

Volume 15

ISSN 2046-1526

Number 115

2010



**THE JOURNAL
OF THE KEW GUILD**

KEW GUILD JOURNAL 2010

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



Founded in 1893

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 2010

Published in 2011

Volume 15 Number 115

Registered charity No. 306064

ISSN 2046-1526

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Printed by The Green Tree Press Ltd., 1 Parham Drive,
Boyatt Wood Industrial Estate, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO50 4NU.
Telephone: 023 8061 1234

**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

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THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2010-2011

Officers:

President: Alex George
 President Elect: Stewart Henchie
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 Richard Ward, Honorary Journal Adviser

Non-Committee Posts:

Editor: Alexandra Ward
 Website Manager and Development: Kevin Wah
 Communications Secretary: Sara Arnold

EDITORIAL

Dear fellow Guild members,

We hope that you will enjoy this enlarged Journal. Last year we asked you to contact us with your news and views and herein you may determine whether our plea has borne fruit. Modern technology now available to the majority of members enables you to email us at the click of a button and to easily send photographs. We suspect that the Journal may be sent electronically to members within five to ten years!

A plea to members sending us copy – please do so by latest 31st January to aid our publishing timeframe. See the Kew Guild website for further guidelines.

During 2010 we wrote personally to our 12 Life Members asking for news about themselves, their families, their lives and their memories of Kew – and you can read the results. On your behalf we thank them.

During 2011 the Guild Committee and others will be working hard to develop and provide the Guild with an expanded and improved website, and along with many existing and new ideas to keep you informed and interested. Our membership numbers are well up this year and with your help we aim to encourage others to join – application forms may be downloaded from the website. Incidentally we note that many contributors to this Journal have mentioned their ex-Kew, but non-Guild member, friends. Why not invite them to join?

Our thanks go to all contributors, to Professor David Cutler for help with the final proofread, and to our Printers.

Floreat Kew.

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Cover – the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity logo planted between Kew Palace and The Orangery, RBG Kew. Photo © David Shipp.

ALEX GEORGE BA, Hon DSc
President 2010/2011



An article on Alex's career appeared in *Journal* 114, pp 379–380. Here are some of his experiences associated with Kew.

For Australian taxonomic botanists, Kew's Herbarium will always be the focal point for studying early plant collections. Because there was no herbarium in Australia until the 1850s (when that in Melbourne was established), all collections to that time (and often for many years afterwards) were brought or sent to Britain and Europe and are still lodged there, except a few duplicates that have been returned to Australia. Specimens may be borrowed for study, and nowadays high-quality scanned images can be obtained, but there is nothing like visiting the herbaria since one usually finds other relevant material as well and develops associations with the staff. Kew was the primary destination for early specimens and so has the largest collection, although there are important holdings at the Natural History Museum in London, Cambridge University, and herbaria in Paris, Florence, Geneva, Vienna and St Petersburg. In many cases there are important collectors' notes, correspondence and other archives associated with the specimens.

Alex's first love in botany was the terrestrial orchids of Western Australia. Until he visited Kew for his first term as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer (ABLO) in 1968, research on these had been based almost entirely on the literature. Many descriptions were scanty or based on poor specimens so there was much uncertainty about applying the names. Thus it was an exciting experience to study the type material (especially that in John Lindley's herbarium at Kew) to determine the application of early names – many corrections were necessary, but it laid the groundwork for further research. Later, he made similar studies on many genera, notably *Banksia*, *Dryandra* and *Synaphea* (Proteaceae), *Verticordia* and *Calothamnus* (Myrtaceae).

In 1968, too, he saw the plant specimens collected by William Dampier on the north-west coast of Australia (then known as New Holland) in August 1699. These are the first authenticated plant collections from Australia. They are housed in the Sherardian Herbarium at Oxford and were on loan to Ronald Melville at Kew when Alex saw them. There are 24 specimens, most still in very good condition. Alex wrote a short paper on them (published in 1971) and then, for the tercentenary of Dampier's visit in 1999, a book on his extensive plant and animal observations (*William Dampier in New Holland: Australia's first Natural Historian*). 300 years to the day when Dampier landed on Dirk Hartog Island, Alex, with the curator of the Sherardian Herbarium Serena Marnier, landed at the same spot and re-collected all the plants in Dampier's collection. Amazingly, in 2002 Serena found another of Dampier's specimens that had lain unrecognised at Oxford, and Alex had the unique experience (at least for an Australian botanist) of placing a 'determinavit slip' (with the scientific name) on it more than 300 years after it was collected.

As ABLO in 2004–05, Alex received a request for information on species of *Eucalyptus* that had been grown at Kew, in particular around the 1950s. This was needed for scientific accuracy in a film of the novel *Eucalyptus* by Australian author Murray Bail (1998) which included a sequence set at Kew. The Kew records proved to be rather fragmentary, although there were herbarium specimens of eucalypts grown in Britain dating back to the 19th century. It was also recorded that the few species being grown outdoors at Kew were killed in the severe winters of 1961–62

and 1962–63, hence all those now in the Gardens have been planted since then. Alex decided that a reference set of herbarium specimens of these would be useful for anyone undertaking similar research in the future, so he collected specimens and photographed those trees that had reached maturity (i.e. having buds and fruit). These were placed in the Herbarium, with a duplicate set sent to the Australian National Herbarium in Canberra. The film, incidentally, was not made.

For Alex, besides his taxonomic research, the historical records at Kew – on herbarium sheets, in the archives, in literature – have been invaluable for collecting information on one of his major interests, early plant collectors. In the book *Australian Botanist's Companion* that Alex self-published in 2009 are listed all those who collected in Australia until the year 1900, some 2600 collectors. Brief biographical details (where they could be found) are included in the book.

A rather overlooked resource (at least by Australian botanists) is the Economic Botany Collection at Kew. Housed there are hundreds of specimens sent from Australia, in particular during the second half of the 19th century. Colonists were investigating the natural resources of the country for any products that might be of some economic or material benefit. Samples of those known or thought to be of some benefit (e.g. timbers, resins, fibres) were sent to Europe, in particular for promotional display at international exhibitions held in cities such as London and Paris. The Museum Entry Books for the early years are extant and record a number of items from Australia. In 2004–05, Alex ‘discovered’ in the Collection a travelling desk made by a convict in Sydney and taken back to England by the botanical artist Ferdinand Bauer in 1805, and some fruit representing type collections of Australian plants. Another intriguing item is a box of cigars made from juvenile leaves of Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), prepared in the 1860s by a French pharmacist, Prosper Ramel, for therapeutic purposes (his plan for commercial production never eventuated).

Kew also gains from the ABLO scheme. Firstly, it saves the time – many weeks – that Kew staff would have to spend answering the requests that come from Australia and New Zealand. Second, there is a reciprocal exchange of information. During Alex’s term as ABLO in 2004–05, he received many requests from Kew staff for advice about Australian botanists and plants, and identification of specimens (both in the Herbarium and in the Gardens). In the course of their research, all ABLOs update the nomenclature on the specimens of their specialist groups, hence many hundreds of specimens at Kew are updated with their current correct names.

One of the great benefits of working at Kew is the friendships and associations that are gained. For Alex these have been of great value in his work, particularly in his job as Executive Editor of the *Flora of Australia* when he called on colleagues at Kew for advice, information or reviews of contributions. For example, early in 1982, when the *Flora* team was suddenly given extra funding to finish a volume quickly, the manuscript of Cucurbitaceae was sent to Charles Jeffrey, at Kew, for review to a very short deadline. It arrived on Charles’ desk, without warning, the day he was due to go on annual leave. He sat down and completed his review before the end of the day. Peter Green, Keeper of the Herbarium from 1976 to 1982 and President of the Guild in 1982–83, contributed almost the whole of volume 49 of the *Flora of Australia*, on the plants of Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands.

Such ties are strengthened when Kew people visit Australia. Alex has accompanied a number of Kew staff and students on field excursions, including Sir George Taylor, Ronald Melville, Peter Green, Kenneth Airy Shaw, Eric Holttum, Gren Lucas, Martin Sands, Simon Owens, Keith Ferguson, Dick Brummitt, Jill Cowley, Wolfgang Bopp, Paul Sadler and Monika Shaffer-Fehre.

A highlight of Alex's career was involvement in The Banksias project at Monash University, Melbourne. The University contracted the botanical artist Celia Rosser to paint, life size and in great detail, all species of *Banksia*. Alex's tasks were to advise Celia on where to collect specimens (many were gathered at the type localities including Botany Bay and King George Sound) and to write the accompanying text. His research turned up new species and the final number to be painted was 76 (a few more have been discovered since). The text included notes on the early cultivation of Banksias in Britain, for which the archives at Kew, and staff such as John Simmons, were invaluable sources of information. The paintings were published in three very large volumes in 1981, 1988 and 2000. Copies were presented to the Queen as official gifts from the Australian Government during State visits and are now in the Library at Windsor Castle. There is a set in the Library at Kew.

Among Alex's associations with the present Director, he recalls taking Steve Hopper on two aerial surveys in south-western Australia, searching for *Eucalyptus caesia*, a mallee with a distinctive habit that is recognisable from low altitude. One flight was to search a number of granite outcrops. There was also an uncertain early record from the Fraser Range some 480 miles east of Perth, so on another occasion Alex and Steve flew out to search, but on a low-level run along the range they could see none of the plant and decided that it had been an erroneous record – a ground survey would have taken several days. Steve also accompanied Alex to see the remarkable Underground Orchid, *Rhizanthella gardneri*. This orchid had only been found by chance by farmers clearing new land until Alex followed up such a sighting in 1979 and the orchid was purposely excavated for the first time. Further visits confirmed that the orchid does, indeed, spend its whole life underground. It is likely that the seeds, unusually large for an orchid, are distributed by native marsupials such as the Bettong that feed especially on subterranean fungi.

Alex has at least one more project to finish that will involve research at Kew and discussions with staff—a history of the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer scheme that started in 1937 and now, sadly, has been terminated. Some 52 botanists held the post, Alex himself serving twice.

PAMELA HOLT
Vice President 2010/2011



As a child my mother encouraged an interest in gardening. Here I am aged 14 and a half in my parents' garden at West Horsley, only four miles from RHS Garden Wisley. I began my horticultural training under the head gardener at a private girls' school in Little Bookham, as Wisley then did not accept women.

Following a Nursery Practices course at Merrist Wood, a happy year was spent working on a private estate in Ewhurst. With fine terraces, lakes and bog garden it opened occasionally under the National Gardens Scheme.

As my career progressed, various courses and posts followed from garden centre work at Trentham Gardens then owned by the Duchess of Sutherland, to instructing for the Home Office at a girls Approved School and then boys for Social Services.

After gaining a Certificate in Education, the next twenty-one years were spent as Horticultural Lecturer at Cannington College Somerset where the infamous Charlie Dimmock was one of my students. Redundancy came twelve years ago followed by a fixed term stint at City College Manchester, then team leader at the Berkshire College of Agriculture. Next, part-time teaching for Merrist Wood and Capel Manor before leaving education for self-employment with an Arboricultural Agency, Complete Tree Care.

This prepared me for Local Government, becoming an Arboricultural Officer for the London Borough of Barnet in 2007. The pressures on trees in an urban environment are a challenge in today's economic climate. Currently I am Vice Chairman for the Arboricultural Association's Professional Committee.

I am still an active rock climber and mountaineer, belonging to a local club and the international Alpine Club who arranged a great ice climbing week in Slovenia in January 2011. Members may recall my exploits of 2002 on BBC's 999 programme recounted in the 2005 Kew Guild Journal, where a more up-to-date photograph may be seen! Strangely it was the back doorstep that claimed me last summer as I went out to the dustbin, resulting in a fractured foot and six weeks on crutches. However by dint of purchasing an automatic car I was able to attend the wonderful weekend trip to the Welsh Borders.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

JEAN GRIFFIN

Since leaving Kew I had a varied and interesting career in Amenity and Commercial Horticulture before specialising in Horticultural Education. My interest for some years has been Special Educational Needs and this has proved to be a most satisfying part of a lifetime working with people and plants. I am still active in the verification of awards for City and Guilds.

Since retiring from full time educational work I have become more involved with South and South East in Bloom as both a judge and a trustee and now spend a great deal of the summer meeting wonderful gardeners and visiting floral displays all over the country.

Following a long association with BBC local Radio, I am now working most weekends for Radio Kent and jointly for Radio Sussex and Surrey. This is a marvellous opportunity to share knowledge with enthusiastic gardeners all over the South East and, just to 'keep my hand in', I have an allotment as well as a tightly stocked garden!



TIM STRETTON



Since leaving Kew in September 2009, I have been employed as the Head Gardener for Parques de Sintra Monte da Lua S.A. (PSML) in Portugal. I have great memories of my time at Kew and am proud to take up the position of an overseas Committee Member of the Kew Guild.

My initial experience of gardening was unexpected. I was offered some work by a landscape gardening company in Tropical North Queensland in

June 2000. This job has ultimately led to an amazing career where I have been able to travel and work in beautiful places with great people and learnt much about the world of plants and, in particular, historic gardens.

On returning to the UK in June 2001, I took on the management of the Priory Bay Hotel grounds on my native Isle of Wight. This is an 85-acre estate of lawns,

borders, golf course, vegetable garden, orchard and extensive woodland. I spent three years running these gardens and attending the local college where I was inspired by another former Kewite, Dave Trevan, to pursue this interest in plants. I then spent two years as a gardener for English Heritage at Queen Victoria's Palace on the Island, Osborne House. This gave me an insight into historic garden management and, more importantly, perfectionist horticulture.

