chestnut wood shingles, and a building used as a bird hide, built using straw and rendered with clay. Both were made by a volunteer.

Fourteen pairs of furniture trees have been provided by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers – Alder, Ash, Beech, Hornbeam, Larch, Lime, Oak, Pine, Plane



Kenwyn Pearson in debate with Jan Collins at the stumpery, Castle Howard Arboretum.

and Walnut. Native trees in the Tercentenary Wood shield the Arboretum from the working farm.

Two striking Eucalypts were noted – one for its wonderful bark and the other for its evergreen but non-eucalypt appearance, the endangered *Eucalyptus neglecta*.

Another curious tree was *Picea abies* ‘*Cranstonii*’, with strange slender waving arms. A sculpture trail added interest to the walk, with the John Simmons Visitor Centre and café to round off an excellent morning. Many continued their visit by admiring the

Castle Howard grounds and Ray Wood, or touring the splendid house.

Harewood House, October 19th

The house, owned by the Earl and Countess of Harewood, was built between 1759 and 1771 by John Carr of York for Edwin Lascelles, with money from the West Indian sugar trade. Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown laid out the landscape in 1772, which included damming the beck to create a long sinuous lake.

Sir Charles Barry was commissioned to transform the house and its setting in 1841, creating a grand terrace on two levels. This Italianate parterre was restored in 1994 by the then Head Gardener Michael Walker. Below are herbaceous borders, with a walled garden beyond the lake. This contains flowers and vegetables, and hops which are handpicked and sent to a local brewery.

The Himalayan garden in a sunken glade at the head of the lake was initially developed to house the family’s Rhododendron collection. The current Head Gardener, Trevor Nicholson, has researched diligently to restore and enhance this beautiful part of the estate, approached via a redesigned rock garden. The original summerhouse has been preserved and winding pathways and stepping stones across the beck retain the element of surprise, as the waterfall and then a Bhutanese Stupa come into view.

After our tour of this area with Trevor, the group were treated to coffee in the Stewards Room. This was followed by an illustrated talk and exposé of the research and planning that went into the restoration of the Himalayan garden, including the building of the Stupa by Tibetan monks. Fascinating photographs showed the symbolic artefacts that are placed within the building. John Sales encouraged the development from its early stages.

The house and estate were first open to the public in the 1950’s with the bird garden and its forty aviaries and open enclosures in 1970. This alone covers 4 acres including the

lake where flamingos grace the water's edge. There are various shops, and two cafes serving a wide variety of refreshments.

Harewood won the Yorkshire in Bloom 2008 Gold Award at Yorkshire's 'In Bloom' show.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2008

by David Barnes

I would like to thank the members of the Award Scheme sub-Committee for their support and work over the past year. I would like to pay particular tribute to Allan Hart for his excellent Chairmanship and I am very pleased to report that he is continuing his membership of the sub-committee.

We met twice since the last AGM, once in March and again in July.

Ten applications in total were considered with a total of £4,677.11 being awarded. These ranged from between £100 to £1,000. The total amount available to the sub-committee to be awarded was just under £11,500 and so while we are in a very strong financial position, we actually require more members to make applications. This will be the challenge for us in the future and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage members to make use of this scheme.

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED TO THE KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME

Kew Guild Awards are available to members of the Guild (except Trustees) to:

- assist purposeful travel (fares and subsistence)
- assist members' further education
- assist in the purchase of books and equipment
- pay tuition or examination fees
- provide grants to aid publication of specialist books or papers
- provide financial assistance to enable attendance at Kew Guild and other horticultural events
- assist other projects which the Award Scheme finds acceptable.

The full rules of the Awards Scheme are available on the Kew Guild Website (<http://www.kewguild.org.uk/>). Application forms can either be downloaded from the Kew Guild Website or obtained from the Secretary of the Kew Guild Awards Scheme, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond Surrey TW9 3AB.

The closing dates for receipt of completed application forms are 28th February and 30th June of each year. Applications are considered by the Awards Committee in March and July. This form must be clearly handwritten, typed or submitted electronically to

Awards@kewguild.org.uk. All supporting papers must be presented as A4 – unstapled and unbound. This should not exceed 4 sides of A4 as part of your application (additional papers may not be considered).

THE TROPICAL TOUCH – VISIT TO LIMBE BOTANIC GARDEN, CAMEROON

by David Paul Aliche

I have had a very good experience working and studying at RBG Kew so far but have always had a longing to see plants in their natural environment. Being an African, I thought that Cameroon might be a good place to visit.

My main objective in visiting was to help in re-establishing professional links between RBG Kew and Limbe Botanic Garden. Other objectives were to look for *Ancistrocladus grandiflorus*, *Cola cecidifolia* and *Plectranthus spp.*; to have an initial test of working at an African-type botanic garden; to find out about sustainability of LBG especially after DFID funding was withdrawn; to find out the plant record status of Limbe Botanic Garden on behalf of RBG Kew, particularly for John Lonsdale and Steve Ruddy; to use the information acquired to start my third-year dissertation on the feasibility of Limbe Botanic Garden/Entebbe Botanic Garden; and to experience the joy of being an ambassador for the Kew Diploma.

My strategy of getting the project running involved liaising with contacts at RBG Kew, particularly Emma Fox, Kath King, Tony Kirkham, John Lonsdale, Dr. Martin Cheek, Greg Redwood, Marcella Corcoran and Martin Staniforth. I then wrote a fundable proposal. The proposal was sent to the Kew Guild, Merlin Trust and the RHS. These bodies accepted to fund the proposal to my great delight.

My work methodology involved working with the staff members at Limbe Botanic Garden. I used 4 days for field trips at the community forest to find the above named plants of conservation interest. I interacted with British funded NGO's around Limbe, for example Wildlife Conservation Society and Limbe Wildlife Centre, to find out how Limbe Botanic Garden was exploiting the power of collaboration. This prompted me to organize a workshop for workers at Limbe Botanic garden in which a SWOT analysis of Limbe Botanic Garden was conducted. I facilitated the workshop with help from the curator LBG.



I found my visit rewarding because I took pictures of amazing plants doing things I have never seen at RBG Kew. I also found that the plant records at Limbe Botanic Garden need support from RBG Kew as expressed by the Curator Christopher Fominyam. I did not find any of the plants I went to look for.

It was such a joy to share about my experience on the Kew Diploma. I did share a few skills mainly with regard to planning for better horticultural standards. The experience of working at this tropical jewel will remain memorable. I found it difficult to work after 2pm as it gets very humid.

The shortage of funds calls for development of a new strategy at corporate and functional level. This is reflected in problems like a shortage of machinery so that instead of using lawn mowers, strimmers are used to cut grass. There is only one tractor that does the work in the garden.

I am happy that my visit was a means of re-establishing professional links and know that an intern (Gladys) may come to experience working at RBG Kew. I am fulfilled in my obligation of being an ambassador for the Kew Diploma.

The trip was very enjoyable thanks to the Kew Guild for their generous funding. I am keener to develop my leadership skills after the experience.

NATIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE

by Chris Cotterell

On the 1st to 3rd of April 2008 I attended a Plantnetwork conference at Cambridge University and Botanic Garden titled 'Cultivation and Display of Native Species'. There were many horticulturists from all areas of the profession, from other Botanic gardens, Private gardens and even a Zoo, with other members of Kew also present. All were united by the one passion for growing British native plants and displaying them in a way that will engage the public.

The three days consisted of various talks from people who were currently displaying native species, and the methods that they used to cultivate them, as well as several discussions on the best methods used to display the plants in a way that is engaging to the public. Several talks also looked at the various habitats that the UK has, and the types of flora that grow there, as well as ways to recreate them in a botanic garden. This was all backed up with several visits to gardens and areas where it was all being implemented, and open discussions were used to consider the pros and cons of the methods and how they could be improved.

One of the most fascinating aspects of the conference was the discussion of fens and the work that Cambridge Botanic garden have done to recreate one within the grounds. A fen is traditionally an agricultural system of irrigation that has been used for so long that many plants have adapted to thrive in this niche. One plant that thought to be extinct until



Man-made Fen at Cambridge Botanic

very recently is *Senecio* which was recently rediscovered, and is now undergoing trials to try to establish populations within the Wicken Fens. However, this plant is also found in fairly large numbers across Europe, so the issue arose of what can be termed a British native, (it was even suggested that the common blackthorn, *Prunus nigra*, is not a native, but introduced into the country hundreds of years ago), and should a plant such as the *Senecio* that is almost extinct be such a high conservation priority to us, if it is

relatively common elsewhere. Although it represents a distinct genetic individual that will differ from those on the continent, in the grand scheme of things it is still the same species, so should we put large amounts of resources into its conservation in then UK?

The final day of the conference was a trip to Kingfisher Bridge. It is a 150-acre area of private land that used to be farmed for potatoes and cereals, and since 1995 has been turned into wildlife habitat, including a very large fen. Water is fed into the fen from a nearby sandstone quarry, meaning that all of the water has seeped down through the rock making it crystal clear and alkaline. Here there are many reed beds, meadows, ditches, ponds and cliffs



that provide a wildlife haven, including breeding Bitterns, one of Britain's rarest birds. Its biggest success however, is in the conservation of the target 8 species, *Teucrium scordium* (see photo above). This plant had declined to just 12 small populations in Eastern England. Now thanks to some funding from Natural England, the fen contains over 500,000 plants! This plant that was, until recently, incredibly rare, can now be pulled out of the fen by the handful. It is not out of the woods yet though, as habitat loss means that its range is very restricted, and work must be done to re-introduce it elsewhere, although this is a major step in understanding its cultivation and habitat requirements.

me specialised plant communities growing beneath the *Pinus jeffryi* that favours these unfertile conditions. Tom was evangelical about the importance of fire as a tool for maintaining balance in these delicate habitats.

At the National Forest Plant Nursery I was able to see how trees and understory plants are produced on a massive scale for reforestation of areas that have been harvested or badly burned. Driving west to the coast I climbed Humbug Mountain and was treated to cascades of ferns and trilliums in the forest. The National Parks in which Coastal Redwoods are preserved amazed me. Photos do these giants no justice. My host near San Francisco, William McNamara, gave me free access to his Chinese woodland collection and a cottage in which to stay. His knowledge of local conifers enabled me to see the beautiful blue *Pinus sabiniana*, *Cupressus sargentii* and *Torreya californica*. I returned to the UK armed with information and ideas for spicing up England's tired pinetums.

KYRGYZSTAN

by Patrick Hayes

From mid-April to early May is a good time to see bulbs in this Central Asian country, which is about the size of Britain. Ninety percent of the country is covered in mountains that support a wide variety of plants. I first visited the Botanic Garden in the capital Bishkek where there are good collections of bulbs such as Tulipa and Iris. The Arboretum houses many Kyrgyz trees and shrubs such as *Zabelia corymbosa*.

There was time for some field trips near Bishkek with a botanist from the Botanic Garden, which included a visit to the Ala Archa National Park where we were lucky enough to see *Crocus alatavicus* on areas of recent snow melt. In a small canyon about 25km from the capital we came across *Tulipa ostrowskiana*, *Corydalis ledebouriana* and *Iris kuschakewiczii* which was already in seed. *Tulipa greigii* grew on steep slopes near the top of the canyon and hundreds of *Iris (Juno) orchioides* were to be found nearby growing on East facing slopes at 1390m. I met field botanist Georgy Lazkov at the Kyrgyz Academy of Sciences to see herbarium specimens of *Juno Iris/Zabelia corymbosa* and talk about my forthcoming field trip.

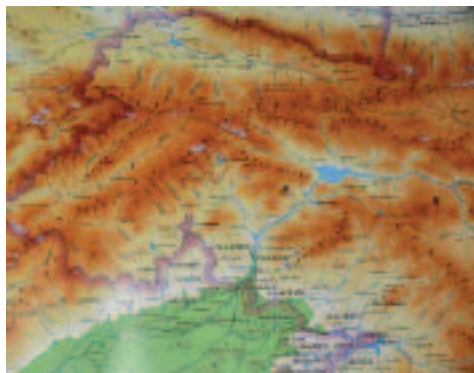
The field trip commenced on the 18th April and lasted eleven days, with the plants being easily accessible up to 2300m. *Colchicum kesselringii* was to be found in the Susamyr Valley at 2268m and its relative *Colchicum luteum* was seen in good numbers at 2589m. There were thousands of *Tulipa dasystemon* at lower altitudes while above, large expanses of Walnut forest *Scilla puschkinioides*, *Gagea* sp. were the dominant bulbs on short alpine turf. Higher still *Gymnospermium albertii* was growing under its woody relative, a species of *Berberis*. A hot exposed canyon near the Naryn River revealed *Iris narynensis*. The G.P.S read 632m a.s.l.; the lowest altitude of the trip. Near Sary Chelik National Park *Iris albertii* grew in large clumps. On a nearby slope was yet another *Juno Iris* with *Tulipa andromeda*. *Iris ruthenica* was abundant under the shade of *Prunus*.