The next three years were spent in a blur of plants, computers, books and people as I took on the Kew Diploma. I enjoyed my time at Kew immensely and was amazed at the size, reach and expertise found within its walls. During my time there, I worked in the iconic Palm House, travelled to new places such as Tasmania, Israel and Finland to see plants in the wild and learnt a great deal about all aspects of horticulture from land surveying to plant physiology.

My decision to leave the country after Kew and take on a new challenge has been very rewarding. As an organisation, PSML is restoring and maintaining four historic properties in a World Heritage Area. I am employed to help to restore and maintain the green areas alongside some highly motivated and skilled professionals. I feel proud to work in Sintra amongst some amazing plants and beautiful gardens.

BRENDAN MOWFORTH



Brendan started his career as a student gardener, at Royal Gardens Windsor and Windsor Great Park. Entering Kew after completing a National Certificate in Horticulture at Myerscough, Lancashire College of Agriculture.

On completing the Kew Diploma, Brendan commenced working for a Metropolitan authority, in West Yorkshire. He held a number of posts with the authority, however Parks, forestry and countryside services have always been the main elements of his portfolio.

However with promotion came additional responsibility for services, including Leisure centres, canals, School Catering, Street services and Funeral services.

The successful development of a conservatory and small tropical plant collection linked to education packages for schools, ensured that the nursery remained operational and skills were retained and developed. This also supported the interest of the In Bloom movement, with some 32 groups being supported across the council area. Capital projects always capture the imagination, the largest of which was the restoration of 32 miles of the privately-owned Rochdale canal. Major renovation work in Parks saw some seven million pounds of grant aid being invested in three parks. It is reassuring to note that these restorations had outstanding public support, showing how much people support Horticulture in its widest sense.

Recently retired from the post of Head of Service, Brendan has a number of interests including being a volunteer for Perennial at the York Gate garden. He is a member

of the RHS Bursary Committee, an Executive member of Yorkshire in Bloom and a Judge. Brendan is a Trustee of The Bearder Charity and board member of a Rural grant body funded from European funds.

TIM UPSON

Since first joining Kew as a Diploma student in 1986 I have kept a close professional connection with the Garden over the years. After the Diploma course I spent nearly a year at Limbe Botanic Garden, Cameroon (a project including Kew as a partner), then relatively new in its development. Cataloguing the living collection provided a valuable training in tropical economic botany given its origin as a German colonial botanic garden.

Returning to Kew for a period I was able to work on the conservation of oceanic island species and the flora of St Helena in particular. Support from Kew enabled me to follow another interest in plant systematics and obtain the MSc. in Plant Taxonomy at the University of Reading. This led on to a PhD on the systematics of the genus *Lavandula* with supervisory support from staff in the Kew herbarium and of course access to the priceless reference collections. The thesis formed part of the research that culminated in the publication of a Botanical Magazine Monograph on the genus, co-authored with Susyn Andrews (previously horticultural taxonomist) and published in 2004 by Kew.

Graduation from Reading coincided with the vacant post of Curator (then Superintendent) at Cambridge University Botanic Garden and I was lucky enough to gain the position in 1997. This enabled me to combine both horticulture with plant systematics and conservation. It has been a busy period in the Garden's history with several major projects from the glasshouse restoration, construction of a new visitors' entrance and most recently the new Sainsbury Laboratory completed at the end of 2010. Perhaps some of the pleasing achievements have been horticultural, particularly the flowering of a Titan Arum in 2004 attracting over 10,000 visitors and the success of some of our own trainees in achieving places on the Kew Diploma course.

It's always pleasing to find an excuse to visit Kew whether to seek advice from colleagues, attend meetings or at the end of most summers as external examiner for the International Diplomas in plant conservation and Botanic Garden management.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Kenwyn Pearson, Secretary

The Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild held on Saturday 11th September 2010 in The Jodrell Lecture Theatre at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

As a registered Charity the Kew Guild is required by law to hold an Annual General meeting and to give notice of it.

01-10 Welcome by the President

The president welcomed everyone to the meeting and was pleased to see so many people in attendance.

During the year the President found out some interesting things. He found out that the boundaries of Kew Gardens may not have been fully established and it still is not known for sure where some of the actual boundaries are.

The wall along Ferry Lane has been investigated because water has been coming through. Kew was concerned about this wall as it was built in the late 1960s at a cost of around £1,000,000. Work was carried out on the wall by the Property Services Agency to secure it, but it has since been discovered that they weren't responsible for the repair of the wall.

02-10 Apologies for absence

Tom and Davina Woods, Joe Robbins, Graham Burgess, Mike Arnold-Gilliatt, Brian Pitcher, Mike Griffin, Steve Hopper, Edward Neighbour, Lindsay Schuman, Tricia Fisher, Paul Gooding, Brian Lowe, Trevor Elton, Gerald Morgan, John Simmons, Alexander Dixon, Hans Fliegner, K Roy Jones, Cyril Giles, Patricia Gibbons, Anna Pavord, Ray Desmond, Hugh Flower, John Woodhams, David Hardman, Sylvia Fitzgerald, Sylvia Philips, Roy Lancaster, Emma Fox, Chris Baylis.

03-10 Notice of Death of Members

The following members died during the 09/10 Kew Guild year:

Muriel Gazzard
Peter Green
Tom Risely
Terry Sutcliffe

04-10 Minutes of 2009 AGM

To approve the minutes of The Annual General Meeting September 5th 2009 printed in the Journal the President signed the minutes as being a true and correct record.

05-10 There were no Matters Arising

06-10 The Honorary Secretary's Report – Kenwyn Pearson

At the Annual Dinner in May this year The Kew Guild Medal was awarded to Dr Alan Barber with particular reference to his contribution to Parks and Open Spaces

in the UK and abroad. The event was recorded in The Times and acknowledged with gratitude by Alan who in his acceptance speech had paid tribute to Kew and its effect on his career, gained while he had been a student.

The Committee has met five times during the year and The President has chaired the meetings, except for one meeting in June this year when The Vice President, Mike Wilkinson presided.

Many topics have been discussed and in particular the Kew Guild website, Awards, The Stella Ross Craig legacy, Kew's Breathing Planet Programme and matters in connection with archives and membership.

The George Brown Award was presented to John Sales at The Annual Dinner.

Honorary Fellowship of The Kew Guild is being awarded to Niall Kirkwood at this meeting.

It was a particular privilege at the end of June this year to attend a blue plaque ceremony on behalf of The Kew Guild at The Director's House (49 Kew Green) to recognise it as the house where The Hookers of Kew had resided and the importance to Kew and botany of these individuals. HRH The Princess Alexandra performed the ceremony and many people were present including descendants of The Hooker family.

It has been an interesting year for myself. Shortly after the AGM last year I suffered another stroke and was in hospital for a time. I was welcomed back and offer myself again as Honorary Secretary at this AGM. I have said I will go when the membership decides but we must look ahead. I have examined in close detail the membership with Stewart Henchie and prepared a list of suitable names to be a future President or serve on the committee. I will reduce my activity and look soon for someone to shadow me. There is much going on and we are very active in many areas and I hope this continues.

The Committee invite the new students to join them for supper soon after their arrival and this has now proved a good way to promote The Kew Guild and ensure the student body is aware of our existence and how to contact us and to help with succession.

I am always pleased to hear from members by email, snail mail, or 'phone and I always try to respond.

The Kew Guild is very keen to extend its membership and encourage more to join.

The President thanked Kenwyn sincerely for all his work for KG and the members gave a round of applause.

07-10 The Honorary Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Alsop

The account for the year ended 31.12.2009.

The restricted funds increased by £4,478 and the unrestricted funds decreased by £20,800.

Income in 2009 totalled £23,302 of which £5,685 was from subscriptions, £12,540 from our investments and £1,312 from donations. Thanks are given to the people who made donations. The deposit interest has reduced significantly in line with the general worldwide fall in interest rates.

Awards and prizes of £8,298 were made, £5,063 was spent on producing the Journal, which was good value, and £25,329 was spent on the substantial development of the website, which again I hope people will feel was well spent.

There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £12,114. £230,000 of The Stella Ross-Craig legacy and £10,000 of the Ian Leese Travel Scholarship fund was invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units during this year; the remainder of each fund is deposited into the Charities Deposit Fund. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units.

£86,416 in the endowment funds, £69,812 in restricted funds, £245,373 in designated funds and £94,995 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2010.

I would ask you to approve these accounts.

I would also ask that you approve the appointing of an Independent Examiner for the annual accounts of 2010.

These accounts were approved by members.

Jennifer asked the membership if they had any questions on the accounts; there were none.

The President enthusiastically thanked Jennifer for all her hard work during the year, especially in making sure the Guild's liabilities were up to date and paid, and for continuing her role as Treasurer with considerable skill and diligence.

Stella Ross-Craig Fund – The president was disappointed that a proposal for this fund had not moved forward. He wanted this to be used for internships but had had no response. He said the Guild should have a rethink for the best way forward, maybe to make the award every two years meaning double the amount of money available. He said the Guild should look to Alex George to give a lead in this area next year.

08-10 The Membership Secretary's Report – Stewart Henchie

At the end of the year there were a total of 435 members; 47 staff, 28 students, 4 general, 332 ordinary, 12 life, 9 Honorary Fellows and 2 Honorary members.

20 applications had been received and would be discussed for approval at the next Committee meeting on October 16th 2010.

Stewart announced to the meeting that he would be standing down as Membership Secretary. He had enjoyed the role very much. He asked the Guild to consider spending money to update the membership software to make it easier for any incoming Secretary.

The President thanked Stewart for his excellent work over the years he has been Membership Secretary. And, although Stewart was not responsible for recruiting new members, the Kew Guild has sustained numbers of members thanks to his hard work.

09-10 The Events Officer's Report – Paul Sadler

Paul was new to the role this year. There have been two events during the year, both were well attended. Paul thanked members for their support with the visit to Wales and the London Law Courts in August.

Letters for visits were sent at short notice, giving enough time for postal responses and there was a good response.

Next year Paul is aiming to organise two weekend trips and has some good contacts coming through. One will be in south-west England, and another would be a weekend in the West Country. He will plan some day trips, but they might be at short notice. All events would be posted on the web site.

The President thanked Paul for his efforts and the members who supported him.

10-10 The Award Scheme Report – David Barnes

David sent apologies for the meeting, but provided a report which was read by the President.

All the funds have been allocated – partly due to rising costs and partly the rising level of applications. 19 applications had been received. One was unsuccessful and was not allocated under the rules of the award. David is compiling a report which will appear in the Journal and on the website. The awards have been very successful and the activities productive. Every continent was visited, taking in places such as Hawaii, Ireland, Kenya, France, Grand Cayman and Singapore.

The President thanked the members of the Award Scheme Committee, especially Marcella Corcoran for her massive support in her role and Jennifer Alsop for making sure there were sufficient funds. He reminded members to continue their support and encouraged assistance.

Since 2000 the Scheme has awarded £64,000.

11-10 The Editor's Report – Alexandra Ward

The Editor's report was read by Richard Ward.

The Journal was produced on time and budget (£3,970), plus Editor's costs. The printing price has been fixed for the next two years and the Committee have contracted the Editor on a commercial basis for the next three years.

Richard thanked the contributors and said they would strive to make the Journal more interesting year-on-year.

Reminders and copyright assignment forms for regular contributors will be sent via the Secretary with the October committee agenda.

The Journal has already been started for next year – the Editor has written to the remaining Life Members and has so far received one reply – articles from our more experienced members are helping to make the Journal more interesting. People have so much history attached to them.

Richard asked members to gather after the meeting, with the new President's permission, to take some group photos.

The President thanked the Editors and said the Journal was an exciting and stimulating read and was a lively conduit for information on Kew Guild activities and people.

12-10 Website – David Hardman

David sent apologies for the meeting and produced a report read by the President.

The website was now fully established and available to members to use. All problems have been rectified. The web manager, Kevin Wah, was very responsive and efficient and is looking at some of the complexities to move the site on further. Som Com have addressed the issues Kevin has not been able to resolve, and overall the service that is being provided meets our needs.

David's greatest concern was raised last year – the need for members to provide stories and reports about trips etc. Without this the front page remains very static and the site is unlikely to receive repeat public visits if it does not change. He asked members to provide short articles and pictures to upload to the web site, all in electronic format as he has no capacity to deal with paper entries.

For example, to promote new members, a story item could be a good way forward, it just needs the story to be written and provided for inclusion. A possible example suggested was members' profiles of their experiences and roles since leaving Kew (data protection issues permitting).

Without member input the website cannot improve and will remain static, albeit as a fantastic archive data source to look through via the Journals.

Pamela Holt said she couldn't get into the web site, but tried a few times. There was a 'blip' about a month ago, and the site was down for a fortnight. Jennifer Alsop said that the domain name had not been paid for but from now she would keep a record of this and ensure this doesn't happen again.

Mr. Heywood asked if a password was needed to get in? The President said to get to certain areas you need password and one can be obtained from David or Kevin.