Next stop was the remote Besh Aral Biosphere Reserve, which is accessed via the village of Jangy-Bazar. This village experienced -40°C last winter, showing that the bulbs must be well adapted to cold as well as hot temperatures. In this reserve *Tulipa kaufmanniana* and large numbers of *Fritillaria sewerzowii* were flowering on rocky slopes.

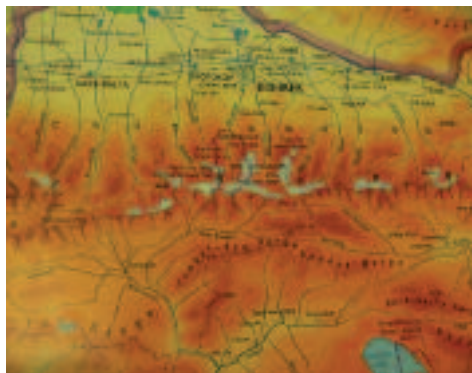
On returning to Bishkek I visited Yssak Atta Valley, just 30km from the city. In the wide river valley were a few flowering clumps of *Iris loczyi* as well as *Tulipa zenaidae* and *Tulipa dasystemon*. There was also time to visit the Kara Balta Gorge, about 100km west of the capital. *Allium karataviense* was growing in steep, slippery scree slopes and nearby the hard to cultivate genus *Orostachys* sp. was to be found in rock crevices.

The last day of field work took place in the Boom Gorge (Kyrgyz Grand Canyon), near Issykul Lake. Xerophytic plants are well suited here, and included *Pseudosedum lievenii* and three distinctly different *Allium* species.

My trip turned out to be a success and I hope my contacts and field notes will be of use to others at Kew. Thank you to the Kew Guild for this opportunity. A future Kew Diploma Student from Kyrgyzstan would be a perfect conclusion.



Left: Besh, Aral and Sary Chelik Nature Reserves



Right: Bishkek and Kyrgyz range

HORTICULTURE AIDS CONSERVATION IN MAURITIUS AND RODRIGUES

by Tessa Mills

Full of anticipation as my travel scholarship proposal became a reality, I landed in Mauritius, a jagged landscape of volcanic peaks and canyons which are predominantly forested with exotic vegetation. My first trip was to the Pamplemousses Botanic Garden, and from there I spent a week working in the National Parks and Conservation Nursery at Robinson.

Although resources and materials are somewhere limited in comparison to the UK, the nursery propagates and raises numerous endangered plants, including ferns and orchids for reforestation and exhibition on site. During my time at the Nursery, I visited Ferney forest which gave me the opportunity to study remaining native species in their natural habitat and also opened my eyes to the extent of invasion of alien species such as *Ravenala madagascariensis*. I was also able to collect cuttings from the Black River Gorges National Park and successfully propagate *Diospyros neraudii*, one of the seven native ebony species of Mauritius. A most prized wood that was devastatingly deforested shortly after the arrival Europeans in 1678.



Collecting *D. neraudii* cuttings material in Mauritius

In 2007 RBG Kew successfully repatriated plants and seed from the living collections to Mauritius including *Cylindrocline lorencei*, a species which has been extinct in the wild since the 1980s. Following up on the work of Carlos Magdalena who repatriated twelve plants of *C. lorencei*, I re-potted the plants and gave advice to the staff on future pot cultivation and planting.

Having had a fantastic experience in Mauritius I was keen to spend a further two weeks in the Island territory of Mauritius, Rodrigues, some 500km east of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. It has a landscape of steep hills, plunging valleys and scattered rocks with Mount Limon being the highest point at 398m. Much of what was once a forested wilderness is now scrub or barren land grazed by introduced animals.

During my stay I worked alongside The Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and I became familiar with the endangered flora of the Island many of which are endemic species. As well as working in the nursery, pricking out, potting on and seed processing I spent a lot of time in the field. One of the most valuable experiences being the identification of *Pandanus heterocarpus* and *P. utilis*, which I photographed to show their individual characteristics.

I also visited the site of the last known specimen of *Ramosmania rodriguesii* in the wild. This species was also repatriated to Rodrigues by RBG Kew in the 1980s. The dedication of horticulturalist Carlos Magdalena has led to seed being produced from a single clone of the species. This is a great attribute to the future of this species, which is at the forefront of conservation in Rodrigues, for which reason, I am very pleased to have been

able to provide a site maintenance report for The Mauritian Wildlife and The Forestry Commission in Rodrigues.

I would like to give special thanks to with thanks to all those who offered their support, including, RBG Kew, The Kew Guild, Stella Ross-Craig and BA, without whom this unrivalled opportunity would not have been possible.

MONOCOT IV / GRASSES V CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN, DENMARK

by Sylvia Phillips

This conference series on the comparative biology of the Monocotyledons, with parallel sessions on Grass Systematics and Evolution, takes place every five years. This time the venue was Copenhagen University, from 11–15 August 2008. The conference is an important occasion for those involved in Monocot research. It attracted about 300 delegates from all over the world, including 20 Kew staff. I am very grateful to the Kew Guild for enabling me also to attend as a Kew HRA.

My interests are in *Poaceae* and *Eriocaulaceae*, having co-authored the recently published grass volume for the Flora of China project, and now contributing *Eriocaulaceae* for 'Flore du Cameroun'. There were two and a half days of grass papers, the great majority on molecular phylogenetics. There are many conflicts in the grass family between traditional morphological classifications and new evidence arising from DNA sequencing. As usual at conferences, much of the benefit comes from discussions one is able to have with colleagues about the contributions in coffee and lunch breaks.



I contributed a poster entitled 'Floral and Seed Morphology in African *Eriocaulon*' (left). There were three other *Eriocaulon* specialists attending, including the well-known family expert from Brazil, Ana-Maria Giuliatti, and I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with all of them. The closing keynote lecture was delivered by Mark Chase, Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, who treated us to a wide-ranging review of Monocot phylogenetics and evolution. The conference proved to be a most worthwhile and stimulating week.

Several field excursions had been planned by the conference organisers, but unfortunately all were cancelled due to lack of support. This was almost certainly because they were expensive, rather than any intrinsic lack of interest for botanists in the localities chosen. As a result my husband, who was accompanying me, and I had a free week before the conference started. We decided to do the planned tour of southern

Sweden by ourselves anyway, using cheaper accommodation (and our own funding). The National Park we went to proved most interesting, and Guild members might like to read about our visit there.

Much of southern Sweden is a thinly populated land consisting of conifer forest, numerous lakes and wetland. Store Mosse National Park near Vänarmo is the largest raised bog in southern Sweden, and is described as a piece of Lapland in the south. The



new visitor centre has won an architectural award for a wooden building. It has large picture windows overlooking a lake with broad marshy margins, where we saw common cranes at quite close range. The park is a well-known bird area, with several viewing towers. We spent one evening up one of these watching for moose, but were eventually driven away by the mosquitoes before any appeared. The raised bog is crossed by a narrow boardwalk 6 km long. A trail guide and interpretation

boards along the route enable visitors to have a close view of the plants. We saw three species of *Drosera*, *Andromeda polifolia*, and many other bog plants among the sphagnum tussocks. I would certainly recommend this location for a natural-history-oriented holiday.

EXTIRPATION OF *SARRACENIA* IN VIRGINIA

by Craig Rudman

My trip began with a stop at Atlanta Botanic Gardens. I met up with Ron Determann, Director of the Native Plant Conservation Program, and his staff. This was a very small team of core horticulturists who between them look after the display glasshouses and the conservation plants and gardens. Propagation of display stock and conservation material is also managed within this unit. One member of the team, Matt, also runs the microprop lab for half of his working week. Plants are produced for the conservation program including *Sarracenia* sp. and very rare orchids including *Cleistes divaricata*. Protocols are also formulated in house and some plants, such as *Sarracenia leucophylla* ‘Tarnok’ (see photo right), are produced



to raise funding. This is a cultivar found at the garden with double flowers, almost unique within *Sarracenia* and now available to enthusiasts through the trade. While at ABG, I worked within the garden and helped to plant up a recreation of a cataract bog with *Sarracenia alata*. This is a very rare ecotype, which was built in the garden for educational purposes.

The bulk of my trip was working with Meadowview Biological Research Station near Bowling Green, VA. Meadowview is a non-profit organisation, which has charitable status and relies upon volunteers to carry out the physical conservation work under the supervision of Phil Sheridan, Director and founder of Meadowview. Much of the work done at Meadowview is to aid the conservation efforts at Joseph Pines Preserve. Joseph Pines is a one hundred acre site which is in the process of being purchased by Meadowview for in situ conservation of native Virginia *Sarracenia* and associated flora. These associates include *Pinus palustris*, *Cleistes divaricata*, *Platanthera ciliaris* and *P. blephariglottis*, *Lilium pyrophyllum* and other nationally or state threatened plants. One of the grants that Joseph Pines has received is from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is dependant upon repatriation of 18 such species.

When Meadowview purchased Joseph Pines the site was planted with mixed forest of natives and exotic species. These trees had been planted very densely and not managed and most were of no use at all. The soils and hydrology had both been extensively studied before a decision was made to buy the preserve. These are the two most important factors with the desired ecosystem. Indicator species such as *Sphagnum* sp., *Lycopodium* sp. and *Osmunda cinnamomum* were present and this was also considered very important.

After removal of large tracts of forest the preserve was ready to be burned in preparation for planting. This is a very aggressive but necessary method of vegetation removal.

While working at the preserve I planted over five hundred Virginia *Sarracenia flava*, the ‘Yellow Pitcher Plant’. These plants had been propagated at Meadowview and were from now-extirpated populations. Management of Joseph Pines aims to keep these populations separate to preserve genetic identity. This may be the only way to ensure the survival of the carnivores of Virginia. I am very grateful to the Kew Guild for this opportunity.

THREE MONTH SABBATICAL TO CALIFORNIA, AND OAXACA, MEXICO

by Yoke van der Meer

My name is Yoke van der Meer and I was on the Kew Diploma from 1986 to 1989. I have worked in horticulture for 28 years and as Head Gardener for Rodbaston College for the last 10 years. I have also been responsible for the care and administration of our National Collection of *Salvia* sps. from the New World (NCCPG). I am interested in and contemplating formally studying Plant Taxonomy.



Yoke holding a *Salvia*

The main reason for going to the Americas was an invite to do a presentation on our *Salvia* collection at Rodbaston College, England, by the organizers of the *Salvia* Summit held at Cabrillo College (31/7 – 3/8). The College has a large collection of salvias and I have known Kathe Navarez since she came on the *Salvia* Study tour to Southern Mexico in 2006 – one of her jobs is the care and propagation of all their salvias.

In the first week I travelled with Michelle Cleave, who has been a Botanical Horticulturist at RBG Kew since 2003. A major achievement of hers has been the *Salvia* border along the outside wall of the ‘order-bed’ area! We visited many good gardens in California, learning new plants and habitats typical for California. The conference for me was exciting mainly as I met so many enthusiasts (amateur as well as professional) in the *Salvia*-world.

I had visited Oaxaca twice before (first in 2004 for a 12 days general plant and habitat trip and then a return in 2006 to Oaxaca and Chiapas for a more specialized visit where we concentrated mostly on the genus *Salvia*). Both visits were too short and as Oaxaca was too close for comfort to California, I decided it would be an excellent opportunity for me to stay for a longer period in order to learn more about all the plant-life there. I was able to work and live at SERBO (‘Sociedad para el Estudio de los Recursos Bioticos de Oaxaca’), which holds a large Herbarium of plants in Oaxaca, and also spend an average of three days at the ‘Jardin Etnobotanico de Oaxaca’. Both work-places were different and were an invaluable experience for me.



Two Frangipanis or *Plumeria alba* at the entrance gate of Jardin Etnobotanico de Oaxaca

The highlights of these two and a half months were probably the visits to ‘el campo’ which were in 5 distinct regions of Oaxaca: 1) the Isthmus, 2) the Pacific Coast, 3) the Sierra Sur, 4) the Sierra Norte and 5) the Mixteca. The majority of time was spent in and around the city of Oaxaca, which is in a region called ‘Valles centrales’ which is really a plateau of around 1500 metres.

I only have space here to indicate the list of research I am hoping to do in a much larger report, which will hopefully be ready in the New Year. Any inquiries about this are welcome by email to yokevandermeer@btinternet.com.

The basic aims of this trip were to learn about the practical application of Taxonomy by working at SERBO, the main vegetation types found in Oaxaca and where they can be found, and the salvias of Oaxaca in relation with these vegetation types. Also to assist practically in the propagation of Endangered Plants of Oaxaca at the 'Jardin Etnobotanico'.

THE KEW GUILD HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

by Allan Hart

This is the third year of the Fellowship, which is only available to those professionals and academics who are not eligible to become full members of the Guild and who are very distinguished in their careers in horticulture and the botanical sciences.

The 2008 nomination of John Brookes has been welcomed by the Guild. John is a renowned practitioner of landscape and garden design, and author of the seminal 'The Small Garden', which must be on everyone's bookshelf. John was inducted into the Guild at the Annual Dinner on 24th May 2008.

Current Fellows are: Elected 2006 – Derek Edwards, Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit and Ed Wolf. Elected 2007 – Dennis McGlade and Anna Pavord.

John Brookes



John Brookes began his career with an initial training in Commercial Horticulture and progressing to Amenity Horticulture, before a developing interest in design led him to combine the various disciplines by becoming a landscape architect, after graduating from University College, London, with a Diploma in Landscape Design.

Experience gained from working with Brenda Colvin and then Sylvia Crowe, both pioneers of the profession in the UK, enabled him to establish his own Practice in 1964. The Practice has been highly successful and his skills have produced many acclaimed projects in the

UK, North and South America and Eastern Europe. John has managed to combine his professional practice with writing some twenty books on garden design. The first, 'Room Outside', is regarded as a classic, bringing a new approach to a wide public. He has also lectured and taught at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as well as Harvard Graduate School of Design, in Chicago, New York, Toronto and at Hamilton Botanic Gardens. His students have benefited from his extensive horticultural knowledge, his clever use of

plants in design and his experience in construction management – all presented with his infectious enthusiasm.

John has been honoured with election as a Fellow of the Society of Garden Design in 1987, and in 2004 was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for services to horticulture in the UK and overseas. He was inducted into the Kew Guild as an Honorary Fellow at the 2008 Annual Dinner – see photo above with President Rebecca Bower and MC Richard Ward, right.

EVENTS AT KEW DURING 2008

Excerpts selected by Julie Bowers and Joe Robbins, 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:

December 2007

- Late night shopping at Kew and Wakehurst was again successful.
- Professor David Mabberley appointed as Keeper of the Herbarium Library Art and Archives.
- New Director for Content and Learning Professor Angela McFarlane appointed.

January 2008

- The Grass garden undertook a change to the bed designs, incorporating the new North East zone path, linking these parts of the garden together. The new layout will give large bed space allowing this beautiful collection to be displayed to its full potential.

February

- Tropical Extravaganza Festival.
- Easter events including Easter Egg Hunt.
- New Information Guides transferred into HPE and now man the Information Desk at Victoria Gate.
- The Rose Garden started to be cleared of all the roses, the soil of the bed emptied and replaced with sterilised soil. The garden will be returned to the original William Nesfield design of 1848. The arboretum started their tree planting programme to plant 250 trees; the 250th tree will be planted by the Queen this year in celebration of Kew's 250th anniversary.
- A new monocarpic genus of palm was discovered in Madagascar; *Tahina spectabilis* was discovered by Xavier Metx, a Frenchman who stumbled across the palm in full flower whilst walking in north-western Madagascar. Seeds were sent to the Millennium Seed Bank and distributed to gardens worldwide. The palm is being grown at Kew to allow further research to be carried out as well as for public display in the garden.

March

- Last month of the Henry Moore exhibition.

- Children’s Guide Book nominated for a literature award along with ‘Atlas of Vegetation of Madagascar’ the Genus *Roscoea* (didn’t win).
- Late night openings Henry Moore.
- Kew Palace re opened to the public (closes October).
- To commemorate the great plant collector Wilson, the arboretum planted a selection of many of his collected species starting in the Victoria gate area.
- Antique correspondence between two of the greatest botanists of the 19th century has been returned to Kew. The correspondence is between Sir Joseph Hooker and leading American Botanist Dr Asa Gray. Within the letters they discuss the work of their close friend and naturalist Charles Darwin, pre and post publication of *On the Origin of Species*.
- A ‘barcode’ gene that can be used to distinguish between the majority of plant species on earth was identified by scientists who published their findings in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Journal* (4th Feb 08).

April

- Shirley Sherwood Gallery opened to the public displaying Botanical Art – opened by Sir David Attenborough.
- RBG wins big draw award.
- Henry Moore removal, start of a 6 week process.
- 4 new Marianne North Gallery paintings acquired – x2 India and x2 Botanical subjects.
- The arboretum planted a variety of sized trees in the area beneath the Treetop walkway, with the largest being some 15m tall *Quercus*.

May

- Treetop Walkway open to the public 24 May (lift to follow).
- Unique British Museum and Kew partnership venture produce a Chinese landscape in the forecourt of the British Museum 3 May – 28 October. Show a shared vision of biodiversity and conservation across the world.
- Treetop Walkway success with visitors over 80% visitors go up it in the first few months. Treetop Walkway is Kew’s 21st century Pagoda, opened by Hillary Benn and HRH Princess Alexandra.
- A plant thought to be extinct was rediscovered by the Kunming Institute of Botany (China), a partner of the Millennium Seed Bank. *Pariasometrum mileense*, was found on a collecting trip in Yunnan by Dr Shui Yuming and his students. The plant was identified against a specimen of the species placed in the Musée National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, in 1906, by a French missionary who had been the last person to see the plant in the wild.

June

- Adopt a painting helps with the restoration of the art in the Marianne North Gallery.
- 832 Pictures available for adoption (160/170 currently) but all are on view on Kew internet (external).
- International photographer of the year award 11 judges reviewed several thousand photos – Claire Takacs of Australia won.

- Oak Processionary moth breaks out at Kew again.
- Kew Guild President Roy Lancaster OBE VMH – award Kew Guild medal for outstanding contribution to amenity horticulture and horticulture education.
- Kew Guild vegetable plots open.
- Friends open evening.
- Diploma Course 45 travelled to Bonn for 4 days, visiting Bonn Botanic Garden and surrounding gardens.

July

- Sackler Crossing wins RIBA prestigious national award.
- Summer Swing concerts 5 nights.
- Kew's Breathing Planet DVD success available on YouTube at www.kew.org/aboutus/breathing-planet.
- 250th Birthday logo decided.
- Trees buddies school event at the Jodrell great success.

August

- Gold for Kew with the green tourism award.
- Staff visit director's refurbished house and learn about the plans in the garden.
- Node partnership with Kew, a device that helps visitors discover more about the World Heritage Site. Uses latest GPS technology – hire daily.
- The metal gates for the student vegetable plots, designed by Emma Crawforth (3rd Year Diploma Student) and commissioned by Dave Marriot were hung. The new gates form a badger proof area, perfect for the growing of vegetables! Funding for the gates was given by the Kew Guild.

September

- Open day weekends very popular with over 1,000 visitors to the Herbarium.
- The systematic order beds completed a 3-year project to change from Bentham and Hooker to follow the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group II classification. This involved moving many of the families to different beds. The new classification will mean that the order beds will be representing a further 30 families, now representing 86 families. Andy Darragh will be working to increase the diversity of plant species grown in the order beds in the coming year.
- The new first year students, Course 46, were welcomed to Kew on their first day with a barbecue held outside the Princess of Wales Conservatory. The barbecue was organised on behalf of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. Course 46 also endured the famous clog and apron race down the broadwalk during their first week at Kew.
- Another successful season of lectures began in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, with guest speakers including Chris Bailes, the Curator of RHS Rosemoor and Timothy Walker, Director of Oxford Botanic Garden.

November

- Kew's Ice Rink, 'Kew is magic not manic'.

- Dredging of the unnatural Waterlily pond in the North Eastern part of the garden took place to remove many years' worth of sludge from the bottom of the pond.

December

- Xmas Launch Weekend rather than late nights.

1st January 2009

- Kew opened free to all – over 26,000 visitors. A great start to 250th Birthday Year.

WAKEHURST 2008 – A YEAR OF CONTRASTS AND CHALLENGES: WHEN SOME WENT FROM BOOM TO BUST?

by David Hardman

Building on the successes of 2007, the year started as any other year; anticipation of new challenges and new initiatives, unaware of the impact the issues in the banking world would have upon us all, in some way or other. Behind the scenes the vision for the future was in preparation – for roll out to staff and then the public. Enthused by the best ever visitor attendance for 2007 what could go wrong if we could maintain the momentum although all managers of gardens and visitor attractions know the weather has the ability to disrupt any plans and projections?

So in 2008, we set out our plans as normal for continued maintenance and improvements to the visual appearance of the gardens, with a programme of events and a range of new developments for the year ahead, so your writer briefly describes what happened over the last 12 months.

Plans for the future

Much effort went into producing a conceptual brochure to stimulate public consultation and was distributed to a range of stakeholders in March to invite their comments. 'The vision 2008-2011 – A consultation document' included proposals for both sites. The aim at Wakehurst is described as enhancing the visitor experience and sharing access to the countryside and nature. It was outlined in four key areas – Living on one Planet; Sunset and Seeds Play area; Millennium Seed Bank; and Plants for Food:

Living on one Planet

Wakehurst is pioneering new initiatives to demonstrate how to live more sustainably at home, on the land and in the garden. With growing concerns about the impact of climate change on our lives, we will introduce new displays for all age groups on important issues like housing, food and waste management.

Sunset and Seeds Play area

Engaging young minds is an important part of our mission. We plan an interactive play area that will awaken children to the importance of seeds, with an adjoining café for parents, including displays of public art.

Millennium Seed Bank

The MSB is one of the most important conservation projects in the world. It targets species and threatened habitats most useful to people and vulnerable to climate change. It aims to bank 75,000 plant species by 2020. We need to accelerate our seed collection around the world.

Plants for Food

Children and adults are becoming more detached from the sources of their food. We want to show where our food comes from and how it is grown, how bio-fuels are produced, and give visitors a chance to see rare breeds grazing in Wakehurst's green meadows. Farming practices to conserve biodiversity are another theme.

Events

Our now well established series of seasonal events were fixed in the calendar, the band of stalwarts who come in to drive the minibuses, provide superb commentaries to the passengers and lead guided walks around the estate, organise the queues and steward the key garden locations were available and all we needed was the good weather to draw in the crowds. Despite having everything in place for the **Spring and Autumn Colour weekends**, the one thing we could not control was the weather. On several of the special Sundays it decided to let us down by raining. Despite this, the teams enjoyed the challenge of fewer visitors but the take-up was well in proportion to previous years.

After last year's inaugural Director's Garden Party it was agreed that it would be hosted by the Chairman of Trustees, Lord Selbourne since the Director, Professor Stephen Hopper, would be unavailable. On this occasion the weather proved pleasant and warm for the many invited guests attending the **Chairman's Garden Party**.

At the culmination of the **Arts Gigantic festival** on 12th September, we hosted 220 primary school children, one cockerel, one crow, a white rabbit, a merry band of musicians and many other hangers-on who took part in a colourful, musical procession through the gardens to meet up with two giants made out of willow and tissue. At the meeting of the giant Summer Queen and the Autumn King, children sang songs about the changing seasons and witnessed their betrothal.

At short notice an additional event was facilitated when in October the **International Garden Photographer of the Year** exhibition was moved from Kew and rebuilt above the Slips for late autumn and winter viewings.

Our events year was rounded off with the spectacular lights on the giant redwood Christmas tree on the Chapel lawn, and the traditional **Carol Concert** which, as always, attracted an audience of over 2,500 in the Carriage Ring, on a calm dry night.

Weddings at Wakehurst

New this year has been the sight of several weddings and a wake taking place in the Mansion – these are proving successful and the diary is already filling up for 2009 and 2010.

Horticultural Volunteers

The Horticultural Volunteer scheme, which started with 12 and increased to 15, has proven to be very successful. This was established in a survey to all staff and volunteers who, in their responses, recommended that the scheme should continue and be expanded wherever possible. There were clearly defined mutual benefits outlined by all the respondents who had enjoyed the opportunities to work with new people, learn from one another and reflect the support that the scheme had brought to everyone concerned. A report based on these comments and analysis of whether the scheme should continue was discussed by Managers who resoundingly supported continuation and expansion.

Plans are now in place to hold another Volunteer Open day in January so that people interested in volunteering can meet the Managers and have an informal interview as to their possible appointment for spring.