13-10 Retiring President's Report – Professor Sir Peter Crane

The President said he had a chance to look at the boards of the Kew Guild with the many illustrious names there. He said he came across the name of his son-in-law's great uncle who started at Kew. It had been nice to follow this up and find a personal connection. One of the names on the board – Professor David Cutler PLS – was one of the first people he met at Kew and who was a stalwart of the Kew Guild and a constant and hard-working member of the committee. He has been elected and had served as President of the Linnean Society which was a fitting accolade for all the

excellent scientific work that he had done and for his work as a University lecturer and a Kew Diploma teacher. The President paid tribute to David as member of the Committee and for all the support he has given the Guild over the years. There were lots of other people he would like to mention, but David was personally one of his mentors and he gave thanks to him for that.

For those people who have been at Kew for a long time, there have been many changes. When the President first started, Kew was part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Since Kew became a non-departmental public body, they have become aware of the commercial world and the public visitor attraction had to be taken more seriously. Kew members have different measures to follow, which are published every year. Among other things, this makes sure science and conservation work at Kew is useful to ourselves and the rest of the world, and that it is of the highest standard.

The biggest future change may be the development of a restoration ecology programme. This is where horticulture has a role to play. In the past Kew have focussed on amenities and keeping rare plants alive. The future is not just this but it is creating and germinating rare plants and re-establishing them in the areas where they once grew in nature. The Kew Guild might consider this when awards are given – how might the Guild help horticulture develop this area? The President asked the Guild to ponder this.

Another area the President drew members' attention to was raising money – this is becoming more and more important. It will become more difficult to run Kew and there was concern what effect the Comprehensive Spending Review would have. Anything the Kew Guild can do to help Kew would be gratefully received.

The President summed up an enjoyable year and was very pleased with the way members and committee had put continuing effort in supporting it.

The President then gave his thanks to Stewart Henchie for his contribution to the Kew Guild which has been quite outstanding.

14-10 Retiring Members of Committee

Professor Sir Peter Crane

Bob Ivison

Nigel Hepper has retired as an advisor but will continue with News of Kewites.

Retire 2011: Wolfgang Bopp, Jonathan Rickards, Martin Staniforth, Paul Sadler who is currently Events officer

Retire 2012: Miranda Kimberley, Amanda le Poer Trench, Masaya Tatebayashi

The President thanked them for all their work during the year.

15-10 The Election of Officers

President Elect: Stewart Henchie

Vice President: Pamela Holt 1st year

Vice President: Mike Wilkinson 2nd year

Honorary Secretary: Kenwyn Pearson

Honorary Treasurer: Jennifer Alsop

Honorary Membership Secretary: Judy Hancock

Events Officer: Paul Sadler
 Award Scheme Chairperson: David Barnes
 Kew Gardens representative: David Hardman

Committee
 Jean Griffin
 Tim Stretton
 Brendan Mowforth
 Tim Upson

The members elected the new committee, proposed by Martin Sands, seconded by Alan Hart and unanimously agreed by members.

The President wished the new committee well for next year.

16-10 Any other business

Clarification Kew Guild Internship – Simon Owens

A big issue is the cost of running an internship. The amount of money from the Stella Ross-Craig fund was not enough and there had been no applicants. Simon suggested doing this every two years – it would double the amount of money available and may be more cost effective. More work needs to go into this to find out if it would work, and if not, the committee need to think again about what to do with the money.

17-10 Installation of New President

In passing the Presidency over to Alex George, Simon said he could not remember how long ago he met Alex, but that it was a long time. Alex previously took Simon on a trip around a small part of his homeland in Western Australia which was very interesting. He hasn't forgotten the visit and still has the photos. Alex is the person to ask about any aspect of Kew botany and Simon thanked Alex for being a good friend.

The new President said he was aware of the distinguished footsteps in which he was about to follow. As a small boy he had never heard of Kew, only after he joined a herbarium in Australia did he find out about Kew's complex organisation and diverse membership. Many distinguished people at Kew have held the Kew Guild President's position. He said he would try his best to carry out the duties of the Guild and continue to do the good work. He acknowledged that he would not be attending meetings during year but would be available by phone. Mike Wilkinson would Chair meetings on his behalf.

The President acknowledged Simon for all his work as President last year and awarded him a certificate and medal.

The President thanked everyone for coming and brought the Annual General Meeting to a close.

18-10 Date of next meeting – 10th September 2011

Committee members present

Simon Owens – President, Bob Ivison – Vice President, Mike Wilkinson – Vice President, Alex George – President Elect, Kenwyn Pearson – Hon Secretary, Stewart Henchie – Hon Membership Secretary, Jennifer Alsop – Hon Treasurer, Paul Sadler – Events Officer, Martin Staniforth, Colin Hindmarch, Richard Ward, Alexandra Ward, Sara Arnold – Communications Officer.

Members present

Mike Clift, Jill Cowley, Peter Crane, Roger Davids, John Gaggini, Jean Griffin, Jenny Grundy, Joan and Allan Hart, Jonathan Rickards, Nigel Hepper, Mr and Mrs Harold Heywood, Valerie Hindmarch, Pamela Holt, Colin Jones, Val and Jim Mitchell, B. Mowforth, Tony and Jan Overland, Norman Robson, John Sales, Martin Sands, Wendy Staniforth, Sue Thorne, Granville Turley, Valentine Tynan, Tim Upson, and others.



© Stewart Henchie

Above: AGM attendees outside the Jodrell Laboratory.

Right: Past Presidents of the Guild – (left to right) Nigel Hepper, Martin Sands, John Sales, Richard Ward, Alex George, Allan Hart, Colin Hindmarch, Peter Crane.



© Martin Sands

Following the AGM, Guild members enjoyed tea and biscuits in the School of Horticulture provided by the Kew students and a behind-the-scenes tour of the new Herbarium extension with Christopher Mills (see photo, right). The evening was spent in Stewart and Pat Henchie's beautiful garden, behind their house opposite Kew Palace. Their hospitality and refreshments were much appreciated. It was a day of Kew Guild Fellowship at its best.



© Richard Ward



© Richard Ward



© Richard Ward



© Richard Ward

Above: Past Director Professor Sir Peter Crane beside the Foundation stone that he laid in September 2006.

Left: Photos from the evening soirée at Pat and Stewart Henchie's house.

**School of
Horticulture**Horticulture and
Public Experience Department**Presentation of
Kew Diplomas and Prizes
2010
Course 45**Friday 10th September3.00 pm **Introduction**Professor Steve D Hopper FLS
Director**Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes, followed by the Travel Scholarships
awards**by Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener, Great Dixter
read by Emma Fox Dip Hort (Kew) (Hons)**Address by the Guest of Honour**
Fergus Garrett, Head Gardener, Great Dixter**Vote of Thanks**
Timothy Hornsby CBE, Kew Trustee
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Graham Alderton Dip Hort (Kew)

Close of ceremony4.15 pm **Afternoon tea in the School of Horticulture**5.00 pm **Kew Explorer tour**
Prize Day guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the gardens on the Kew Explorer. The tour will last approximately 35 minutes and will depart from and return to the Grass Garden.**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW
SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE**

Professor Stephen Hopper opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone, before the presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes by Emma Fox:

‘Your Worship, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I add my own welcome, and thank you all for joining us today. I would especially like to welcome the friends and families of our graduates and prize winners – I know a number of

you have travelled many miles and some from overseas, especially to be here today.

I am also delighted to welcome Fergus Garrett, our Guest of Honour, to this year's ceremony. Fergus, you are a great inspiration to many people and especially our Kew Diploma students. We do appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to be with us today.

As the main event in the School of Horticulture calendar, Prize Day is a very special day and one we treasure as an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Kew Diploma graduates and prizewinners.

The Kew Diploma is a professional horticultural qualification, highly respected by the horticultural industry worldwide. It is a unique combination of academic and theoretical study, taught to degree level, together with practical work experience and acquired responsibility.

But we don't just accept anyone on the Kew Diploma! Entry requirements ask for a minimum general and horticultural education as well as at least two years' practical work experience. For those applicants selected for interview they face the challenge of a rigorous interview process which includes a one hour practical test, a one hour interview board and then a written essay exercise. From approximately 30 applicants interviewed each year, only 14 will be offered a place on the rigorous three-year course.

So why would anyone willingly subject themselves to this? The reasons for this are clear. No other horticultural qualification can offer access to comparable collections, or wealth of knowledge and experience. The Kew Diploma is a life changing opportunity and one we encourage our students to embrace as they grow as individuals. As any of you who have worked or trained at Kew will vouch, this is a very special place and the Kew Diploma students are a huge part of what makes Kew special.

The international appeal of the course sees applicants from all around the world come to train at Kew; together our Kew Diploma students learn and share their knowledge and experience and in turn pass this on to the future generations of horticulturists. The Kew Diploma is a very important part of the life and soul of Kew and contributes to many aspects of The Breathing Planet Programme. This February saw the publication of the Chalmers Report, an independent review of Kew which was carried out for DEFRA. This review specifically highlighted the Kew Diploma as being "the Gold Standard of Horticultural Training".

So in these economically challenging times, when University graduates struggle to find employment, it is heartening to see the importance of the Kew Diploma, which continues to be one of the industry's most sought after horticultural qualifications.

For Course 45, following their three years of studying, testing, examining, and reporting, not to mention the weeding, mowing, edging and watering, they have been judged to have passed the required standard and are now ready to embark on their future careers.

In receiving their Kew Diplomas, today's graduates will join the privileged list of horticulturists who can add the letters Dip Hort (Kew) after their name. We wish each and every one of you every success as you embark on your chosen careers.

For **Graham Alderton** this will mean taking on the role of Head Gardener at Yotes Court, in Kent. He will initially be responsible for overseeing the installation of the 20-acre Tom Stuart Smith designed garden, appointing new staff and advising on the logistical requirements of the garden.

For **Kate Blyth**, she will hopefully get some rest, before the arrival of her baby in November. To Kate and her partner, we send you our congratulations and all our good wishes for your imminent move back to Derby for the start of your new life together as a family. After taking a year out, Kate plans to pursue a career either in arboricultural research or possibly forest ecology or restoration research. Whatever you choose Kate, we wish you every success.

Mark Cox on the other hand will enjoy the opportunity of a two-week break before taking up the position of Head Gardener of the 100-acre estate at Whithurst Manor in West Sussex. Mark's primary and immediate responsibilities will focus on the development of a new, organic, walled kitchen garden, and the creation of a new herbaceous border while also developing a masterplan for the remaining 100-acre estate.

Jess Evans, despite our gallant attempts to retain her as a member of staff at Kew, will soon be making the move to Oxford, where she will take up a position as gardener with the team at Merton College, University of Oxford.

Patrick Keough has to be the envy of many a member of staff at Kew, after landing himself a newly created position as Grower/Manager with the Hawaiian Sunshine Nursery. Patrick will soon be leaving our shores to start a new life in Hilo, Hawaii (Patrick, I see this is reputed to be one of the wettest cities in the world – so your time in the UK will have been a good grounding for you!). Patrick will be responsible for developing new introductions for the world market, as well as growing Hawaiian native plants.

Meanwhile, **Felix Merklinger** will be bidding farewell to Kew's cycad collection as he embarks on a year of further study. He has accepted the offer of a place at the University of Edinburgh where he will join Matti Nuisallo, a graduate from Course 44, enrolling on the MSc in the Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants course.

From Monday **Joe Robbins** will be joining the Hardy Display Section at Kew, where he will be working with the team in the Order Beds.

Neil Sleddon's aspirations to live and work in a hot and sunny climate turned out to be short lived, when he accepted the offer of the position of Deputy Head Gardener at Dyffryn Gardens, near Cardiff. In this role, Neil will have the responsibility for managing a garden staff of 13. Good Luck Neil!

David Wallbridge is currently undertaking an RHS-funded expedition to China with RBG Edinburgh. On his return he will be taking up employment with the landscape design and build firm Sallis-Chandler, having also negotiated the opportunity to travel during quieter periods.

Jonathan Wood will soon be starting in his new job as Head Gardener for a family on their 10-acre private estate near Weybridge in Surrey.

So in closing, it just remains to congratulate you all on your achievements and 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 our third-year students of Course 45. Thanks must go to all sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. In particular, I would like to thank the Kew Guild, whose President Professor Simon Owens is on the platform today. The Guild is an association of past and present Kew staff and students, which give several awards and support many of our second year students with funding towards their travel scholarships. In addition, I would also like to thank the Bentham-Moxon Trust, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens and the Merlin Trust who have all given grants to support our students and Kew staff this year. I must also thank the Kew Foundation for their gift of Premier Friends of Kew membership to each of our graduating students.