Staff matters

It was good to see Andy Jackson back at the helm after a period of absence during which time Professor Simon Owens had taken temporary control at Wakehurst Place despite his own heavy workload. The pressure on the office staff and managers has been greater than previous years due to the retirement of the Administrator in October 2007 and whose post has not yet been refilled. Added to this there has only been minimal cover since spring for Travel Trade, Marketing, Publicity and Promotion and with new contracts to be prepared for Cleaning and Security adding to this, the burden of covering their work has fallen to the few remaining staff in the office. However the team has risen to the challenge and by the year-end no tangible failings were seen, which is a great credit to all those concerned.

Likewise the Horticulture and Estate Management Section team never had a full complement of staff throughout the year but achieved a magnificent output despite a range of existing and new jobs to be taken onboard.

Garden development Projects

Worthy of note are the following projects that were accomplished with great skill and minimal impact on the garden visitors.

The planned make-over of the **Southern Hemisphere garden** beds is underway with many of the old and moribund collections systematically removed to adopt the phyto-geographic theme, which saw the completion of the South African bed plantings and clearance of beds for Australian collections to be planted next year, using material collected on recent expeditions and grown on in the nursery. Expectation of these displays is high in a popular area that has seen little new planting for many years.

Boosted by the success of clearing silt from Black Pond last year it was decided to use the experience and skills gained by Dave Marchant's team to remove all the silt from the **Top Pond** near South Drive (see photo right). Over three weeks in early autumn the pond was drained, silt removed and a new outlet overflow installed by the Logistics team. Some interesting wartime artefacts were found in the silt and their origin is being assessed.



Top Pond © D Marchant

If the resulting improved visual appearance of Black Pond through the year is reflected in Top Pond then this once 'neglected' area will be a new delight for visitors in future years, although there is still much work to be done on the land to the north of this pond.

Having a mini-digger available and our own skilled operatives, Chris Bassett and Sam Pierce, a recurring drainage problem was resolved in Spring when a new bypass drain was installed between Top Pond and the Mansion Pond. The problem of heavy flooding in heavy rainfall due to the old drain blocking up had made parts of the rock garden impassable, but since then this new drain has worked a treat and has been really tested through this year's very wet conditions.

Preparations for 2009 are underway to celebrate Kew's 250th anniversary and the completion of the first phase targets of the Millennium Seedbank Project. More to look forward to in next year's report.

Visitor numbers, credit crunch and weather

Poor weather set the scene with nearly 1030 mm of rain having fallen by the end of the year (see Appendix 1). Interestingly our financial year got off to a bad start with April being over 20,000 visitors down on the previous year. The discrepancy can be partly explained by the movable feast of Easter, which in 2008 fell in March so our 2007/08 record total benefited from two Easters in the same period!

Visitor numbers have not recovered but this has not been exceptional in the visitor attraction world where other venues have reported similar downturns in their visitor attendances. Interestingly when preparing this report I checked the calendar year total for visitors in 2008 (443,395) against previous years and having taken out 2007 which was the record, this last year was in fact over 25,000 higher than 2006 which means that 2008 was the second highest total ever! So was it boom or bust? I will let you decide.

Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2008

2008	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals Calend yr
Month's total rainfall (mm)	129.5	28.6	112.7	74.0	93.0	47.2	99.2	95.5	74.4	80.7	127.2	67.3	1029.3
Compare 2007	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
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]	[35.1]	[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}	{8.35}	{40.2}	{56.5}	{33.7}	{60.5}	{10.2}	{117.5}	{152.7}	{66.8}	{36.4}	{165.8}	{869.45}
Rainiest day (mm) *(combined)	15 th 30.8	4 th 10.4	9 th 16.6	29 th 16.5	25 th 42	2 nd 23.4	6 th 29.4	11 th 24.4	1 st 23.2	4 th 27.4	10 th 32.1	13 th 27.7	
Rainless days	6	19	9	10	18	21	16	8	16	12	8	14	
Highest Max Temp	11.1°C 19 th	16.5°C 10 th	16.7°C 15 th	20.8°C 22 nd	28.0°C 9 th	28.1°C 9 th	30.8°C 28 th	27.8°C 30 th	23°C 27 th	24.5°C 12 th	13°C 15 th	11.3°C 20 th	
Lowest Max Temp	3.2°C 2 nd	5.9°C 2 nd	2.3°C 9 th	3.2°C 6 th	7.6°C 28 th	14.1°C 12 th	15.5°C 6 th	16.1°C 13 th	13.4°C 30 th	7.8°C 30 th	3.8°C 29 th	1.4°C 31 st	
Highest Min Temp:	9.7°C 20 th	7.1°C 22 nd	9.6°C 10 th	11.0°C 27 th	13.4°C 11 th	14.6°C 22 nd	16.3°C 25 th	14.8°C 7 th	14°C 11 th	12.1°C 13 th	9.9°C 16 th	8.4°C 23 rd	
Lowest Min Temp	-1.9°C 3 rd	-4.0°C 17 th	-4.5°C 5 th	-3.4°C 8 th	1.9°C 19 th	5.9°C 5 th	7.6°C 21 st	6.6 °C 23 rd	5.7°C 13 th	-1.8°C 29 th	-4.8°C 23 rd	-5.2°C 30 th	
Nights – air temp below freezing	5	9	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	18	
Windiest day	15 th S 31mph	1 st WSW 34mph	10 th SW 37mph	2 nd &22 nd NW&NNE 25mph	25 th SSW 25mph	22 nd &2 3 rd SW&SSW 23mph	6 th SW 26mph	14 th WSW 28mph	6 th SW 25mph	5 th SSW 25mph	9 th SW 28mph	15 th N 24mph	



time. I then went on to study at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, during which I obtained the National Diploma in Horticulture and the Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration.

During my time associated with parks, they have changed greatly – for the worse and for the better. In the 1950s (despite post war economic stringency) through to about 1970, they were highly valued, well maintained and assets to the community. From the early eighties through to the latter part of the nineties, through the days of competitive tendering, they were neglected, ill-used and in decline. Towards the end of the nineties the majority were in a sorry state. Then came the Green Flag Award Scheme. Initially the work of a group of enthusiasts, who in my

view, should be awarded at least an OBE for what has become a change in community behaviour and an underpinning of part of the environmental movement. Such small beginnings have been followed by an enhancement in landscape values, environmental appreciation and community involvement across the land. What other small group of people have achieved this?

This is my ninth year of judging, and this year I have judged seven sites across England, spanning Green Flag and Green Heritage, as well as two pilot sites in Ireland.

So why be a Green Flag Award judge?

It is both enjoyable and rewarding. Judges make many new friends in park managers; they contribute to the future development and improvement of parks, and they learn and can take forward innovative ideas to other parks they judge. Judges are encouraged to judge a site for two years, and it is especially rewarding to make the second visit and see the improvements made during this time. This improvement to public parks is one of the most rewarding aspects of judging – along with seeing the enthusiasm of managers, staff and local communities.

KEW DIPLOMA HOLDER IN HORTICULTURE AWARDED MBE

by Pip Cockeram

Stephen Bristow, managing director of Greenwood Forest Park, an innovative, award winning and very special family adventure park in the UK, lying in the foothills of beautiful Snowdonia, was appointed an MBE in the New Year's Honours list for services to the tourism industry in North Wales.

Born in 1951, Stephen Bristow's first lesson in resource use came at the age of 20 when he spent a month living on the streets of Bombay with the 'shoe shine' boys after all his

money, passport and belongings had been stolen. They taught him an invaluable lesson on how to live with no possessions at all apart from the clothes he was wearing.



On returning to the UK, Stephen started his working career as a market gardener in Oxfordshire learning how to grow fruit and vegetables as well as glasshouse production methods. In his late 20s he studies for the Kew Diploma in Horticulture. At Kew he also learned tree surgery and arboriculture – work that he still carries out at GreenWood today. Stephen went on to read Agricultural Botany and Forestry at Bangor University in North Wales, gaining a BSc Hons in 1983.

Stephen then went on to join Green Deserts in Sudan as Project Manager where he was responsible for desert reclamation and community forestry. He then worked for SOS Sahel which seeks long-term, sustainable solutions to the poverty experienced by millions of people across the semi-arid lands of the Sahel region of Africa. Stephen spent a total of 18 years involved in development work in Africa, four of those spent living in the deserts of Northern Sudan. The people he worked with – subsistence farmers and nomads – knew how to live within the limitations of their environment, making use of all the resources at their disposal. In 1987, Stephen became Overseas Director for SOS Sahel where he was responsible for planning, finding and implementing natural resource development projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

In 1991, Stephen and his wife Andrea decided to move back to Wales and start GreenWood Forest Park. The initial investment for GreenWood Forest Park came from Stephen and Andrea selling their home and acquiring a bank loan and a capital grant from the Wales Tourist Board. During the first few years, Stephen supplemented his income working part time as a lecturer in the School of Agriculture and Forest Science at Bangor University and by continuing to work as a consultant in Africa during the winter months.

Environmental management is high on Stephen's agenda which is used as an educational tool as well as to reduce the Park's environmental impact. All his innovative approaches to management provide significant benefits on many levels with an impact which is being felt throughout the business. All staff are trained to look for ways to minimise waste and resource use and this has benefits both on the bottom line and on the environment.

As well as being Managing Director of GreenWood Forest Park, Stephen, along with Andrea, are also active members of the regional tourism organisation North Wales Tourism and also of Gwynedd Business Network.

Stephen has also published various papers and information booklets on natural resource issues in Africa and still occasionally teaches part of the careers curriculum in secondary schools as well as lecturing at the University.

KEW GUILD COMMITTEE



Most of the Kew Guild committee members 2009:
 Back row left – right:
 Martin Sands, Julie Bowers, Martin Staniforth, Sir Peter Crane, Kenwyn Pearson, Wolfgang Bopp, Chris Baylis, Jennifer Alsop, Jonathan Rickards, Joe Robbins, Bob Ivison, Prof. David Cutler.
 Front, seated left – right:
 Alexandra Ward, Stewart Henchie, Tim Stretton and Emma Allen.

Photo © Richard Ward.

NEWS FROM THE HIMALAYAS

by Udai C. Pradhan

Dear friends, old and new, it dawns on one that as age catches up, nothing happens in life without a purpose, as we spend more of our time recapitulating and meditating on the subject. The physical aspects of one's life take on a meta-physical form and philosophy overrides to bring more meaning to our thoughts and actions. Ever since I can remember, Orchids and all kinds of plants have been my playmates, my succour in times of sorrow, my inspiration and happiness (i.e. before I met this fine lady, Tej, who in spite of my biased views between her and orchids still agreed to become my wife and has remained so intimately associated with our work), and the subject that gave my family livelihood for three generations. It has brought my family and I into associations with some of the finest people in the world shaping our lives and our destinies, taking India into the future in this most exciting subject and setting parameters for the development of Indian plant and orchid science and commerce.

If you consider India a part of British history, it is also the other way round. The greatest legacy of the British rule in India has been



Udai photographing *Aenhenrya rotundifolia*

your language, adopted as ours through our constitution which was also framed in English. Today we speak, write and think in English and it is as much an Indian language as Hindi or Urdu. Communication with the world for India has become so easy and convenient and our writers, artists and scientists have all been expressing themselves as few others enriching English and harvesting many benefits. Similarly, the study of orchids and our other numerous flora and fauna and natural history objects have been in the modern context a British and European legacy. If thousands of plants including orchids had not given up their lives to the intrepid approaches of mankind, during the years of plenty, we would have never been able to grow orchids (or in that matter many other plants to perfection) as we do today, or know and understand the variety that has made *Orchidaceae* humankind's most favourite subject and the largest plant family in the world. If the adventurous spirit in mankind had not awakened to orchids, we would indeed have lost many more species by now. Today, armed with scientific knowledge, we can hope to bring back orchids and other plants and animals from the brink of extinction and although much still remains to be done, we are obviously on the right track.

I became associated with the Orchid Programme for the Botanic Garden of the Indian Republic, coming up at the 200 acre site in Noida, close to New Delhi, for slightly more than a year from 2007-2008, during which time the Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use (OSSSU) under the Darwin Initiative was launched by Phil Seaton and Dr. Hugh Pritchard of Kew. Dr. M. Ahmedullah, Head of the BGIR Project (and Chair of the Indian Plant Specialist Group) and I have identified 25 species of Indian Orchids for the first phase. I am now working on the cultural requirements of the very obscure, rare and beautiful Jewel Orchid, *Aenhenrya rotundifolia* in Kalimpong and, through our links, beginning to understand this high risk species more closely as also a part of our efforts to bring the Jewel orchids to focus before we lose these tender gems of nature forever. During the 18 World Orchid Conference in France in 2005 we released a small book, *Himalayan Jewel Orchids and How to Grow Them* which my daughter, Hemlata, illustrated and my son Satyam and son-in-law Chris helped co-author, which, for the first time, provided information on growing them.

After winning the RHS Gold and the World Orchid Conference Gold Medal for her paintings of Indian orchids, Hemlata was invited by the premier Indian Art Centre, the India Habitat Centre, to showcase her works there in 2007. Last year till early this year the exclusive art gallery in Nepal, Siddhart Art Gallery, invited her to exhibit her paintings in their exquisite gallery in Kathmandu and she is just back home (January '09) after winning the hearts of people there. She is now featured in a cover story on the first Asian Botanical Art Magazine, *Vanda* just released. During May and June 2009 an Indian Garden is being created in the forecourt of the British Museum in London in conjunction with Kew. An exhibition of Hemlata's Indian Flower paintings, focusing on Indian Orchids and other plants, will also be exhibited at the Clore Centre within that museum and is open to the public from Monday 1 May to Friday 28 June 2009. You will find out more from her website www.botanicalart.in. Please do visit and enjoy her works.

Last summer, four of us Satyam, (our son, graduated in Horticulture from the Singapore Botanic Gardens), Upashana, our daughter-in-law, Tej and I visited Scotland at the invitation of our friend and family there. We went around recapturing my 1972 tour of Scotland and U.K., hitchhiking and youth hostelling during July and August. I had cycled from Bradford Youth Hostel to the pirate town of Portree and back to the Isle of Skye and had ferried across to the magnificent Island from the Kyle of Lochlash. I was totally stunned to see a magnificent bridge linking the mainland to the Isle of Skye. The main road had changed into a decent highway with beautiful cars all over. Portree had metamorphosed into a quaint modern town buzzing with tourists of all nationalities. I felt like Rip Van Winkle after 36 years. During my earlier tour I had also cycled to Elgoll to see the Cuillins and it was there that I had listened to a young shepherd boy playing ‘Amazing Grace’ amidst the magnificent heathers. This time it was a hearty old Scotsman who played the tune for us on my request. And oh! the heathers, they were still blooming! And we also found an orchid, a *Dactylorhiza* species, and tried our hand at trout fishing, catching a few, but releasing most. (I felt extremely sorry for the fish and the worms, and have made up my mind not to fish again!)



Elizabeth and Hemlata studying the habitat of *Paphiopedilum venustum*.

It was in February-March 2008 that my family made a visit to a distant village in Kalimpong where a diligent Lepcha gentleman was tending a few plants of the orchid species, *Paphiopedilum venustum var teestaense*, a distinct variety of this species found only in the Teesta Valley that I had described way back in the 1970s. The population of this species is now badly affected by the Teesta Dam Project. His family received us and there was this ten-year-old girl Elizabeth, daughter of this gentleman, who led us to the site and who told us the local names of most of the trees and shrubs in the area. We were deeply

impressed with her interest in plants and we decided that we would help her foster her interest in plants. We talked with her parents and asked them to send her to us during her winter vacations. She is here now with us and while I am helping her with plant names and general botany, Tej is helping her with English. She is picking up very fast and learns with our grandson, Aachuk who is of the same age. We have decided to sponsor her and send her to a good school in Kalimpong when she finishes her village school next year.

In spite of the great economic crunch that has affected us all, the world still moves on and we must continue to make time to interact with children and young people and hopefully try to explain to them that excessive consumerism and job creation is not the answer to the world's economic problems. As Mahatma Gandhi once said ‘*There is enough for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed*’. Eckhart Tolle's *A New Earth* and Ekanath

Eswaran's *Take Your Time* surely helps bring balance to our wasteful ways and will hopefully be in time for saving our Planet's Green, White, Blue and Brown Mantle.

May you all find time to bring yourselves together and spend some hours every week in contemplation and to go within yourself and experience peace and fortitude in this strife-torn world. Take care every one of you, the family joins in sending all of you in the Kew Guild our warmest regards and very best wishes for 2009.

ANGOLAN JOURNEY

by Mike Lycett

I entered Kew after serving an apprenticeship and Teacher Training at Nottingham Parks Dept. After leaving Kew in 1961, I took an RSP Teacher Training course at Worcester, qualifying as a teacher of Environmental Science. After three years in Wiltshire, I accepted an opportunity to work in what was Northern Rhodesia. It had just become Zambia and received its independence. I found myself posted on the Angola border at Balovale, beside the Zambezi.

Angola is a wonderful, inaccessible country. In 1966 the main road system ran in a triangle from Nova Lisboa to Lobito Bay, Benguela Luanda; then back to Nova Lisboa. Until the civil war in Angola it was possible to travel on the Eucalyptus wood fired train to Lobito Bay; a five day journey. At this time it was illegal, though possible, to cross into Angola at Chavuma at the unmanned border. From here one could make for the mission at Cazombo, then head for Texeira da Sousa.

This meant crossing the Luena swamps on foot with just the compass to rely on. There was only the bush road to Ndola and train to Lubumbashi in Zaire. The road and rail follow the route via Tenke and Jadotville passing great mounds of green Malachite en route.

Eventually one reaches the Angola border at Dilolo. The crossing into 'no man's' land was made with an escort of Portuguese soldiers and the wood fired railway. The rail line, Dilolo to Lobito, represents east to west across Angola. Once leaving the waterfalls at Quemba, Eastern Angola, the Luena swamps, mosquitoes and the Namib desert take over. Using the now largely closed Benguela Railway one passed via Villa Luso with its *Eucalyptus* and *Casuarina* trees (*Delonix regia*) and *Jacaranda* in great abundance.

Arriving at Texeira da Sousa in the early morning, apart from some members of the Araceae, there is no sign of the elusive orchid species known to this area and used for mineral detection of copper.

Heading west the barren arid plains give way to more undulating, mountainous conditions and *Brachystegia* woodland gives way to Baobabs (*Adansonia* species). Passing Silva Porto, Cubal and Vouga, one arrives at Huambo over the steepest of curves

and gradients. Huambo, 2619 metres, is the highest point in Angola, also known as Puerto Nuova.

At this point the number of the train coaches are reduced in preparation for somewhat tortuous descent to Benguela, at sea level. This vast forty to fifty mile coastal stretch extends to the docks at Lobito Bay.

This entire strip is a vast cultivated landscape area, used for agriculture. Crops such as Palm Oil, Sugarcane, Sisal and Maize are but a few. This continues for 300 miles to Luanda, the capital. Petrol refineries and chemical industries were much in evidence. From here, heading east, the Dondo region was the next stop. There was little there except ascending barren landscapes through Quebala and Cela, two delightful villages. One final night at Cela and it was the train through the border to Zaire. This last section was followed the Congo River to Lualaba, returning via Lubumbashi. That, however, is another story.

GUILD TOUR TO AUSTRALIA, OCTOBER 2008

by Jim Mitchell



The gathering together of nineteen Kewites, their partners and friends who had travelled from the United Kingdom, United States of America, Spain, Chile, Turkey and Australia to enjoy the Kew Tour of New South Wales, ACT, and Victoria, was an event I never anticipated would ever occur when I walked out of the melon yard gates some 42 years earlier with my Kew Diploma tucked under my arm. But it certainly did. From the first glass of wine quaffed in the shadow of the Sydney Harbour Bridge until the final dinner at the Philip Island Nature Reserve laughter, amusement, frivolity and enjoyment prevailed.

Kewites on Tour included Allan and Joan Hart, Julia and Clive Popham, Bill Bessler, Bob Hebb, Margaret Johnson, Sandra Leche, Stuart Henchie, Bob Ivison, Mike Clift, Robin Lack, Jill Cowley and Jim Mitchell along with partners and friends Val Mitchell, Teresa Ivison, Winnifred Hebb, Eric Gastelaars and Kevin Wah.



The group at the Sydney Opera House Bar enjoying a 'Welcome Drink', with the lights of Harbour Bridge in the background

Some tour highlights included following in the footsteps of famous Kew Botanists Banks, Solander and Cunningham, walking through national parks, enjoying botanic gardens, seeing modern urban parks, relaxed by taking a ferry on Sydney Harbour, having an exciting botanical, horticultural, landscape and cultural experience. Also, 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, having a beer watching the sunset over the Opera House ensured a memorial Aussie experience for all; the visit to the Blue Mountains, the home of the Wollemi Pine; enjoying a film in an IMAX cinema, and taking a trip on the descending scenic railway deep into the Valle; inspection of the Mt Annan nursery where all the parent stock of the Wollemi Pine were first propagated to ensure the survival of this rare ancient plant dating back 200 million years;



The group on the Mangrove Boardwalk at Sydney Olympic Park

seeing the Millennium Seedbank in full operation which was a gift from Kew. Some memorable cultural experiences included being welcomed by an indigenous botanical guide at RBG Sydney who not only played a didgeridoo but baked morning tea in the form of a seed cake. The National Parks and Wildlife Guide at Kurnell took us along the Banks Solander track and later showed us how to make baskets, food, jewellery, bowls etc. from the plants we had seen. Enjoying a Flamenco Ballet at the Sydney Opera House was a delightful addition to the programme. The adventure included stopovers in the scenic Illawarra Region of NSW, in Canberra the national capital and in Melbourne the capital of Victoria. Additional pre and post Botanical Tours were taken by some to other States including Western Australia providing an opportunity to see the famous wildflowers, whilst others took the opportunity to see Lord Howe Island and New Zealand. A three night return trip to Sydney along the east coast was an additional bonus.



Aboriginal Botanical guide Clarence Slockee welcome the group to Sydney Royal Botanic

In summary the following destinations were visited: Botanic Gardens – Australian National BG Canberra, Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney, Mt Tomah BG, Mt Annan BG, Melbourne BG, Cranbourne MBG Annex, Illawarra Grevillea Park, National Rhododendron Garden; Urban Parks – Hyde Park, Sydney, Darling Harbour Bicentenary

Development Project, The Chinese Garden, Sydney, China Town, Sydney, Manly Corso, foreshore and sculpture walk, Sydney Olympic Park, Hunter Valley Gardens, Corbett Gardens, Bowral NSW, Canberra Parklands and City Plan, Commonwealth Park Canberra, Docklands Melbourne, Bradman Museum & Oval, Sydney Cricket Ground – Members' Gate, The Illawarra Fly-Sky Boardwalk enjoying the escarpment forest canopy, Windsor High Street; National Parks and Nature Reserves – Cabbage Tree Bay

Aquatic Reserve, Sydney Harbour NP, Royal National Park, Wollemi NP, Blue Mountains NP, Botany Bay NP, Berowra Valley Regional Park (Elouera), Hawkesbury River, Budderoo NP & Minamurra Falls, Black Mountain, Mt Kosciusko and Snowy Mountains, Mt Dandenong Ranges and Upper Fern tree Gully, Phillip Island Nature Park; Garden Festivals – Floriade, Canberra, Bowral Tulip Time; Socials – Welcoming Drinks and Happy ‘Hour’ at Circular Quay Bar over looking the Harbour Bridge, A Chinese Banquet in China Town, Wine and Cheese at Val and Jim’s Manly cottage, Breakfast at George’s overlooking Elouera Natural Park, Wine tasting in the Hunter Valley at Lindeman’s, Tyrell’s & Roche’s, Imax Cinema – Katoomba to see a film on the Wollemi Pine habitat, Ferry Trip on Sydney Harbour to Manly by daylight and return at night enjoying fireworks over the Harbour Bridge, River Cat Trip up the Parramatta River to Olympic Park, B-B-Q at Landscape Designer Phil Johnson’s home, Farewell Dinner at Waterfront Restaurant on Philip Bay, many restaurants in scenic locations, Flamenco Ballet at Sydney Opera House, not to forget the NRL Grand Final – Go the Manly Sea Eagles – seen on TV in a country pub.

Don’t miss the full detailed diary of events with photographs that can be seen on the Kew Guild website kindly formatted by Kevin Wah and recommend it to all those requiring further information.

This Tour following the successful one to the USA hosted by Past President Bob Hebb is surely one of those iconic events that needs to be established on the Kew Guild calendar. Future Tours are being considered to visit botanical gardens in Turkey, Chile, Papua New Guinea and the West Coast of America. A Tour in company of fellow Kewites at least once in your lifetime should not be missed.