I would now like to invite our Guest of Honour, Fergus Garrett, to make the presentations:

Graham Alderton

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Kate Blyth



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 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 the Kew botanist in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments;

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

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

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

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

Mark Cox

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners’ Prize – awarded by the City of London Livery Company, awarded for excellence in public speaking;

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

The Squire’s Garden Centre Prize – donated by the garden centre chain for the best overall performance in landscape studies;

The Kew Gardener Prize – sponsored by ‘The Kew Gardener’, to the top student in Amenity horticulture;

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

Jess Evans

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners’ Prize – to the student who has done the most for Kew;

The Students’ Union Prize – for services rendered as President over the past year;

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize – awarded to the student who has made the biggest contribution to the voluntary or charity sector during their course;

This year’s recipient deserves special mention as she has been the driving force behind many of Kew’s sporting and social events and her commitment and enthusiasm has ensured the reinstatement of the annual ‘Kew to Wisley Relay’ which requires a huge amount of organisation and planning. On top of this, she has shown a commitment to supporting the schools and families activities – being a regular volunteer after work with the Children’s Gardening Club at Kew, as well as the Midnight Ramblers project and many other community and family gardening events. Her interest in nature, wildlife and the environment has encouraged other students and staff to become involved in activities such as fungal forays, badger watching and the recording and identification of Lepidoptera species at Kew. For all of her community minded support we would like to thank her.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Patrick J Keough

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Felix Merklinger

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;

The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens Scholarship – for a final year, five-week placement at the garden in Jerusalem;

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Joe Robbins

Kew Diploma Credit grade

Neil Sleddon

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 student achieving the highest marks in their practical work placements;

The Freda Howson Award – given by Reginald Charles Howson in memory of his wife (and we are delighted to be joined by Mr Howsons’ nephew today). This prize is being awarded for the first time this year, recognising excellence in Ecology and Conservation;

The Alitex Glasshouse award – sponsored by the firm of glasshouse manufacturers, to the student who has demonstrated the best practical performance during work placement under glass;

The Lecturers' Prize – to the student gaining the highest marks in Systematic Botany;

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

David Wallbridge

The RHS Expedition Bursary – for £5000, awarded to sponsor 'a professional young gardener to join an expedition to see plants in their native habitat'. This year's recipient was short listed from applicants across the country to join an RBG Edinburgh expedition to the Sitchuan, China. He is currently there, gaining first-hand experience of plant identification, fieldwork and plantsmanship and, from his email last week, he is having an amazing time. Unfortunately this means he is not able to be with us today;

Kew Diploma at Credit grade.



Jon Wood

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

The Kew Guild Cup – for obtaining the highest marks in the first year vegetable plot project;

Kew Diploma Credit grade

That concludes the presentations relating to the third-year students. We turn now to our other awards and prizes:

The Institute of Horticulture Prize sponsored by the Institute is awarded to the person gaining the best overall performance in the first year. Unfortunately this year's recipient is unable to be with us today, but he is **Rob Alcock**.

The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject. The winner of this year's award is **Tim Hickey**.

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

Last season's Kew Mutual Improvement Society weekly lecture programme was organised by several second year students. **The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize** is given by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor. As Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society this is awarded to **Alex Summers**.

The Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize is presented to the student who has done the most to organise the lectures – this is awarded to **Steve Haines**.

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is donated by a former Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory to the person or people who have given the best ‘item of interest’ talk to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. For his item on ‘Tropical Waterlilies’ this is awarded to **Nimai Hedemark**.

We now move on to the Travel Scholarship prizes:

As an assessed element of the Kew Diploma our students are required to write a 3-week travel scholarship proposal, to travel to a destination of their choice and investigate or study some aspect of plants and/or horticulture. This year’s recipients have once again not been short of ideas and have experienced some truly amazing plants, in very diverse and varied countries.

As the winner of the 2009 Institute of Horticulture’s Young Horticulturist of the Year competition, our next recipient was awarded **The Percy Throver Trust Travel Bursary** for £2000. This enabled our recipient to travel to Malaysian Borneo to observe and study the tropical parasites of the Loranthaceae and Rafflesiaceae families in the field – **Alex Summers**

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 People’s Trust to allow a Kew Diploma student to travel overseas. This year’s winner was able to realise a long standing dream when he travelled to the Caucasus in Georgia & Armenia, to study geophyte species in habitat and learn about their conservation – **Guy Moore**

The Stella Ross-Craig Travel Scholarships are administered by the Bentham-Moxon trust in memory of the famous botanical artist. She asked that her bequest be used to support botanical and horticultural students.

Our first scholarship winner travelled to Kaua’i, Hawai’i to learn about the conservation projects working to protect the endemic and native flora – **Emma Allen**

Our next recipient travelled to New Zealand to gain practical experience in the propagation, cultivation and conservation of the New Zealand flora – **Steve Haines**

Another second-year student joined one of our staff travel scholarship winners and travelled to the Gori Valley in India, where she was able to review host tree species and forest resource use to support in-situ conservation of vascular epiphytes – **Sara Miller**

Our next recipient, travelled to the Cayman Islands in the West Indies, where she gained work experience in the nursery and gardens at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park – **Anne Rostek**

Our final second year recipient is currently undertaking his travel scholarship to Northern Thailand & Singapore where he is studying Orchidaceae and the associated flora. Unfortunately he is therefore unable to be with us today – **Craig Williams**

We will now move on to the staff travel prizes:

The John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships are available from a bequest of Mr Scott-Marshall who was a former editor of ‘Gardeners’ Chronicle’.

The first of our John Scott-Marshall prizewinners is a third-year Apprentice currently working in Kew’s Hardy Display Section. For his scholarship he will be travelling to Oregon State, in the USA, to observe *Darlingtonia californica* in the wild, in cultivation and in display – **Tom Abbott**

Our next winner is also a third-year Apprentice in Hardy Display. He travelled to the States, where he studied the native endemic vegetation of Eastern North America – **James Hall**

Our next recipient is from Kew’s Orchid Unit, in the Tropical Nursery. For her scholarship, she travelled to India and the Western Himalayas, to study Orchids in their natural habitat – **Bala Kompalli**

Our next recipient also works in Kew’s Tropical Nursery where he is responsible for caring for the Bromiliaceae and Arecaceae collections. For his scholarship he visited German and Belgium botanic gardens to study the cultivation of Bromiliaceae – **Marcelo Sellaro**

Our final recipient works on the Rock Garden at Kew. She travelled to the Tatra Mountains in Poland and Slovakia to observe alpine plants in habitat – **Swavomira Voytas**

John Scott-Marshall Travel awards were also presented to **Beth Barber, Lucy Hart and Christopher Ryan**. Unfortunately they are not able to join us today but we congratulate them all on their awards.’

Professor Stephen Hopper then announced the recipients of The William Aiton Medal, for exceptional service to The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew:

Mary Gregory, Micromorphology, The Jodrell Laboratory
 Nick Passingham, Passingham Associates, Environmental Management Systems
 Stewart Henchie, Head of Hardy Display Section, Horticulture & Public Experience Department
 Sue Zmarzty, Plant Taxonomist, Systematics, Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives.

Guest of Honour Fergus Garrett gave a short congratulatory talk and expressed how incredible it was to be at Kew amongst people whose passion for horticulture and Kew as a whole ran through their veins. Kew’s work is of paramount importance and his message to the outgoing students was to set an example in their chosen careers; inspire, and be generous in their knowledge and influence. He wished them luck and told them to make full use of their ‘Dip. Hort. Kew’.

Graham Alderton gave the Vote of Thanks on behalf of Course 45:

‘Your Worship, honoured guests, Professor Sir Lord Hopper and my learned colleagues.

It’s been a funny old three years.

We have produced countless projects, given presentations, sat exams, grown vegetables, botanised, designed and surveyed. We've spent several months in lectures – albeit mostly watching Joe catch up on his sleep or listening to Sleddy argue with the lecturer. Together, we've travelled to Ireland, Germany, Spain and even Wales.

As if the continent of Africa hasn't suffered enough, we sent them Patrick. Joe went on an extensive tour of Europe – I say extensive, I mean a few weeks. I say a few weeks, I mean until he ran out of money after a few days because he booked himself into the best hotels the Kew Guild couldn't afford.

At times it has been difficult but then difficulty is just a word. A word indicating the degree of strength requisite for accomplishment; a notice of the necessity for exertion; a bugbear to children and fools; but a mere stimulus to my learned colleagues of Course 45.

But it's not only been difficult for those on the course. Our families and our friends, some of whom are here today, deserve a 'thank you' for your patience and understanding as your loved ones have laboured night and day on constructing the perfect sentence or perhaps learning the difference between a hairy tare and a sticky willy, or even drawing a cross-section of hard wood at high magnification.

Kate – our bright eyed scribbler, always there with one last question as the rest of us were lurching toward the nearest pint. I suspect the keen edge of curiosity will remain for a long time to come, but in the meantime you've got yet more sleepless nights ahead of you. Good luck.

Jon – the listener. He's learnt that his ears won't get him into trouble. For one project we were asked to submit a recommendation that would benefit the working practices at Kew. Having been frustrated by the need to walk several yards to fetch a pot, Jon decided it was in Kew's interests to initiate the use of a mobile pot store. His design, carefully thought out and presented with moving pictures and Dolby sound, consisted of... a trolley... with some pots on it.

Neil – the plant nerd. Wherever we were you could count on Sleddy dropping to his knees and mumbling something into his beard whilst pressing his nose to the ground sniffing a plant he hadn't seen before. This kind of procedure became known as background sled activity. Which, a bit like tinnitus, you could in fact learn to ignore after a while.

Sled's proudest moment came when he was called a 'Plantsman' by the venerable and much loved Roy Lancaster. Sadly for Sled there was no one there to witness this, and anyway that wasn't what we heard Roy call him...

Patrick – my drinking buddy. The antithesis of the geographically myopic American. With an aversion to normality and so mad he would cause Darwin to re-examine his own theory of evolution. Once precluded from a travel scholarship because 'he resembled a terrorist', PJK's voice can be heard over the sound of a 747 landing nearby.

During one lecture the term 'precipitation' was included in the lecturer's sentence. Not hearing the full sentence Patrick asked for it to be repeated. The lecturer, misunderstanding his request, replied 'Just write 'rain' down, Patrick'.

Joe Robbins – our Richmond Rainbow. Bags, despite his peripheral role, has given us many moments of mirth. None more than when he laughs at his own jokes. But best of all when, during a structural botany lesson, we were instructed to locate the tiny male organs of a flower – Bags, having some difficulty in doing so and hovering on the edge of combustion, yells out ‘Sven, Sven, come here and find me a stamen!’

Jess – the organiser. Whilst her own allotment at home was crammed full of produce and even a newly-created pond, her student plot somewhat resembled a re-enactment of the Battle of the Somme, but on the day the examiner turns up to mark the plots, she calmly draws lines in the bare earth, sticks in a label and tells him that she has in fact harvested most of her crop but has just sown plenty more. He bought it.

Felix – the inside... Felix did, pretty much, what Felix wanted to. During Design Week he was asked to present his drawing – he went to great lengths to describe his thought process, the theme and how it translated to his design when he was cut short by the lecturer who sniffed and spat out the words ‘that’s all very well Felix... but all you’ve done so far is draw a bloody path!’

Despite everything being ‘BS’, he was romantic enough to take the time to watch the sunrise in Spain.

Mark – apparently Mark’s Grandmother, who may be somewhat hard-of-hearing, is here today so I’ve prepared some subtitles.

Our little terrier – or demented puppy as he was once described.
[subtitle] ‘Mark – what a nice young man’

With his own version of logic and very bad maths he managed to bamboozle more than one lecturer into moving project deadlines to our advantage.
‘We couldn’t have done it without him’

Not one to mince his words, he was often requested to attend the Principal’s Office to discuss various matters.
‘Had a special relationship with the Principal’

He would, however, find the time to help anyone, anytime, with the finer points of projects.
‘Cup of tea?’

As a class we would to thank the lecturers, the staff and the school for all their help, although with all of your combined experience surely someone amongst you should be able to recognise a dried up old prune when you see one.

As a mark of our gratitude please accept these small tokens of our appreciation:

Pam and Judy – for your ever-friendly smiles and constant concern for our welfare, especially as we ascended those stairs to Emma’s office.

Kevin – we would have bought you driving lessons but we decided who are we to deny future students the delight of your extraordinary efforts to take off in a mini bus, in reverse, whilst drinking coffee...

Martin – our acting Principal for our first year – forever calm and helpful.

Emma – our Principalatrix – always there to put us back on the path, whether we liked it or not.

Greg... you cheeky little chappy.

And finally our guest speaker, Fergus – here is a little something Tony Kirkham has personally selected for you. But you can only have it if you can identify it...!

Class 45 – once described as ‘the most despondent course ever’. It has been a pleasure to learn, study, and be with you all – you’ve all done very well. You are dismissed!

Emma Fox closed the ceremony:

‘In closing, I would once again like to thank Fergus Garrett and everyone involved in making this special day come together. While there are too many people to mention individually, none of it would be possible without Judy, Pam and Kevin, the staff of the School of Horticulture – so a big thank you to you and a big thank you too to Carlos Magdalena for today’s wonderful floral displays.

I would like to add my final thank you all for coming here today and I hope you will join us at the School of Horticulture for afternoon tea.’



Course 45 with VIPs

COURSE 48

Michael Benedito
4804

Karen Clayton
4800

Kat Cook
4683

Georgie Darroch
4695



Sheila Das
4802

Kate Dixon
4798

Adele Dyer
4799

Andrew Gdaniec
4692



Beccy Middleton
4797

Wes Olliffè
4801

Lee Oram
4805

Maija Ross
4712



Jen Sarginson
4803

Tsuyeko Western
4684

KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, 22ND MAY

by Richard Ward

Guild President Professor Simon Owens and his wife Emma kindly hosted a canapé and drinks reception in the Nash Conservatory, starting at 6pm. Members and guests moved on to The Orangery at 7.30pm for an excellent dinner, prepared by Kew's caterers Peyton & Byrne, who had commenced their new contract two weeks earlier.

MC Richard Ward announced that Professor David Cutler would propose the toast to Our President. David remembered a time when we nearly lost Simon to politics, before common sense prevailed.

In response, Professor Owens thanked David Cutler for his kind remarks and said that he was privileged to be President and hoped to achieve doing justice to the role, and then proposed a toast to 'the Kew Guild and our guests'. He invited Mr Laurence Banks CBE to respond on behalf of the guests, who talked of how little we know of the plant kingdom and how much we still have to learn.



© Martin Sands

The top table, with (left-right) Lawrence Banks CBE
Emma Owens, Simon Owens and Elizabeth Banks

Student Union representative Emma Allen introduced her fellow students, thanked the Kew Guild for its support and proposed a toast to 'Absent friends'.

The President presented the following awards:

The Past Vice President's scroll to Bob Ivison.

The Kew Guild Medal to Alan Barber OBE. Simon said he was always proud of his achievements while he studied at Kew Gardens in the 1960s and achieving the Kew Certificate and was always mindful of his distinctive service as Secretary of The Mutual Improvement Society.

Alan has devoted his working life to the improvement of Parks and Open Spaces and campaigning for their improvement and development.

Alan's career spans over 50 years and served in many positions and is well known as a commissioner for architecture and the built environment.

He is the author of numerous publications and articles, and is much sought after for advice on management of urban parks and green spaces and has been consulted on management of green spaces of cities in the United Kingdom and overseas, and is a worthy recipient of The Kew Guild Medal.

Alan gave a brief and fluent response and thanked the Guild for the honour that they had bestowed on him.

The George Brown Award scroll to John Sales, for the person who has done most to further diplomacy and communication in the true spirit of the Kew Guild.

John Sales is one of the most respected members of the horticultural profession, and this has been recognised by John being awarded, in 1991, the Victoria Medal of Honour, the highest award of the Royal Horticultural Society. He is also a Vice President of the RHS. He has served the Kew Guild for many years in a number of positions and was elected President of the Guild in 1994.

John has had a longstanding interest in historic gardens, architecture and the arts, which made him an ideal candidate for the role of Chief Garden Advisor to the National Trust – a position in which he was responsible for more than 160 historic gardens and landscape parks throughout the United Kingdom. Throughout his career John has been a consummate communicator, particularly of his passion to promote a true understanding of the philosophy and detailed research required to enable historic gardens and landscapes to be conserved in a sustainable manner appropriate to the 21st century.

John and his wife Lyn have been the most generous and welcoming of hosts, especially during the Guild's visit to the annual Snowdrop Festival in a very cold and wet February in 2005. It is worth recording that John's great passion (second only to that for Lyn) is the study, growing and hybridising of snowdrops, of which he has over 200 cultivars – a true *Galanthophile* extraordinaire.

Past Presidents of the Guild were asked to stand and be recognised. Jean Bell, wife of late Past President and Kew Director Sir Arthur Bell, was also recognised. Overseas guests were also introduced – Val and Jim Mitchell, Valentine Tynan, Peter Crane and Dennis McGlade.

The President thanked the Dinner organisers, Jennifer Alsop and Richard Ward, Editor Alexandra Ward, and others for their input that evening, and presented floral bouquets to Elizabeth Banks and Emma Owens.

The students organised a raffle and various items were also auctioned, the proceeds of which went towards student travel funds.



Simon Owens with Alan Barber



Allan Hart with Jean Bell



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© Stewart Henchie



© Martin Sands



© Stewart Henchie



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Clockwise from top: guests at the Dinner; (named left to right) Elizabeth Banks, Simon Owens and Bob Ivison; Graham Burgess chatting to Charles Funke and John Sales; Dennis McGlade with Jim Mitchell; Liz and Mike Wilkinson.

KEW GUILD VISIT TO THE WELSH BORDERS 19TH AND 20TH JUNE 2010

by Pamela Holt and Allan Hart

The weekend was planned by Sandy Atkins and Jill Cowley around visits to the gardens of retired members of the Kew staff, plus two other gardens of note.

The group included Nigel and Helen Hepper, Diana and Roger Polhill, Martin Sands, Joan and Allan Hart, Christine Leon and Clive and Julia Popham, who were on a visit from Victoria State in Australia. Pamela Holt joined us, arriving on crutches to support her damaged foot, which did not prevent her from exploring every avenue!

Spetchley Park with its 12-hectare gardens was our first visit, made all the more enjoyable by the tour led by the very enthusiastic tour leader and well informed Head Gardener, Kate Portman. The gardens have been in continuous development by the Berkeley family since 1606, perhaps the most horticulturally famous members being Rose Berkeley and her sister Ellen Willmott. The current owner, John Berkeley, is involved with increasing the numbers of genera and species in the gardens.

The tour began in the melon yard, then by the north border and cottage garden, where Edward Elgar was reputed to have been inspired by the sound of the wind in Pine Tree Copse to compose the Dream of Gerontius. The next stop was the garden pool – in fact a large lake – one of two on the estate. The view across to the Georgian mansion revealed several venerable *Cedrus libani*, reputed to have been grown from seeds brought back by John Evelyn. Nigel Hepper, who has a long-term interest in this Cedar (see KGJ 2002, page 135) was delighted to record the sighting to add to his collection.

The party returned to Malvern for lunch taken al fresco in the intimate setting of the delightful plant-packed garden belonging to retired botanist and a former Kew Guild Vice President, Jill Cowley. Delicious food accompanied by the sight of tiny Roscoeas in flower!

After lunch we drove to the home and garden of former Jodrell Laboratory plant anatomist Rowena Gale and her husband Jim. The hill-side garden, just outside Leominster, enjoys majestic views over the Herefordshire countryside from the summerhouse at the highest point, which is reached by a steep climb flanked with a superb collection of shrub and species roses. Delicious tea and home-made cakes were provided with a chance to make purchases from the nursery beds.

Onwards and ever upwards, the final visit of the day was to Stockton Bury Garden, which is a fairly new but beautiful garden on a series of levels, boasting an impressive collection of rare and unusual plants that thrive on the heavy clay soil. The garden is the setting for mediaeval farm buildings, a working kitchen garden, pigeon house, grotto, cider press, pools, faux ruined chapel and a tithe barn, now a restaurant which provided a fine supper to end the day.

Sunday saw us travelling to spend the morning in the Gloucestershire garden of Dr. Keith Ferguson, retired Assistant Keeper and Palynologist of the Herbarium at Kew, and his wife Lorna. Again, a plants-man's paradise with an enchanting layout and groupings of unusual plants.

After coffee we progressed over the border into Monmouthshire to the home of retired botanists Mark Coode and Sandy Atkins, former Kew Guild Vice President. Their 0.4-hectare garden has spectacular views across the Wye Valley and a wonderfully diverse range of plants which were enjoyed from their sunny terrace while we relaxed over the superb lunch.



The final garden of the weekend, located on the English side of Monmouth, close to the wooded escarpment of the Wye Valley, is the home of retired botanists Drs. John and Soejatmi Dransfield. John is a Palm specialist and Soejatmi a Bamboo specialist. Their garden is relatively new with splendid clumps of *Chusquea* bamboos which are not only very elegant, but a good source of edible shoots. John was particularly pleased to be able to show us the first flowering of their *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, performing specially for our visit!

We would like to thank all our hosts for their splendid hospitality and excellent organisation. Guild members perhaps need reminding that these visits are designed to encourage locally based members to enjoy the friendship of the Guild at first hand. The Guild is often accused of being too London/South-East biased, and this was certainly true, in that the majority of the participants on the trip were from that very area!

KEW GUILD VISIT TO THE INNS OF COURT, 7TH AUGUST 2010

by Miranda Kimberley

There is something strange occurring around Fleet Street in London. No longer famous for publishing papers, it's the exploits of three female head gardeners which are hitting the front pages (of gardening sections at least!).

Kew graduates Andrea Brunsendorf, Kate Jenrick and Miranda Kimberley are currently managing the gardens of Inner Temple, Middle Temple and Lincolns Inn respectively. These sites make up three out of four Inns of Court, which are historic institutions where barristers can train and practise.

Around 20 Guild members were allowed special access into all three gardens on a fine morning on 7th August, with each head gardener leading a tour. Miranda Kimberley showed them historic mulberry trees and the picturesque Kitchen Garden; Kate Jenrick wowed them with cobbled courtyards and a beautiful summer bedding display of *Salvia farinacea* 'Victoria', young *Eucalyptus gunnii* and *Perovskia atriplicifolia*; and the tour ended at Inner Temple where the visitors were given ample time to view the stunning borders, full of late summer colour and choice, statuesque plants such as *Dahlia imperialis*.

Tea and cake in the potting shed at Inner Temple allowed the visitors to wander across to Andrea's pond, where she stands aquatics in large terracotta pots, including *Cyperus papyrus*. The statue by the pond was surrounded by an exquisite display of foliage plants, including *Schefflera taiwaniana* and *Begonia luxurians*.

Attendee Jim Handley said: "It is surprising how much green space there is hidden away behind this busy part of London, near the Royal Courts of Justice. There is a palpable sense of history and it's great to see these Kew graduates all working so closely together."



KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2010

by David Barnes

Another fruitful year in terms of applications to the Awards Scheme as you will see by the many reports in this Journal. It is an enjoyable task being able as a committee to support so many applications with considerable amounts of the Guild's money and subsequently to read the accounts of those labours. This year there were 19 successful applications for funding with almost £10,744 in total being given to support the proposals. This is an increase of 5 applications on the previous year.

The Awards Scheme Committee was very pleased to award the George Brown Memorial Award for 2010 to John Sales, recognising his furthering communication and diplomacy in the true spirit of the Kew Guild. The Award was formally presented at the Kew Guild Dinner in May.

As always my thanks go to the members of the Awards Scheme Committee who give up their time to administer the Scheme so successfully.

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).

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP TO KAUA'I, HAWAI'I

by Emma Allen

I was fortunate enough to be granted three weeks study leave from Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to go to the Garden Isle of Kaua'i, which is the oldest of the current Hawaiian Islands, between 5-6 million years. The National Tropical Botanic Garden (NTBG) has its head office here, plus three gardens, and two preserves, and so was an ideal choice of organisation to work with and learn from.

I spent my first week working at the Limahuli Lower Preserve which is on the north shore of the island. Here, invasive species, such as *Schefflera arboricola*, *Coffea* species, and *Psidium guajava* are taking over and replacing endemic species such as *Acacia koa*, *Munroidendron racemosum*, and *Metrosideros polymorpha*. I worked on the Ground Cover Project, with Emory Griffin-Noyes and his team. They work on one and a half acres a year, removing the invasive species, and replanting with natives. The best method so far is to leave some of the invasive trees in place to create shade, and allow establishment of the natives before removing. This prevents the invasive Guinea grass taking hold.



Emma weeding *Coffea* species seedlings in the Limahuli Lower Preserve

During my second week, I worked at the NTBG's Horticulture Centre, based between the Allerton and McBryde Gardens on the south shore. Here I spent time with Bob Nishek, Nursery Manager, working on propagation and cultivation of endemic species. Whilst here, I fell in love with the lobelioids and *Cyrtandra* species, and I also collected fern spores for Dr David Rae at Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. Most of the plants used in the Limahuli restoration are grown here.

Week three was spent working at the Makauwahi Cave Reserve, which although not part of NTBG, has personal connections, in that it is managed by Lida Piggott-Burney, and her husband Dr David Burney who is also Director of Conservation at NTBG. This is a unique project trialling the technique of inter-situ conservation.



Emma collecting seed from *Hibiscus clayi* at Makauwahi Cave Reserve

Here, a limestone sinkhole, has preserved a continuous 10,000 year fossil record of bones, pollen and seed due to its neutral pH. Using fossil information, the reserve is being replanted with endemics which although not currently growing here, did so previously. It is also replanted with species that grow nearby or have a historical account of having grown here in the past. Here I got to work on a special project recording information about the *Hibiscus clayi* population,

as well as collecting seed from them and herbarium vouchers. Some of these *Hibiscus clayi* are offspring from the Joseph Rock collection here at RBG, Kew.

During my free time I managed to do two trails in Koke'e State Park, with botanical professionals, and see the fabulous *Cibotium glaucum* and *Metrosideros polymorpha* growing in their native habitats. I also managed a hike up Mount Nounou (or Sleeping Giant to some) to see the last remaining seven individuals of *Hibiscus clayi*.

It truly was a magnificent experience, and there is nothing like seeing plants in their natural habitat. The work of NTBG and Makauwahi Cave Reserve will hopefully make this possible in the future too.

I'd like to thank the Kew Guild for their assistance with this trip.

THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL LAVENDER CONFERENCE

by Susyn Andrews

Some 95 delegates attended The First International Lavender Conference at Cambridge, UK from 6th – 11th September 2009. They came from the UK, France, Holland, Denmark, Poland, Croatia, Canada, USA, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Thailand and the Gambia.

The Conference was organised by Dr Tim Upson (Curator of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden (CUBG) and ex-Kew) and myself. The venues were divided between the new Gillespie Centre at Clare College, CUBG and the teaching laboratory at the Department of Plant Sciences.

The Conference opened with a welcoming reception at CUBG in the newly revamped Glasshouse Range. The first morning in the violet-seated Riley Auditorium covered 'Advances in Systematics and Horticultural Taxonomy' and Dr Alan Paton (RGB Kew) set the scene with '*Lavandula* within the Labiatae'. The genus is the hardiest member of the *Ocimeae* tribe (basil and its relatives) but we are still unsure of its closest relatives. Tim followed with 'Monographing the genus *Lavandula**: a new classification and future'. I covered 'Facets of the lavender industry in England: 1500 – c. 1950s'. Others dealt with the history up to 1500 and the importance of plant names.