It was certainly an honour and privilege to have hosted the OZ Tour in 2008 and my considerable thanks goes to Stewart Henchie and Kevin Wah for their driving help, to Clive and Julia Popham for their input in organizing the Victorian segment and fellow host Val Mitchell without whom it would not have happened.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2008

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Susyn Andrews, ex Herbarium, continues to be a very well informed member of the Guild’s Awards Scheme Subcommittee. An article in the Telegraph Gardening supplement of 5 January 2008 was written by Noel Kingsbury, following an interview with Susyn. The subject was the vexed question of botanical names: ‘Why are Latin names of plants so complicated?’ She specializes in the lavenders, *Lavandula*, and hollies, *Ilex*, on both of which she has lectured and written extensively.

G. Sally Bidgood retired from the Herbarium in 2008. She specialised in the flora of tropical Africa and made many collecting expeditions there, especially to remote parts of Ethiopia with Prof. Ib Friis of Copenhagen.

B. L. (Bill) Burt (1951 Life Member), who was a taxonomist in Kew Herbarium before moving to the herbarium at Edinburgh in 1951, died on 30 May 2008 following a recent painful period of ill health. He specialised in Gesneriaceae on which he published a great deal, including many species new to science. See Obituary on page 342.

Congratulations to **Jill Cowley** on the publication of her *The Genus Roscoea* (a Botanical Magazine Monograph). Jill retired from the Herbarium in 2000 and was Kew Guild Vice-President 2003-04.

Student **Emma Crawford**'s (right) design for the metal gates on two sides of the second year students' vegetable plots was chosen as the winning design. The competition was funded by the Kew Guild, as was half of the construction of the hard layout. These badger-proof gates are in steel alloy as used for the Xtrada Tree-top Walkway. Dave Marriott of W. S. Britland who oversaw the building of the Walkway, computerized Emma's drawings, which he then had plasma cut using the same weathering steel. It took 30,000 cuts to complete each pair of gates.



H J Eaton sends regards and greetings to members and friends as he was unable to come to the AGM '08. He thought the following information of his career may be of interest to The Kew Guild to those also who remember him: Student gardener 1938-1940; RAF 1940-1946 returned to Kew and worked for the Assistant Director JSL Gilmour; RHS Gardens Wisley 1946-1949 Horticultural Adviser; MAFF 1949-1977 Horticultural Adviser; Director ADAS MAFF EHS Rosewarne, West Cornwall 1962-1977.

Jim Emberton (1973) writes: I spend my life trying to fulfill myself. After leaving Kew I qualified as a teacher of Rural Studies. Suffering a degree of claustrophobia, I left to travel the world, into e.g. the Himalayas and remote Bamiyan Valley of Afghanistan – some 52 countries and islands in all. In February 2009 I will have been retired for 13 years from my leading parks role at York. I enjoy myself writing for *Mensa* and the *British Homing World* and my words go all over the globe. Occasionally the charming and charismatic **Robin Bletsoe** visits and I have some communication with **Barry Phillips**, **Log Whitehead** and **Alan Titchmarsh**. I still hold the record for the B.I.C.C. for pigeon racing out of Barcelona International (879miles). My maxim is 'Think it, do it' and I am still driven to succeed. Regards to all those who knew me (any Mensas?)

David Hardman, **Allan Hart**, **Colin Hindmarch** and **Anthony Ross** have all been elected Fellows (Members) of the Linnean Society during 2008.

Allan Hart (1958) is ‘sliding into retirement,’ he writes, ‘having finished the Kew Guild vegetable plots plans and a courtyard in Mayfair, together with a Master Plan and planting design for a new town square in East Sheen’. Allan and his wife ‘joined the Kew Guild visit to Australia after visiting the Botanic Gardens in Singapore and renewing my acquaintance with Hong Kong where I worked on a variety of projects some 40 years ago!’

Joseph Hooker, who followed his father Sir William as Kew’s Director, was a voluminous correspondent. Many of his nineteenth-century letters to and from the great American botanist Dr Asa Gray have recently been added to the Kew Archives (*Vista* issue 166, 18 March 2008). They discuss the work of their close friend and respected naturalist Charles Darwin, pre and post publication of *On the Origin of Species*.

Dennis C. McGlade (right), President and Principal of OLIN, the internationally acclaimed landscape architecture firm responsible for creating some of the world’s most artful and innovative public spaces, is the recipient of the 2008 Landscape Design Award from the Smithsonian’s Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. McGlade and his five partners were honored for their excellence and innovation in landscape design and dedication to sustainability. McGlade’s recent work includes Candy & Candy’s Chelsea Barracks redevelopment project which emphasizes open space and connection, and engages the public by encouraging active recreation and pedestrian circulation. The landscape is informed and inspired by its adjacencies, namely Ranelagh Gardens and the renowned Chelsea Hospital Royal Gardens. McGlade is also a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects’ Council of Fellows.



Patrick Nutt (1953) sent a sheaf of cuttings, including one on the Stone Harbor Lions race in which Patrick came first in the 75-99 year old group! Botanically, he continues his interest in the Victoria waterlily and gave the introduction to a lecture on it by his former students Joyce Rondinella and Tim Jennings at the 11th Pondapalooza National Pond Expo & Conference in August 2008.

Allen Paterson (1958) is to be congratulated on his new book *The Gardens at Kew* (Frances Lincoln Ltd, hardback, 352pp, £25), which is published to celebrate Kew’s 250th anniversary. (I find it fascinating to compare the illustrations in it with those I chose for *Kew: Gardens for Science and Pleasure* published 25 years ago as they show the remarkable changes that have taken place in the intervening years).

Leo Pemberton, (1988) Diane Bridson, **Roger** and **Diana Polhill**, **Martin Sands** and Bernard Verdcourt have all been interviewed by Kew Archivist Michèle Losse to record their memories of their service on the Kew staff. This Oral History is becoming an important tool for recording people’s history on sound and video tape.

Leo celebrated his 80th birthday (see photo, right) with his wife Mary and many guests at a very enjoyable luncheon organised by his family at 'The Goat' in Shepperton on Saturday 18th October 2008.



Together with family members were guests from Leo's Church group and other friends including **Tudor** and Audrey **Harwood**, **John Woodhams** (1995) and **Joan**, and Ken and Jean Turner. Many Guild members will remember Tudor in relation to his photographic work at Kew where darkroom and processing facilities were provided in the Jodrell building. Ken Turner and Leo have links going back to Horticultural College training in Kent and embracing the former Horticultural Education Association and now the Institute of Horticulture.

Congratulations to **Tom Reynolds** for being awarded the Kew Medal for 2008 for 'Meritorious Service'. It was presented by Lady Dufferin at the September Diploma Prize-giving ceremony. Although Tom has retired from his post in the Jodrell Laboratory, where he researched on biochemistry, he still lectures to the Diploma Students.

Christopher Searle has recently joined the Kew Guild; although he was at Kew in the early 1960s gaining horticultural experience, he was not actually a Diploma Student. Chris has for some years been a gardener and designer and maker in Reading where he lives with his music-teacher wife, Angela. It was Angela who snapped this amusing photo of Chris and Nigel Hepper in the latter's Richmond garden in spring 2008. Any suggestions for a caption? !



John (Log) Whitehead (1972), and **Bren** tell us that they have had an eventful year with Giants. 'January started with giant gorillas in Rwanda and ended with giant baobabs in Madagascar. For September and October our adventures began with the giant palm *Tahina spectabilis* in a remote area of Madagascar and ended with giant frisky bull elephants at Addo National Park in South Africa. During the summer we gained our giant leap into retirement age. We were amazed at our giant hollyhock which grew 4m tall towering alongside our bungalow at Pontllyfni in North Wales. Our village is world famous. All is revealed if you go into Google and type 'Pontllyfni meteorite'. During our African travels we sat on the impressively strange giant Hoba Meteorite in Namibia.'

Arthur Woodward, who died on 5 February 2008, used to be a regular supporter of Kew Guild Events. When he was in charge of the Borough of Richmond Parks Department he and I (FNH) used to meet to decide where the Richmond Society could donate trees which were given on an annual basis. I was chairman of the Society's Landscape Subcommittee so it was good to be dealing with a kindly fellow Kewite. Arthur was very keen to plant up the non-descript bushy area of the Terrace Gardens with numerous species of botanical interest in landscape plantings; it resulted in an improvement to this area that he was justly proud of. He would have been glad to know that the whole of Terrace Gardens are now undergoing a major refurbishment by the Council. See Obituary on page 349.

OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

BRIAN LAURENCE (BILL) BURTT B.L BSc FLS (Life Member)

27th August 1913 – 30th May 2008

We all know Kew has distinct departments: The Herbarium, The Jodrell Laboratory and The Gardens, so this means specialisation and some barriers to our complete understanding of what is going on in areas outside our own immediate experience. One of the key opportunities with The Kew Guild is linking up these departments and this obituary will amaze many of us who never really worked in taxonomy.

Bill was a very intelligent young man and began his exploration of reality with a classical education winning prizes in Latin and Greek at Dulwich College. He left there aged seventeen and entered The Herbarium at Kew firstly as an assistant to John Hutchinson of the Africa Dept. and then on to a job as assistant to the Director Arthur Hill. He was paid the princely sum of twenty-three shillings. He attended evening classes on Botany at Chelsea Polytechnic and took an external London University BSc degree in 1936, four years after his first paper.

Being in The Herbarium is something I experience researching obituaries for The Kew Guild and I can only get a pretty minor feel of the power and inspiration present on the library shelves and in the store cupboards. When I was last there I passed a book written in 1437 and this context for his work was very important. He subscribed to an old tradition of eclecticism in study and he was able to read and understand old documents. He brought to science a very deep understanding, and he expressed it effectively.

Nigel Hepper remembers him as a cute and cultivated fellow, already going a bit thin on top when Nigel joined the Herbarium staff in 1950.

He studied particular plant groups such as Gesneriaceae, Zingiberaceae and *Gnaphalium* and *Helichrysum* to name a few. He also published 260 solo papers, 122 joint papers and was joint author of 3 books.

His many field trips to very wild places, some of them previously un-explored, resulted in him collecting and drying 19,102 specimens either alone or in collaboration. Notably, Bill described 637 plant species new to science.

In 1951 he moved to Edinburgh Botanic Garden, which at the time was nothing really special. He transformed the place into one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world.

Combining the ancient ways of inclusivity, not excluding art from Science and vice versa, he told many taxonomic stories by combining his text with amazing high quality coloured drawings, helped by Auriol Batten and Stella Ross-Craig. Stella and her husband Robert (Sealy) were his life-long friends

Not only was he plugged into the past, and firmly competent in the present established ways, he also had foresight. He was involved in the modern techniques of molecular systematics and in his war service with REME (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers) he was involved in the development of radar.

He was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1954, The Veitch memorial medal of The Royal Horticultural Society (1971) and The Linnean medal for Botany from The Linnean Society London (1981).

Like so many of the classical scholars he loved music and poetry and in one of his books quoted a predecessor whose comments he valued:

‘Now I must summon all my skills, all
My learning, all my eloquence, to mentor
The name and virtues of this noble harvest
That this my lowly subject may receive
The highest honour that my heart can give.’
Walahfrid Strabo 9th Century monk.

Bill is survived by his wife Olive, and sons by his previous wife, Anthony and Jake, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Our thanks to Henry Noltie for contributions to this obituary.
See full obituary in *Taxon* Nov. 2008.

MY TIME AT KEW

The following is the script of an autobiographical talk given at the 10th Annual Staff Conference, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh on 12th February 2003 ‘People Matter’, by B L Burt. The manuscript was found among his papers; editorial changes have been minimal but the two illustrations, references and additional details in brackets have been added. H J Noltie.

'I'll talk about some of the people who mattered to me in my first ten years at Kew, 1930–1940. First I'd better get to Kew. I was tipped off that there was a vacancy in the Kew Herbarium – if I was interested I should move quickly. I did. I had an interview, and knew at the end of it that I'd be offered the job – but I think the official letter that I received is worth reading aloud.

19 September 1930

Dear Mr Burt,

I am very pleased to be able to offer you the post of Temporary Technical Assistant in the Herbarium. The salary is twenty-three shillings per week. You will be expected to enrol for evening classes at Chelsea Polytechnic and to study for a degree in Botany [B.Sc., 1936].