The afternoon was on 'Collections and Identification' and covered National Plant Collections and presentations on the Cape Verde and Canary Island lavenders. We then trooped over to CUBG (20 minutes' walk) for various identification workshops led by Tim and myself.

The next day started with 'Modern Approaches to Breeding' with riveting presentations from Australia, Canada and Dr Simon Charlesworth of Downderry Nursery, Kent. They were followed by a session on 'Growing Lavenders': two scientists from RHS Wisley expounded on 'The Rosemary beetle, *Chrysolina americana*, a threat to lavender in the UK?' and on '*Phytophthora*; a major pathogen of plants'. 'The potential of lavender extract for use as a natural herbicide' by Tim Haig from Australia completed that session. These latter three talks provoked much discussion.

Various short presentations followed – on *The Lavender Bag*, which has appeared twice a year since 1994; the Bridestowe Estate Lavender Farm in Tasmania and the venue for the Australian TALGA meeting in 2010 and various poster and demonstration sessions.

The third day dealt with an ‘Oils Overview and Clinical Uses’. Our key-note speaker was Dr Noel G. Porter from New Zealand and he spoke fluently on ‘Lavender Oil 2009 - Challenges and Opportunities’. He was followed by Prof. Monique Simmonds (RBG Kew) who gave a fascinating talk on the ‘Biological activity of essential oils’ and the work of her team at Kew. Others from the UK and Australia spoke on the clinical uses and the bioactivity of lavender oil, as well as on how it helps to reduce anxiety.

One of the main highlights of the Conference was an Oils Workshop led by Noel Porter which was held in the Teaching Laboratory in the Dept. of Plant Sciences. This four-hour session could only take 36 people, so not everyone was able to participate. It was an outstanding success and was followed by the Conference Dinner in the 17th century Great Hall at Clare College.

The following day was spent at Norfolk Lavender, Heacham in North Norfolk, where after a good look round, a number of seminars were held on products and marketing, perfumery, field production and tourism. Norfolk Lavender is the oldest and largest lavender farm in the UK and has had a National Collection of *Lavandula* since 1983.

We went to Downton Nursery in Kent, the leading lavender nursery in the UK, on the final day. Simon and his staff led a number of workshops on breeding, propagation, potting, pests and diseases and marketing. His National Collection of *Lavandula* dated from 1996 and was recently granted scientific status by National Heritage.

All agreed it had been a great week with glorious weather and we hope to have the next conference in four years’ time. No one will ever forget going punting on the Cam on an Indian summer evening.

My thanks to the Kew Guild Awards Sub-Committee for awarding me a grant to attend this highly successful conference.

*Upson, T. & Andrews, S. (2004). The Genus *Lavandula*. RBG Kew.

AN IRISH WELCOME: 4TH BGC CONGRESS WITH IRISH GARDENS AND LANDSCAPE

by Neil Bancroft

I was very kindly awarded funding to attend the Fourth Botanic Garden Conservation International Congress in Dublin, attached to this I travelled to some of the impressive landscapes and gardens of the South West of Ireland to experience the habitat diversity, garden history and benefits of the microclimate.

The congress was very stimulating with over a hundred lectures on eight themes and 70 countries represented; it was difficult to choose what to attend. I chose a cross section range of themes including education, sustainability, innovations and restoration ecology. Highlights for me included the lecture by Kingsley Dixon of

Kings Park Australia, talking about the role of botanic gardens in restoration ecology; Stella Simiyu, who represents BGCI in the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, who talked of the need for botanic gardens to address poverty through their work; but to see Peter Raven of Missouri Botanic Gardens, who wrote the invaluable Biology text book was inspirational – he did an amazing job of summing up the event and the goals we should strive for.

In the middle of the week there was a garden visit to Kilmacurragh Gardens, which was perfect to whet my appetite for the range of gardens on offer in Ireland. Seamus O'Brien the head gardener and his staff did an excellent job of guiding the delegates through the wonders of this well documented collection from such names as Veitch, Lobbe and Wilson, including *Athrotaxis selaginoides* from Tasmania and a huge and beautifully smelling *Laureliopsis philippiana* from Chile.

Seamus played a key role in the itinerary of the second week and this also did not disappoint. The fact that it was one of the driest summers since the 1960s helped a great deal also – the gardens looked stunning and landscapes were incredible.

The Burren with its grykes and fissures create the perfect pockets for miniature habitats, some damp with fern species such as *Ceterach officinarum* and *Hedera helix*, and others dry with *Geranium sanguineum* and *Thymus praecox*. Thanks to some helpful guidance from Mike Fay I found a field of orchids including *Orchis insectifera*.

Killarney with its Yew Wood, one of only three pure *Taxus baccata* stands in Europe was still lush and green, alongside *Arbutus unedo* and on the surrounding hills naturalised *Pinguicula vulgaris* and *Drosera rotundifolia* were beautiful to see in their native habitat.

The garden highlights were Kells Bay which has a forest of *Dicksonia antarctica* (photo, right) from ships ballast in the 18th century. It is now being planted up with new accessions of *Cyathea australis* and other tree ferns. If the Tree Register of Great Britain with the biggest trees of a particular species are your interest then Fota Botanic gardens near Cobh was immense, with *Cryptomeria japonica* looking as impressive as *Sequoiadendron giganteum* and labelling that recorded their heights at specified dates. I look forward to returning to check how they are doing.



The travel scholarship was a great success and many thanks to the Kew Guild for their generous contribution, and Seamus O'Brien for his kind advice.

THE BULBS AND ANNUALS OF THE WESTERN CAPE

by James Beattie

Here at Kew in the Tropical Nursery I am lucky to look after part of the South African bulb collection and growing these plants inspired me one day to visit the amazingly diverse areas of the Cape Floral Region. With each flowering season in

the nursery this inspiration grew and I applied to the Kew Guild to help with funding and this dream was realised in the spring (Southern Hemisphere) of 2010. In my proposal for funding my main aims were to gain a greater understanding of the bulbous and annual plants and their habitat, to seek inspiration from local experts, to increase my knowledge surrounding their successful cultivation, enhancing links with botanic organisations in South Africa and increasing plant identification skills in the field.

With all the photographs I had seen, and facts like the Cape Floral Region covering only 0.5% of Africa's landmass but holding 20% of the continent's flora, anticipation was high. Following the weather patterns over their winter, the early rains came and the excitement mounted. But as winter progressed the rain petered out, threatening the wonderful displays.

Flying into Cape Town, it was a two-hour drive up to the West Coast National Park (right), with doubts of drought met thankfully by wonderful displays of bulbs and annuals in arrays of colour. From bulbs of *Ferraria crispa* to *Lachenalia pustulata* and annuals from *Heliophila coronopifolia* to *Arctotis hirsuta* the displays were of endless diversity and beauty. A few days were spent exploring this florally rich region ranging from granitic rock outcrops to calcareous soils. All this was on a wonderfully wild coast with migrating Southern Right Whales.



Next it was time to explore the elevated reaches of the Bokkeveld Plateau and the 'Bulb Capital' of Nieuwoudtville. Here the dry winter started to make its presence known with few and sparse displays of flowers compared with other years, but after exploring found some absolute. Keeping to the edge of the plateau where the rain seemed to collect and fall more frequently were two magic places, Biekos and Grasberg. Finding *Gladiolus alatus* flowering (left) was very exciting. Although somewhat stunted by the dry conditions it was all the more beautiful for its resilience. One morning we had a hard frost and it was amazing to see *Lachenalia mutabilis* and *Conicoisa elongata* in full flower coated in delicate ice crystals only to be heated to 25°C and blasted by the sun just a couple of hours later.

The plan had been to visit further north into Namaqualand but here with hardly any rainfall at all, there were no displays of carpeting annuals and even the hardier bulbs remained dormant.

Finally it was back to Cape Town for a few days with the experts at Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden, learning about bulb cultivation with bulb expert Graham

Duncan. Spending time with the other departments to see the garden as a whole was all made possible by Adam Harrower who studied at Kew. The time spent with everyone was fantastic. With a day to go it was one last botanical exploration into the beautiful Jonkershoek Mountains, a wilderness flanked by pinnacles of towering sandstone with the beautiful *Disa comosa* in full flower in damp crevices, right at the top.

Throughout the trip alongside the amazing wildlife were the signs of threats: new housing developments springing up, agriculture advancing wider into almost every niche, mining taking its toll and the ever spreading alien invasive species. Drinking a refreshing cup of Rooibos Tea will never be the same for me after the areas of wonderful flora I had witnessed being ripped up to meet our ever increasing demand for this 'wild' drink of Africa.

Returning to Kew with this new knowledge was inspiring. A massive *Brunsvigia orientalis* from the regions I had visited was flowering in my zone of the nursery to welcome me back to my little bit of the South African wilderness here in London. Thank you so much to the Kew Guild for making this trip possible.

USA TRIP by Aljos Farjon

My trip to the USA this summer, partly funded by the Kew Guild Awards Sub-Committee, was a great success. Its main objective, to gather additional data for the mapping of the conifers of the world, was achieved. A secondary objective was to see the conifers of the state of Maine.

The first three weeks, from 17th August to 5th September, were spent at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Here I worked at the University Herbaria (Arnold Arboretum Herbarium and Gray Herbarium, or A & GH) on collections of conifers, mainly from eastern Asia and southeastern Asia. I collected specimen data, in particular locality data, of many of the species from these regions, in order to fill in gaps in my existing database. What was this for?

Herbarium collections allow us to verify that a particular species has been found in a particular place. As a specialist, I can confirm whether the specimen represents the species as labelled. If the label data mention a locality, I can 'georeference' that locality, i.e. find its latitude and longitude. This gives me a dot for that species on a map. Many such dots will give away distribution patterns, a distribution range or extent, or even indications of how common or rare it is. If we know from the label at what date the specimen was collected, we can by comparison with other specimens find trends, such as: only collected before 1950 and not or very rarely since. Maps with e.g. recent forest cover derived from Geographical Information System (GIS) data can tell us more about the likelihood that a dot on the map from before 1950 records a tree now gone, or alternatively still present.

So I am interested in accurate distribution maps of conifer species in the world, based on these dots. To do that for 615 species of conifers which occur all over the world is a very big job. Fortunately, I have been working on this database for nearly 30 years, so it is already large with over 25,000 verified records. But gaps still remain, where we know a species has been reported in the literature, say for the Moluccas in Indonesia, but I have no dots there to prove it. This is where the Harvard Herbaria visit comes in. From analysis of my database it turned out that

most of my gaps are in Asia, especially E and SE Asia. (They also occur in the far north, like Canada and Siberia, but that problem is much more difficult to solve with herbarium specimen data). The Harvard collections are well known to be rich for those areas of Asia, richer even than RBG Kew's. The reasons for this are largely historical, on which I shall not dwell here. Another major herbarium for SE Asia is Leiden, and perhaps I can revisit that herbarium in the near future (I went there regularly when I still lived and worked in the Netherlands).

I came away with 1070 additional records for the database. That does not sound impressive in relation to the 25,000 already in the database. However, these are records specifically gathered to fill in the distribution gaps for species that had insufficient data. The Harvard Herbaria are indeed rich and in the end I had to cut some corners, even while working 10 hours a day, six days a week. When the georeferencing is done, many of my maps will be much more complete than they were before this trip, and I can start to do the analyses of species distribution, patterns of change and ultimately conservation assessments, as well as a projected Atlas of the World's Conifers.

The last week of my stay in the US was a field trip to Maine, a heavily forested state in the NE of the country, with a deeply indented coastline full of wooded islands. This trip was meant as a holiday break, but I cannot help looking for conifers even during such breaks, if they occur. Maine has a fair share of them for a country this far north: 14 species (Great Britain and Ireland have only 3 native species). They are mainly junipers, pines and spruces, with the latter dominating the forests in the north and pines and junipers more common in the south and central part of the state, where they often mix with broadleaves like oaks and maples. Maine was scoured heavily by glaciers during the ice ages, with the result that soils are poor, thin or on hills and low mountains as well as many islands virtually absent. Conifers can cope with this better than most broadleaves (angiosperms would be a better term: there are conifers with broad leaves but not here). I often found them growing on top of granite rocks smoothed by the glaciers, with their roots going for fissures and soils only a finger deep. Of course such trees don't grow tall, and where the same species got taller nearby, there was evidently some more soil. I took the opportunity to enlarge my photo library of conifers with the species native to Maine, which I had not visited before.

So in all, my study trip to the NE part of the USA was very productive and useful, and I thank the Kew Guild Award for their important part in making it possible.

NEW ZEALAND

by Stephen Haines

You often hear that New Zealand is 'clean and green' and on first inspection it looks it but after a little research it becomes apparent that its flora, although distinctive and unique, is greatly threatened. It seemed a long way to go for another doom and gloom story so I decided to focus my travel scholarship on projects actively conserving and restoring the flora of this Pacific gem, as well as to centres of horticultural excellence. My aim was to learn as much as possible about the native flora and to assess the fight for its survival.

My first port of call was the Motukarara Conservation Nursery outside Christchurch. The nursery, run by Jorge Santos, is charged with the propagation and cultivation of local provenance seed to provide stock for restoration projects on the surrounding

Canterbury Plains. 80% of the stock is sold to the general public to raise funds for the remaining 20% to be planted out in restoration projects. The nursery is self-financing and acts as a resource centre providing information on landscape restoration, as well as producing over 100,000 plants per annum. The work of Jorge and his team is invaluable in an area of intensive agriculture where only 3% of native habitat remains.

The following week was spent with the legendary Hugh Wilson on the private 1200-hectare Hinewai Reserve on Banks Peninsula. Hugh's encyclopaedic knowledge of New Zealand flora (which was recognised by the Linnean Society in 1991 when they awarded him the Bloomer Medal for Botany) was generously and enthusiastically shared whilst we worked on the Reserve. Hugh may be seen as somewhat eccentric (shunning a car, computer and mobile phone) but he was the highlight of my scholarship and an inspiration I shall take with me throughout my career.

From Hinewai I travelled to Otari-Wilton's Bush in Wellington which is dedicated solely to the cultivation of New Zealand natives. The manager Rewi Elliot and his team threw me into a busy work schedule which included transplanting four metre high *Dicksonia squarrosa*, planting out several new beds in the fern garden and working in the grounds of the National Museum, Te Papa which they also manage. The team definitely introduced me to the New Zealand 'can do' mentality and demonstrated their passion for the native flora which was infectious!

Finally, I made my way to Auckland where I was hosted by Yvonne Etherington at Auckland Botanic Gardens. She kindly took me to several Regional Parks to give an overview of restoration projects in the Auckland Area and introduced me to Steve Benham from the Department of Conservation. Steve is responsible for flora conservation in and around Auckland and I was lucky enough to accompany him on a trip to Rangitoto Island in the Hauraki Gulf. Rangitoto has the largest remaining *Metrosideros excelsa* forest in the country and its unique flora is undergoing an intensive conservation programme including a multimillion dollar aerial baiting programme of mammalian pests and a concerted effort to remove invasive weeds.

The scholarship was a great success and I learned a great deal. Although New Zealand's flora is indeed threatened I feel confident that it has a fighting chance while such dedicated individuals are striving for its survival. I'm indebted to all of the individuals who spared me their time in the UK and Aotearoa/New Zealand and to the Kew Guild for their generous financial backing. Kia ora!

SPAIN

by Anthony Hall

The aim of this trip was to compare the flora of southern and northern Spain. Flying into Asturias it was immediately apparent that it was much greener than southern Spain at this time of year. Leaving the coast and slowly climbing the winding roads leading towards my first destination, the Picos de Europa, the scenery was amazing and I was surprised by the lack of what I think of as typical Mediterranean plants, *Cistus*, rosemary and lavenders.

Unfortunately the weather was so bad on the first days, with heavy rain, swollen streams and snow above 1800m, that my treks with two Picos locals were cancelled. I decided to explore the area anyway. This mountain range has a flora of approximately 2500 species.



On the lower slopes there were forests of both deciduous (*Quercus pyrenaica*) and evergreen (*Quercus ilex*) trees and shrubs, ferns and along more open tracks many species of orchids from large lizard orchids (*Himantoglossum hircinum*) to tiny fragrant orchids (*Gymnadenia odoratissima*). Amongst the rocks were Saxifrages, *Lithodora diffusa* and *Teucrium pyrenaica*.

Leaving the mountains I headed towards the coast

and the town of Gijón to meet Juan Carlos, manager of horticultural maintenance for the local government, who had been very helpful in assisting me to set up my trip. I was treated to some traditional Asturian food and drink during discussions on whether to change plans because of the unusually wet weather – one fifth of the year's average rainfall over the last four days and more rain forecast.

The following day I travelled to Somiedo. Situated in the western central mountains and covering some 291sq kilometres, is a Parque Natural, with oak forest, again lots of orchid species, heathers, thymes, campanulas and saxifrages. Helianthemums were doing their best to open in cloudy wet skies. A beautiful blue Iris (*Iris latifolia*) and yellow *Antirrhinum braun-blanquetii* were also to be seen.

I had arranged to meet the curator of the Jardín Botánico Atlántico, Alvaro Bueno Sánchez back at Gijón. He gave me a tour of the botanic garden, a new garden established in 2003 with really good planting including a large area of native plants from Cantabrica. Alvaro, a leading Spanish botanist, has worked on many floras throughout Asturias, including writing the flora of Muniellos.

Alvaro had arranged to join me on a trip to Muniellos, which has the largest oak forest (*Quercus petraea*) in Spain.

Recognised as the best preserved oak forest in Europe it is home to the Cantabrian brown bear, with access restricted to twenty permits a day. During an eight-hour trek through the oak forest, with maples, ash and hazels, following streams, I noted eight fern species but there are many more there. At 1200m an endemic Birch (*Betula celtiberica*) takes over from *Q. petraea*. Around the lagoons just 100m from the summit a few *Sorbus intermedia* grow amongst the Betulas.

During this trip I drove over 1400 kilometres and visited three provinces, Asturias, Cantabria and León from sea level to 1600m. I visited some wonderful habitats with a very different flora to that of southern Spain and made some good contacts for future collaborations, so thank you to the Kew Guild.

PLANTS AND PEOPLE OF COASTAL BRITISH COLUMBIA

by Sara Miller

‘The ocean was our grocery store, and the forest our pharmacy’ Tribal Elder

For millennia, the forest and marine resources of the northwest Pacific coast have supported the flourishing of diverse indigenous cultures. To learn more about this area, its plants, and its people, I travelled to Canada to study the coastal temperate rainforests in British Columbia (BC) and attend the 12th Congress of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE).

Despite delays due to volcanic ash in European airspace, I arrived unscathed in Tofino, a remote coastal community on the western edge of Vancouver Island. This land, the territorial home of the Tla-oh-qui-aht First Nation (our hosts), is renowned for its beauty, and also its conflicts between multinational logging companies and First Nations and environmental groups.

I visited Tofino Botanic Gardens to learn the local plants, and Pacific Rim National Park to see them *in situ*. Three conifers dominated the temperate rainforest here; and thanks to over 3.0m annual rainfall and a temperate climate, they often reach gigantic proportions. Found on shorelines, Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) acts as a windbreak for the Western Red Cedar (*Thuja plicata*) and Western Hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*) inland. Pojar & MacKinnon’s (2004) *Plants of Coastal British Columbia* was my field guide throughout.

At Schooner Cove, a guided walk taught me to distinguish old growth from 2nd growth forests. The forest had a lush understory of terrestrial and epiphytic plants, including: mosses, ferns (*Polystichum munitum*, *P. glycyrrhiza* and *Blechnum spicant*), *Equisetum sp.*, perennial herbs (*Maianthemum dilatatum*) and shrubs (especially *Gaultheria shallon*, and species of *Vaccinium*, *Rubus*, and *Ribes*). But the highlight was a kayaking trip to Meares Island (complete with seals and bald eagles), to see specimens of *Thuja plicata* over 1,000 years old!

When not out botanizing, I attended sessions of the ISE congress focused on ethnobotany, conservation and biodiversity, including:

- The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation & Indigenous people
- Poverty reduction and conservation management
- Conserving the genetic diversity of traditional food plants

The sessions were challenging, informative and ended all too quickly. Particularly inspiring was Dr. Nancy Turner’s presentation on the food plants on the northwest coast forests used by various local First Nations.

Heading back to the mainland, I saw *Cornus nuttalli*, and *Arbutus menziesii* in flower along the roadside. In Vancouver, I visited the Museum of Anthropology and also the Botanical Gardens at the University of British Columbia (UBC) campus. Trish Owen gave me a behind-the-scenes tour of the museum collections, whilst Tony Manziezzo gave me a garden tour. Afterwards he directed me to the campus beach, via a cliff-side forest full of massive *Pseudotsuga menziesii*, *Thuja plicata* and *Acer macrophyllum*.

Once on the beach, my exhaustion caught up with me, and I fell asleep on the sand, watching the container ships loaded with timber depart the Port of Vancouver. The

Pacific and its coastal forests still support diverse cultures, albeit now on a global scale.

Many thanks to the Kew Guild for their generous support, as well as to Dr. Mark Nesbit, Tony Kirkham and Jackie Chambers for their encouragement and contacts; what an enriching and inspiring adventure!

WORKSHOP TO MARK THE COMPLETION OF THE ETHIOPIAN FLORA PROJECT AND DISCUSS DEVELOPMENT OF A BOTANIC GARDEN

by Sylvia Phillips

The project to write a Flora of Ethiopia and Eritrea was begun in 1980, after 10 years of planning and fund raising. The final two volumes of the 8-volume work were published in 2009, after almost 30 years of collaboration between botanists from several different countries. To mark the end of this most successful long-term project a workshop took place in November 2010 at Addis Ababa university. It was organised by the Head of the Herbarium, Prof. Sebsebe Demissew, who was one of the early trainees sponsored by the project. I received an invitation to attend and contribute a talk on the diversity of Ethiopian grasses as I wrote Vol.7 (Gramineae), and am most grateful to the Kew Guild for awarding me a grant enabling me to accept the invitation.

This Flora Project is unique among African Floras as it included from the beginning a large element of capacity building, training several Ethiopians to doctoral standard and much increasing the size of the Addis Ababa herbarium through a programme of field work. Additionally, the Flora has been published and printed in Ethiopia, a remarkable achievement especially as the country suffered civil war during much of the early period. The Workshop was attended by Ethiopians from the new regional universities which have been set up round the country. The hope is that the Flora can be used to strengthen botany departments and aid in the teaching of identification skills.



The second part of the Workshop focused on the development of a new botanic garden. A 705-hectare site has been set aside in the hills to the northwest of Addis Ababa, and a MOU between the University and Addis Ababa city was signed in 2005. A Belgian firm of designers has developed a landscape plan and work has begun on constructing access roads and clearing Eucalyptus plantation. The organisers

now require help in setting up a management structure, so invited experts to give advice. Kew was represented by David Mabberley (Keeper of the Herbarium), and the directors of the Berlin and Kirstenbosch botanic gardens were also present. The site rises to 3000m, affording a wonderful view of the city from a rocky summit Gullele Bot Gard (see photo), and is planned to include a gradient displaying plants

from the different vegetation zones in Ethiopia. A large area will be set aside as a conservation area, as well as ornamental gardens and a building incorporating elements of traditional design. A running track round part of the periphery will provide space for Ethiopians to practice long-distance running, for which the country is famous. The realisation of this garden will require enormous funding donated from outside Ethiopia, but if it is achieved will provide a wonderful resource for conservation science, recreation for city residents and an income-providing tourist attraction.

Afterwards we made a short trip to the Awash National Park. The park consists of dense areas of *Acacia-Commiphora* bush land and also grassy plains (*Cymbopogon* dominant) providing a refuge for some of the most spectacular animals in the Horn of Africa (photo above). This provided me with a very enjoyable opportunity to see some of the grasses growing which I have worked on in the herbarium.



PHOTOGRAPHY COURSE

by Steven Robinson

The arrival of digital photography to some members in the photography world believed that this would be a nail in the coffin for the future of photography. But as one door closes another one opens and that open door has given the opportunity to all to achieve a quality of photographs that we never thought we would have.

My work here at Wakehurst Place in the Loder Valley Nature Reserve is one large natural photographic studio which for many years I resisted the temptation to pick up a camera. However one year I borrowed a works digital camera to photograph some fox cubs in the reserve and the dreaded camera bug got me. A camera now always travels with me as I have learnt that the opportunity to take that picture can jump up at you at any time.

With most of what we do we always want to achieve better, and photography for some is one of those subjects. So in May 2010 I attended a two-day wildlife photography course run by a company called Wild Eye to help to improve my raw skills. Although digital photography can be just point and shoot there still is the skill and knowledge needed that was still needed in the 35mm days. The tutor on the course was Mike Powell, a full



time wildlife photographer who had spent the previous six weeks working on Springwatch at Pensthorpe nature reserve. The course was a mixture of workshops and lectures with an aim to get you out there taking pictures. The drive to push



yourself to take good quality photos was a photo competition where you submitted your top five photos at the end of the course.

The saying ‘all the gear and no idea’ very much applies to photography with some students armed with a mobile camera shop and some like me, a Canon EOS 1000D and a couple of lenses. Thinking my chances were no hope, the top five photos were

taken by people with the least kit, proving that it’s the eye behind the lens that takes the winning shot. My frog gained a third prize and the otter a fifth, which I was more than pleased with. I’m fortunate that my work allows me to take pictures that are used within Kew, but not starting out as a young man with an aim to become a full time wildlife photographer. We were told that it is one of the most competitive careers to break into.

Thanks to the Kew Guild for funding what may seem an unusual application but the benefits to the organisation I hope will be appreciated.

OFFSHORE BOTANIZING – SOME LIKE IT HOT!

by Anne Rostek

When hearing the name ‘Cayman Islands’ most people immediately think of offshore financial services – if anything. Few know that this small group of islands, nestled in the Caribbean between Cuba, Jamaica and Mexico, not only supports an amazing flora and fauna but is also home to a beautiful botanic institution on the main island Grand Cayman.

The Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park (QEIBP), a 65-acre horticultural establishment opened by the Queen in 1985, was my base for a three-week work experience placement as part of my travel scholarship. The main aim was to familiarize myself with the tropical flora of this region, but also to learn about the management of a botanic institution at this latitude (just below 20°0’N). What challenges does a botanic garden on a small island in the middle of the Caribbean Sea face? I soon learnt about devastating hurricane events, staffing problems through immigration regulations, astronomical costs for irrigation water, labels and potting compost!

Working five days a week alongside the staff at the botanic park opened up a complete new world of plants to me. At times it felt as if I was standing in Kew Gardens’ Palm House or Princess of Wales Conservatory. Heat and humidity levels were similar; the only difference being that no glass structure surrounded me.