Yours sincerely

A.D. Cotton

Keeper of the Herbarium & Library

I didn't go back to school [Dulwich College]. On September 24th I arrived at Kew to start work – a just-left-schoolboy in a smart trilby hat. I was allocated to the African Department. The first three to four weeks were uneventful; I learnt how the herbarium was arranged and the geographical areas. The African Department was in process of being split – Tropical Africa into West Tropical, Cameroon & Congo, North-East, East, and South Tropical, so there were plenty of genus covers to be written. When you come across covers at Kew that look as though they were written by a nervous schoolboy – they were, and I wrote them. Kew knew their new recruit was completely ignorant about plant families and arranged for a daily bunch of flowers to be sent into the herbarium: they also arranged for a member of staff, Eileen Bruce, to give me an hour after lunch to teach me what to look for and show me why a daisy wasn't a buttercup. I knew the ordinary wildflowers of the South of England and the commoner cultivated ones too; I was now absorbing reasons.

Then John Hutchinson, in charge of the African Department, came back from a trip to Rhodesia with a great catch of dried specimens – and my education really began. I stood at his elbow while he sorted the specimens into families, with a running commentary on whys and wherefores when there were easily visible family characters. Hutchinson had not been to a university – his formal botany was that of the Student Gardener's course at Kew. He knew instinctively how much I could absorb because he had passed the same way. Hutchinson's ideas on the phylogeny of flowering plants, his emphasis on arborescent versus herbaceous habit, have been much criticized. In the course of the 10 years when I saw him almost daily he never once tried to sell me the whole package: he might mention his views in passing, but he never tried to convert me to them. As to their influence on botanists in general? He reactivated a wider interest in phylogeny. In detail? No-one accepts some of the details, the separation of Araliaceae and Umbelliferae, for instance: but many botanists are liable to mention primitive trees and palaeoherbs as distinct groups.

Then we moved on a step. ‘Hutch’ would take out a specimen and say to me, “I think this is such and such. Go and have a look in the herbarium – if it doesn’t look right to you, have a look among the species filed nearby and bring down anything that looks a better match”. When I did that he took infinite pains in comparing them and pointing out likenesses and differences before making a decision. Sometimes, when he agreed with my choice, I suspected that he had deliberately made a mistake to test me. My next stage was to get a bundle of specimens which Hutch would go over with me and then leave me to get on with the job, going through my results when I had finished the bundle. Of course I made mistakes – but they grew fewer. I was soon allocated the whole group of families that lie between Umbelliferae and Compositae.

Then Hutchinson was sent some bundles of Compositae from the Katanga region of the Belgian Congo. This was a region not very well represented in the Kew herbarium. We worked through these – me first, then with Hutch, but at the end we still had about 15 plants that we had been unable to identify. Then Hutch came along one morning and said, “It’s quite likely that those species have already been described but are not represented here at Kew – they are probably in the Brussels herbarium. I’ve spoken to Mr Cotton and he agrees that you should take them over to Brussels and hunt for them there. I’ll write to Professor Robyns and ask him to fit you up with a lodging not far away. Can you go as soon as your term at Chelsea ends?” So off I went, rather nervously, for my first lesson in travel: it was, that if a shop has a notice that says ‘English spoken here’, don’t go in. Find a small, unpretentious place and try your schoolboy French. It’s probably worse than the shopkeeper’s English, but he’ll appreciate your effort and do his best to help. Katanga is fantastically rich in Compositae, and I certainly found some of our unnamed specimens, but the wealth of the family in that area really surprised me – and yet there were a number of our specimens that I could not find there. [Hutchinson & Burt, 1932, BLB’s first botanical publication].

I was not immediately under Hutch for very long. In 1933 Sir Arthur Hill, the Director of Kew, seized the opportunity afforded by the retirement of the senior of three admin staff in his office to promote the other two but bring in a botanist for the third man. I was offered the post of Assistant Botanist, at a salary of £150 a year, on condition that I acted as registry clerk when one of the other two was away.

The first job that came my way was the classification of about a dozen or so of species of the genus *Gaultheria* and *Pernettya* from New Zealand, where they were known to hybridize rather freely both within and between these two genera. The first thing Hill said to me was, “Do you know anything about Ericaceae?” To which I replied that I knew the English heathers and that Hutchinson had introduced me to the ‘Lapponicum’ rhododendrons. “Well you’d better spend some time getting the hang of the family before you start on my problem,” Hill replied. Which I did. Actually his problem proved amazingly straightforward with the mass of material that had been collected for his study. One species currently had a ‘synonym’ that was in fact quite distinct, and one new species had to be described [Burt & Hill, 1935]. The small increase in species provided enough parents to account for all the mess of intergrading forms of hybrid origin.

The next problem Hill brought forward was utterly different. He had always been interested in the germination of seeds. A plum has a hard stone, which eventually splits in half to permit the seedling radicle, and then the first leaves, to escape. That was common knowledge: peaches and apricots and cherries were the same. But in the tropics there were fruits with a woody stone but that contained several seeds. How did these compound fruits germinate? Hill had now acquired, from overseas foresters, quite a few of the different types of these fruits, and they were beginning to germinate. I was deputed to record what happened, Miss Stella Ross-Craig was deputed to illustrate [Hill (& Burt), 1937]. This all proved a most interesting and taxonomically informative study. Here is one of the illustrations, above. What you see is just the stone of an African forest tree (there is a fleshy covering outside) – clearly, the stone is much more complex than that of a plum.



Stone of *Panda oleosa*, illustration by Stella Ross-Craig from Hill [& Burt], 1937.

There were other puzzling seeds, like the tiny ones of some members of the family Gesneriaceae. Minute seeds barely 2 mm long, but on germination the two seed-leaves, or cotyledons, behave differently: one remains tiny and eventually withers, the other develops a meristem and enlarges. There are some that never have other leaves than the one enlarged cotyledon: but that cotyledon may grow 5 ft long and 4 ft wide!

Hill decided to put up an exhibit of these remarkable plants at the Royal Society, and we had a splendid demonstration of these species of *Streptocarpus*. It was my job to stand beside it, and explain it to those interested. I remember it was great fun explaining these strange plants to eminent and sceptical physicists and chemists – but also to biologists like H. G. Wells, a diminutive man bursting with energy, and Sir D'Arcy Thompson from St Andrews, a giant of a man, and, as a student of whales, less impressed, perhaps, by mere size [See endnote].

T. A. Sprague became a figure on the botanical stage when, in 1930, he played a big part in the amalgamation of the American with the European Code of Nomenclature – leading to the International Code published in 1935. One contact I had with him concerned the correct name for two species of Himalayan *Daphne*. I wrote a note on the plants [Burt, 1936], and Sprague added an explanation of the reasons the names were used in that precise way. He made sure that I understood his reasoning and why it led to that particular result. Sprague also supervised drawings and articles published in Hooker's *Icones Plantarum*, which Bentham initiated so that illustrations could be distributed more widely than the supply of duplicate specimens permitted (see below).

Icones Drill:

- Preparation of text – complete.
- Read and provisionally accepted by Sprague, or accepted after amendment.
- Text and specimens to artist (Stella Ross-Craig at this time).

Artist returns pencil drawing to Sprague with comments as necessary (i.e. if the description did not match what she had seen). I have seen botanists seriously discomfited at this stage – however, if there were queries SR-C, J.R. Sealy [Stella’s husband ‘Bob’] and BLB sorted them out: we left nothing to Sprague.



Erlangea quarrei, a composite from the Katanga region of the Belgian Congo, jointly described by Hutchinson & Burt (1933), the first of ten articles published by BLB in Hooker’s *Icones Plantarum*, illustrated by Stella Ross-Craig.

[War-time service passed over: commissioned into Royal Ordnance Corps in April 1942, transferred to Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) to work on radar, including a spell in West Africa. Hill died in post, in 1941, while riding on the Mid Surrey Golf Course, adjacent to Kew].

When I got back to Kew in 1946 I found that the new Director, Sir Edward Salisbury, did not need a botanical assistant, and that I had been allocated the job of running the Europe and Middle East Department in place of Dr. W.B. Turrill, who had become Keeper of the Herbarium. Unfortunately my heart was never in European taxonomy, nor, I must admit, in the varietal niceties of the British flora. I escaped, whenever possible, to some interesting collections that Kew was receiving from Mrs Dickson, collected in Kuwait [Burt & Lewis, 1949, 1952]. However, a distant cloud on the horizon grew larger and, in my eyes, blacker: Turrill was very keen that Kew should write a Flora of Cyprus. The island has many fascinating endemics, but more than half of its flora is not endemic and much of that large half is European. Flora-writing has never appealed to me: I would have to write descriptions of *Ranunculus acris*, *R. bulbosus*, *R. repens*, *R. auricomus*, etc. Then suddenly [in 1951] a great flash of lightning split the clouds. An office notice saying that the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh wanted a botanist to take over the herbarium.

About a week or two after taking up duty, I felt it was time to ask the Professor [Sir William Wright Smith] what research he would like me to undertake. The reply came without a second’s hesitation – as though he had been waiting for just that question. It was, “You do any research you like – but you’ll have to do it in your own time”.

My time is up. I hope you've remembered that, though I have necessarily given you a first-hand story, it is the people, not only Hutch and Hill, but those I have had no time to mention, who were the People who mattered, and, with due respect to some earlier speakers, may I add that they, like my parents, would not have welcomed a catch-phrase like 'investors in people'.

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Endnote:

Rupert Baker of the Royal Society has kindly looked up the *Conversazione* records, and the exhibit 'Monophylly in *Streptocarpus* and *Chirita*' was put on by Hill on the 4th and 6th May 1937, in Room 2 of Burlington House (along with the Mace presented to the Royal Society by Charles II in 1663!). On the evening of the 4th both Thompson and Hill attended the dinner of the Royal Society Dining Club. Mr Baker further adds that H. G. Wells's connections with the Royal Society are elusive, 'his election to the Fellowship was discussed at various times, but never happened', so Burtt's anecdote is of some interest.

MICHAEL WESTON

– 29th November 2007

Occasionally one can empathise quite closely with those whose obituaries I write. When Michael came to Kew as an Improver he first worked with Mac, that remarkable cactus expert, past monk and devotee of Egyptology. I remember my own first days with that remarkable, inspiring man.

Michael was madly enthusiastic about Kew and his wife Sue remembers him taking the family round after paying the 1 penny entrance fee for them all.

In 1961 he left Kew to work under another Kewite (Mr Studley) at Portsmouth Council. This was a time when Kewites nurtured other Kewites in pursuit of the consolidation of

sound professional skills nationwide so he was on the track to success so long as he proved himself. Then he moved to Croydon where he worked firstly at Coombe Gardens and then as an area officer for part of that borough. He married Sue in 1961.

In her letter to me Sue mentioned the old A30 van he drove and its vital starting handle. Those were the days when one often saw people at the roadside with the bonnets of their vehicles up and someone struggling to turn the engine over with the starting handle, some of which stayed in place stuck out of the front of the vehicle.

He moved to Hillingdon and continued to study firstly The Royal Horticultural Society's examinations and then for his Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration which he obtained soon afterwards.

Now fully qualified he moved to The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead where amongst many other things he developed the nature centre. Years ahead of his time he purchased an Eco Bus for the council.

He enjoyed travel, photography and his computer.

Michael passed away on the 29th November 2007 and we pass on our condolences to the family.

ARTHUR WOODWARD NDH FILM Dip IPRA 17th March 1917 – 5th February 2008



For those of us lucky enough to attend Kew Guild events over the years there are happy memories of familiar faces but some always seem happier. Arthur was such a man and one suspects it was one of the things that encouraged people to support him in work and friendship.

Listen to his story: He was born on St Patrick's Day in 1917 in the northern town of Wigan. His first job was a very humble one, as aged 13 he looked after tennis courts in the local park. He was already taking an interest in the plants around the tennis courts so a mentor cherished this and encouraged Arthur to study. This eventually led to him moving to Potters Bar where he worked as an Improver. The next step was to Cambridge Botanical Gardens where he was a student gardener. Towering over him there was F. G. Preston, father of George Preston, who later looked after Alpine and Herbaceous at Kew.

In 1937 he left to join Dudley Borough Parks department. In addition to his practical work he entered into a correspondence course with W. C. Ibbett, a Kew man. Then war broke out and Arthur volunteered for The Royal Air Force. Amongst other things he manned anti-aircraft guns, something that may have led to his ongoing partial deafness.



Arthur Woodward and his wife Adah

He entered Kew on October 22nd 1945 and at the same time married Adah. Now this was of key importance because hitherto Kew Students could not be married. I suspect like in so many areas after the two horrifying wars people were beginning to question many of the old ways so the then Curator, 'Big Bill Campbell', not only allowed Arthur to enter Kew as a student, he behind the scenes helped Arthur and Adah find a nice flat. Whilst at Kew as a student he joined the Kew Guild Committee and worked in The Decorative Dept; Arboretum and Temperate Departments. He enjoyed the support of Miss Paine, Sydney Pearce and Charlie Raffill. He left Kew in April 1947 to become a Technical Assistant at Beckenham Parks Dept under C. Stock, another ex-Kew stalwart.

Two years later he became Deputy Superintendent at Richmond and Twickenham Parks Department.

From 1965 he was the man at the top and he

remained there until 1982 when he retired. He was responsible for many fine works ranging from the creation of The Terrace Gardens, turning the gravel pits into amenity spaces and creating the nursery at Ham. Another key facility he created was the nine-hole golf course at Twickenham, something he continued to inspect long after he retired as he indulged in his hobby of golf. He loved his golf and won the Veterans Cup.

It is over twenty-five years since Adah died but Arthur's support of family and his profession never waned. In addition to the management of local affairs in Richmond and Twickenham he kept in contact with Kew. He was elected President of the Kew Guild in 1984 and an old photo shows him siphoning wine into a bottle with a grin on his face. That grin was often there. In one of his humorous speeches and being only five foot four inches tall he said, "I will also make my speech short!"

He was a lecturer and examiner for The Institute of Landscape Management and the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration. He was also a past President of The University Botanic Gardens Association and of Richmond Rotary Club. In his 'retirement' he was a consultant to London architects and President of the Barnes Horticultural and Allotments Society. He kept all his old links and in 1962-63 was President of the Cambridge University Old Boys Association. He retired from The Kew Guild Committee in 1971 but often attended Guild events.

At his funeral, his sons Anthony and John were able to welcome many members of the family and friends including Kewites Joan and John Woodhams, Peter Bridgeman and Wiens and Richard Ward. After the funeral everyone was welcomed to guess where? Richmond Golf Club.

What a story. Entering the world of parks and leisure services aged 13 at the lowest level and leaving 68 years later at the top of a tree. Not a short career and not a short obituary.

Our best wishes and condolences go to the family.

RULES OF THE KEW GUILD

From AGM 2008

Name of the Association

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

Objectives

2. The objectives of The Guild shall be:
 - a. The advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge, particularly in connection with the work of The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place, hereinafter together called The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and among members of The Kew Guild.
 - b. The administration of the Award Scheme and other charitable funds of The Guild for the objects of The Guild, and the assistance from such funds to members of The Guild at the discretion of the Committee.
 - c. The encouragement of excellence in horticultural and botanical education at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew by the provision of prizes to the Kew Diploma Students and the administration of the educational funds of The Guild.
 - d. The publication of a Journal in furtherance of one or more of the objects of The Guild.
 - e. Generally to do all such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of The Guild as may be lawfully done by a body established only for the purposes recognised by the law of England as charitable.

Membership

3. a. **Full Membership** of The Guild shall be open to the following, subject to ratification by the Kew Guild Committee:
 - i. Kew Diploma Students, from the beginning of the Kew Diploma Course.
 - ii. Past and present staff members of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, RBG Kew Enterprises Limited and the Foundation and Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, internal trainees, research and liaison scientists and

volunteer workers, provided that they have worked for a period(s) exceeding in total at least 3 months at one of these organisations.

- iii. Persons awarded **Honorary Membership** by the Committee.
 - iv. On the death of a spouse or partner an Associate Member may take up Full Membership (see 3b below).
 - v. Persons associated with Kew but outside the categories set out in 3.a.(i) to (iv) who have been awarded membership at the discretion of the Committee.
3. b. **Associate Members.** The spouses or partners of full members.
 3. c. **Honorary Fellows.** Persons of professional or academic achievement not qualifying for membership under categories 3.a. or 3.b. may be appointed as Honorary Fellows by the Kew Guild Committee. The Committee may not award more than three Fellowships in any Guild year and the total number of Fellows shall not exceed twenty-five at any one time. Nominations for Fellowship shall be considered and approved initially by the Kew Guild Award Scheme Committee before approval by the full Committee.
 4. **Full Members** of The Guild shall have the right to vote at meetings and will be eligible for election as Officers of The Guild. Associate and Fellow Members do not have voting rights.
 5. a. The Committee may call upon any individual who has brought The Guild into disrepute to resign from The Guild by resolution communicated to the member in writing, stating concisely the grounds on which it proposes to act. If the member does not so resign within 48 days, the Committee may, by resolution, terminate his or her membership.
 5. b. Before coming to any decision, the Committee shall give proper facilities to the affected member for stating his or her case, either orally or in writing, to the Committee.

Annual Subscriptions

6. a. Annual subscriptions shall be payable on the first day of January each year and shall be an amount approved at the preceding Annual General Meeting. Payment of the subscription shall entitle Full Members to receive the Annual Journal and other benefits of membership. Honorary Members do not pay a subscription for membership but receive full benefits of membership. Associate Members do not pay a subscription, do not receive a copy of the Journal and have no voting rights. Honorary Fellows do not pay a subscription for membership and receive full benefits of membership, but have no voting rights.
6. b. Kew Diploma Students pay a reduced annual subscription, as determined by the Committee, for their first three years of membership while they are Kew Diploma Students.
6. c. Journal subscriptions shall be at a rate determined by the Committee.
6. d. Failure to renew a subscription by March of any year will result in the membership terminating.

6. e. If a member resigns during a year there is no refund of any part of the subscription for that year.

Management of The Guild

7. a. The business of The Guild shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of the Honorary Officers, other Officers and Ordinary Members. The Honorary Officers are The President, Immediate Past President, Two Vice Presidents, (each serving two years; one being appointed in each calendar year), President Elect, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. The other Officers are Editor, Events Officer, Award Scheme Chairperson and the Kew Gardens representative. The Ordinary Members are twelve in number, of which three are overseas members. The members of the Committee are the Trustees of The Kew Guild and shall sign a Declaration of Interests Policy and a Trustee Code of Conduct, and such other documents as are required by Charity law.
7. b. The Principal of The School of Horticulture plus three Kew Diploma Students Representatives, one from each year, are ex officio members of the Committee.
7. c. Nine members of the Committee shall form a quorum. The Committee shall normally meet five times per year and at other times as may be necessary. Nine members of the Committee may, by signed written notice to the Secretary, request him or her to call a meeting of the Committee and if such a meeting be not called within 30 days of the dispatch of such notice the said nine members may themselves call a meeting of the Committee by giving 21 days notice in writing or by e-mail as appropriate, sent to all Committee members.
7. d. The Committee may regulate its own proceedings by standing order or otherwise as it may think fit. No act or proceedings of the Committee shall be invalidated by any vacancy on the Committee or on the grounds that a member of the Committee was not qualified at or had become disqualified after the date of his or her appointment. The Chairperson of the Committee shall have no second or casting vote.
7. e. The Committee may appoint Advisors to the Committee. Their function will be to bring to the Committee special expertise and experience in respect of Guild matters. Advisors are not Trustees of The Guild.
7. f. At least seven days' notice of a meeting of the Committee shall be given to every Committee member in writing or by e-mail as appropriate.
7. g. The President will take the Chair, or in their absence the Vice President or President Elect. In the absence of all of these Officers, a member of the Committee shall be elected by the Committee to take the Chair.
7. h. There shall be an Independent Examiner for the Accounts appointed by The Guild at the Annual General Meeting, unless the funds exceed statutory limits, in which case an Auditor will be appointed.

Election of the Committee

8. a. All persons listed in 7a except the Immediate Past President and the twelve Ordinary Members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy among the Officers shall be filled as soon as possible by co-option by the Committee and any person so co-opted shall hold office only until the elections at the following Annual General Meeting.
8. b. Of the twelve Ordinary Members, four shall be elected each year and shall hold office for three years. They shall not be eligible for re-election to the Committee for at least 12 months after the end of their term of office. Any vacancy among Ordinary Members shall be filled at the next Annual General Meeting, the member elected completing the term of office of the member whom he or she has replaced.
8. c. Candidates for election to the Kew Guild Committee may, following their agreement, be proposed by any member of The Guild provided that the names of candidates be sent in writing to the Secretary at least twenty eight clear days before the Annual General Meeting.

Meetings

9. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in September of each year. At the Annual General Meeting the President's Report, the Award Scheme Report and a Financial Statement shall be submitted and election of Officers, Ordinary Members of the Committee and the Independent Examiner or Auditor shall take place. At least 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting the Secretary shall circulate to all members a Financial Statement and an agenda of the meeting which shall include a list of candidates for election as Officers or Ordinary Members of the Committee and the Independent Examiner or Auditor, with their proposers.
10. A Special General Meeting of The Guild may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be so convened within 42 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing. Such a requisition must be signed by not less than 35 members stating the purpose of the meeting and setting out any resolution which it is intended to propose thereat. Notice of the meeting, with an agenda thereof, shall be sent to all members at least 28 days before the date appointed for the meeting. Amendments to any resolution set out in the agenda shall be sent to the Secretary at least 14 clear days before the date of the meeting and shall be sent by him or her to all members with an address in the United Kingdom at least seven clear days before the date of the meeting. No business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that specified in the notice and any duly proposed amendments. The Chairperson of the meeting shall be in accordance with Rule 7.g.
11. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by any member shall not invalidate any proceedings or resolutions at any meeting of The Guild or any Committee thereof.

12. At a General Meeting each individual member whose subscription is fully paid to the date of the meeting shall have one vote and no more, except the Chairperson who shall have a second or casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Alteration to the Rules

13. These rules may be altered by a two-thirds majority of those present at an Annual or Special General Meeting. Any proposals for the alteration of Rules shall be sent to the Secretary in writing at least 21 clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting and shall be sent by him or her to all members at least 14 clear days before the date of the Annual or Special General Meeting.

Dissolution of The Guild

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

Property of The Guild and the Committee

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

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2008

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2008	TOTAL 2007
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Donations and legacies	2	15		15	566
Membership subscriptions		5,583		5,583	5,346
Investment income and deposit interest	3	20,398	5,874	26,272	28,448
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and other membership activities:					
Annual Dinner		1,625		1,625	2,623
AGM Soiree		117		117	247
Other events and income		-		-	5
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Awards and prizes:					
Donations and legacies	4		1,215	1,215	1,350
Total incoming resources		27,738	7,089	34,827	38,585
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and membership activities:					
Website project		2,082		2,082	
Archiving project		-		-	50
Journal of The Kew Guild		4,730		4,730	6,061
Annual Dinner		2,103		2,103	3,295
AGM Soiree		-		-	272
Presidents' name bars		270		270	-
Presidents' medals		-		-	594
Other events and membership activities		5		5	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Award making: Awards					
Awards	5	185	4,124	4,309	5,325
Prizes	5	605	16	621	509
Student fellowship		123	-	123	270
Kew Guild Garden		11,116		11,116	80,000
Kew Guild Medal		365		365	-
Governance costs		1,017		1,017	4,553
Total resources expended	6	22,601	4,140	26,741	100,929
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		5,137	2,949	8,086	(62,344)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	(16,142)	(14,750)	(27,483)	(58,375)
Net movement in funds for the year		(11,005)	(11,801)	(50,289)	(57,695)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	372,173	77,135	106,890	556,198
Total funds carried forward	12	361,168	65,334	79,407	505,909
				505,909	556,198

THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

		2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		168,668		227,043
Current assets					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		3,231		3,590	
Debtors	9	6,474		9,278	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	330,495		401,867	
		340,200		414,735	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,959)		(85,580)	
Net current assets			337,241		329,155
Net assets			505,909		556,198
Funds and reserves as restated					
Unrestricted general fund	12		88,375		83,528
Unrestricted designated funds	12		272,793		288,645
Restricted funds	12		65,334		77,135
Endowment funds	12		79,407		106,890
Total funds			505,909		556,198

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 17 April 2009 following the completion of the independent examination. 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.

RBG STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD(as at 28th March 2009)

RBG Student	Course Number
Allen, Emma	46
Atkin, Joseph J.	44
Baker, Kelly E.	46
Bancroft, Neil	46
Blyth, Kate	45
Carruthers, Lauren	44
Cotterell, Chris	44
Cox, Mark D.	45
Craven, Alwyn	44
Evans, Jessica C.	45
Haines, Stephen J.	46
Hayes, Patrick S.	44
Keough, Patrick J.	45
Merklinger, Felix	45
Mills, Tessa C.	44
Moore, Guy	46
Niissalo, Matti A.	44
Robbins, Joe	45
Rostek, Anne	46
Sleddon, Neil L.	45
Stretton, Tim	44
Summers, Alexander	46
Sutcliffe, Chloe	45
Wallbridge, David E.	45
Williams, Craig E.	46
Wood, Jonathan	45

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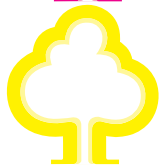
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