The botanic park includes a wide range of features that all contributed to a great learning experience. A large ornamental colour garden gave me a comprehensive overview of plants commonly used in landscaping in the tropics, amongst them *Codiaeum* (croton), *Acalypha* (cat tail) and various members of the Zingiberaceae family. A heritage garden with adjacent orchard displayed a variety of fruit trees typically grown in the Caribbean, including my favourite *Artocarpus altilis* (breadfruit tree).



Finding a calabash fruit (*Crescentia cujete*) along the Mastic Trail on Grand Cayman



A blue iguana male at the breeding station at the QEIIIBP

Further features comprised a newly planted orchid board walk, a palm walk and a 2-mile trail through pristine ancient woodland, showing off amidst a wealth of native trees and shrubs majestic *Agave caymanensis*, groups of the critically endangered bromeliad *Hohenbergia caymanensis* and countless epiphytes (mainly orchids and tillandsias) growing in clusters on branches along the track.

Apart from general maintenance work in the ornamental garden I also spent a couple of days per week in the park's own nursery, helping to reorganize parts of the plant sale area and potting up. On these occasions I frequently stumbled over some very ancient creatures – the rare Grand Cayman blue iguana, which has been brought back from the brink of extinction through a successful breeding programme, set up right next to the nursery grounds.

Finally, my work experience in the Gardens was complemented by a number of excellent day trips and hiking tours on Grand Cayman and the sister island Cayman Brac, which gave me the chance to botanize and enjoy the native flora in its natural habitat, as well as learning about the threats to the delicate islands' ecosystem, e.g. ever expanding development sites and the destruction of sheltering mangrove belts for tourism.

I would like to thank the Kew Guild for the generous financial support of this trip, which provided me with such a great and valuable experience.

SINGAPORE, BORNEO AND BEGONIAS

by Martin J. S. Sands



present a paper giving an overview of the Bornean begonias and their amazing diversity, exemplified by *B. kinabaluensis* (above left) and *B. malachosticta* (above right).

The triennial symposium provides a forum for reviewing the progress of research related to the Malesian Region Flora and, for the first time since the initial Symposium in 1989, a whole morning in Singapore was devoted to a well attended Begoniaceae workshop, clearly indicative of the increasing number of botanists studying this family, so richly represented in the region yet so long neglected.



Over the years, since I first visited Singapore in 1969, the Botanic Gardens have greatly increased in size and, while there have been significant changes, most of its key features, such as an area of rainforest and several historic buildings, have been preserved. Its world-famous Orchid Centre continues to develop and, in recent years, a fine large Botany Centre has been built incorporating the herbarium, laboratories and excellent conference facilities in which the weeklong meeting was held. More recently, an attractive and informative one-hectare Ginger Garden has been established, exhibiting over 550 species, varieties and cultivars. It has been developed in part, and is managed, by Dina Gallick (left), a former Diploma student, who left Kew in 1999 and who is co-author of a book about gingers and the new garden.

The Symposium provided a useful opportunity to meet longstanding friends and colleagues from many countries and discuss various topics, not least the biology, ecology and taxonomy of begonias. When not attending conference sessions, I frequently worked in the herbarium, examining and photographing all the many

Bornean specimens, as well as some from other areas in the region such as New Guinea. During the conference, several excellent social events were organised and, joining one of the mid-week excursions, I enjoyed an interesting visit to the Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve at the western end of Singapore Island. This 130-hectare area of mangrove was officially gazetted in 2002 and is recognised as a site of international importance for migratory birds. A sea otter and giant mudskippers were two particular highlights of the tour.



Mt. Kinabalu

After the symposium, I flew to Kota Kinabalu in Sabah (North Borneo) to begin a full second-week programme, including three days in the east, based at the Forest Research Centre, Sandakan. With over 20 species occurring on Kinabalu alone, Sabah is home to many of the Bornean *Begonia* species and several new ones are to be published soon. A range of forest areas and *Begonia* habitats were seen and herbarium specimens studied in both the Sabah Parks Headquarters on Mount Kinabalu and in the Sandakan herbarium. The first day, in the west of Sabah, I spent on Kinabalu and, on the second, visited

the Kipandi Butterfly Park in the Crocker Range, where many native begonias are planted in a reserve plot of primary forest. In the east, I explored extensive Dipterocarp forest for a day in the Sepilok Reserve and enjoyed a night walk (seeing flying squirrels at dusk) as well as an early morning visit to mangrove forest to observe the extraordinary proboscis monkeys in their Labuk Bay Sanctuary.

Before returning home, I spent a further three days in Singapore to complete work in the herbarium and earlier, before going to Sabah, revisited the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, last seen in 1969 when I collected my very first tropical herbarium specimen!

I am very grateful to the botanical staff of the Singapore Botanic Garden for their kind assistance throughout the symposium and, while in Sabah, to several people who provided help and support (including transport), notably Tony Lamb (Sabah Biodiversity Centre), Rimi Repin (Sabah Parks) and Dr Joan Pereira (Sabah Forestry Department).

2010 PALM BIOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

by Wesley Shaw

In May 2010, Montpellier in the South of France played host to the 2010 Palm Biology Symposium organised by French research organisations CIRAD, IRD and palm group EUNOPS. Felix Merklinger and I have had a longstanding interest in the palm family so thought it the ideal opportunity to find out more about present day research and the opportunity to make new contacts. Kew had a strong representation at the conference with excellent presentations from Paula Rudall, Bill Baker and John Dransfield. There was also the opportunity to participate in a pre-conference

tour based in San Remo just over the border in Italy and experience some of the local public and private gardens on the French Riviera.

We were part of a small group of six that signed up for the Riviera Tour, one of which was Don Hodell, a well known palm researcher based at the University of California. The Riviera coast has a large number of gardens of botanical and historical interest mainly due to the mild climate of this region.

Day 1 we visited Parc Ormond, a palm conservatory, a very old palm collection that became a municipal garden in the 19th century and is today an important collection of acclimatised palm species. In the afternoon we visited a country house called Villa Garnier, the famous architect Charles Garnier built his residence here, in the heart of the historic palm grove of Bordighera.

Day 2 we visited Jardin des Colombieres, one of the most reputed Mediterranean gardens, built at the beginning of the 19th century by Ferdinand Bac – this garden is a typical example of oriental plant exoticism. The afternoon was dedicated to famous Hanbury Botanic Garden, a beautiful 45-acre garden, which has a unique microclimate of being sheltered by the close proximity of nearby mountains and the sea.

Day 3 we visited the Villa Rothschild, a unique collection of landscaped gardens; it is surrounded by nine themed gardens attributed to the landscape architects Achille Duchene and Harold Peto. The afternoon was spent at Le Jardin des Cedres, the richest botanical garden of the region. Formerly a property of the Belgian King Leopold, it contains 14000 species of tropical plants and twenty-five heated glasshouses.

The symposium was held at the conference centre Le Corum, over three days, attended by many delegates from all over the world. The programme mainly consisted of presentations throughout each day, with a poster session in the afternoon. Topics ranged from palm diversity and taxonomy, palm structural biology, through to pest and disease issues and studies on individual species.

It was a fantastic opportunity for Felix and I to attend Palms 2010, we gained an excellent insight into palm related research currently being undertaken, and visited some beautiful gardens with magnificent palm collections. We would like to thank the Kew Guild for its financial support for this trip.

A STUDY OF THE LIMESTONE FLORA OF NORTH-WEST YORKSHIRE

by Joanna Walmisley

Friday 18 June 2010 marked the start of a hectic four days study of the limestone flora of north-west Yorkshire – a Field Studies Council (FSC) course based at their centre at Malham Tarn. Arriving in the evening, supper was followed by an energetic walk up behind Malham House, to gain an overview of the course and the lie of the land.

Malham Tarn Field Centre is located at an altitude of almost 400m, in the southern part of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. The Malham Tarn Estate of 2,900 hectares is owned by the National Trust, the house and grounds having been leased by them to the FSC for education and research since 1948. The Estate forms part of a

National Nature Reserve and is managed by the Trust in partnership with the FSC and Natural England.

The geology of the Malham area is mainly Carboniferous limestone. This has been modified by volcanic activities giving rise to faults which have shifted the bedrock allowing slate to exist side by side with the limestone. Successive glaciations have eroded valleys between the landforms and as sea levels rose and fell, areas of shale have been deposited. When sea levels fell, rivers flowed into the area bringing sands and gravels which in turn became compacted to form Millstone grit. This varied geology has helped form a diverse flora that is tempered by upland weather.

Malham Tarn itself is the only (and highest) alkaline lake in the UK. It was formed as glacial ice scoured a basin in the permeable limestone, exposing impermeable slate beneath. As the ice retreated, meltwater filled the basin to form the Tarn. Today, this is filled by an inflow stream together with further springs and ditches. It drains by an outflow stream at the southern end. At the western part of the basin, vegetation has crept in and the wetland complex known as a hydrosere is developing. We had the opportunity to examine this area more closely on the Monday.

On Saturday morning thirteen course members and our leader boarded a minibus and travelled eastward to Grassington. The cold and windy morning was spent scrutinizing grasslands in the hills nearby. Thin soils overlie the limestone in this area and contain many species that can also be found in lowland chalk grassland. However, latitudinal and altitudinal differences have evolved species that prefer these conditions such as the Blue Moor Grass, *Sesleria caerulea*, Mountain Pansy, *Viola lutea* (which in this area contains no trace of purple), and Bird's-eye Primrose, *Primula farinosa*. The grasslands are used primarily for grazing, though signs of historical lead mining works were evidenced by swathes of the Spring Sandwort, *Minuartia verna*.



Malham Tarn

In the afternoon we explored woodland on the other side of the hills behind Grassington. Here we found some less common calcicolous woodlanders, including Herb Paris, *Paris quadrifolia*; Wood Cranesbill, *Geranium sylvaticum*; Lily-of-the-Valley, *Convallaria majalis* and a Northerner, the Melancholy Thistle, *Cirsium heterophyllum*. An exhilarating day was rounded off after supper by getting to grips with sedge keys in the classroom!

By Sunday, the weather had improved and the day was spent in sunshine looking at two pavements. In the morning, we visited Scar Close. This ancient landscape of clints (blocks of limestone rock) and grikes (intervening fissures of varying depths between the clints) is home to a wide range of plants, including micro habitats of calcifuge vegetation formed where water has been unable to percolate. Calcicole rock species such as Bloody Cranesbill, *Geranium sanguineum* and Baneberry, *Actaea spicata* were in abundance. Grike specialists including Maidenhair and Green Spleenwort, *Asplenium trichomanes* and *A. viride*, Wall-rue, *A. ruta-muraria*, Hart's tongue, *Phyllitis scolopendrium*, Brittle Bladder Fern, *Cystopteris fragilis* were peered at. It was not until the afternoon visit to Southerscales pavement which has a shadier aspect, that we finally found the Limestone Fern, *Gymnocarpium robertianum* and Rigid Buckler Fern, *Dryopteris submontana*.



For the evening excursion we trekked along a nearby dry valley in search of the local Whitebeam, *Sorbus rupicola*. There atop the steep valley-side a lone specimen dangled precariously at ninety degrees. We scrambled up to it and tried to ascertain the numbers of pairs of lateral leaf veins that would help to distinguish this species.

Monday heralded another sunny day and the chance to explore the bogs, base-rich flushes and fens around Malham Tarn itself. A spring flowing into the Tarn gave rise to sedge-rich fen vegetation, amongst which we found herbs including Marsh Arrowgrass, *Triglochin palustre*; Marsh Valerian, *Valeriana dioica*, Common Butterwort, *Pinguicula vulgaris* and here and there once again, the Bird's-eye Primrose, *Primula farinosa*.

A boardwalk has been laid across the developing Tarn Moss to protect delicate vegetation.

Traversing this, we reached one final flush. Here, on the banks, a small population of Large Yellow sedge, *Carex flava*, was growing at one of only two known sites in the country (see photo above).

Following this pièce de résistance, my head was spinning with plants and the journey home began. I would like to say how grateful I am to the Kew Guild for their assistance in enabling me to attend such a wonderful course – knowledge gained from which will be most useful for my work on the habitat beds at Wakehurst Place.

THE KEW GUILD HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

by Allan Hart

This is the fifth year of the Honorary Fellowship which is only available to those professionals and academics who are not eligible to become full members of the Guild. The Fellowship is awarded in recognition of those who are particularly distinguished in their careers of horticulture and the botanical sciences.

The 2010 nomination of Shirley Sherwood is welcomed by the Kew Guild.

Shirley is recognised as a world authority on botanical art. She is not only a major collector and curator of exhibitions, but equally importantly invests time as a patron, financing the training of a new generation of botanical artists, especially those from developing countries. Shirley is both a promoter and educationalist in the truest sense of the words.

Current Fellows are:

Elected 2006 – Derek Edwards, Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit, Ed Wolf

Elected 2007 – Dennis McGlade, Anna Pavord

Elected 2008 – John Brookes

Elected 2009 – Richard Bisgrove, Niall Kirkwood

Dr Shirley Sherwood



Interested in plants and art since childhood, Dr Sherwood earned her undergraduate degree in botany from Oxford University. She wrote her D. Phil. as part of the research team of Nobel Prize winner Sir James Black, whose group discovered Tagamet, one of the most successful drugs produced for the treatment for duodenal ulcers. In the 1980s Dr Sherwood joined with her husband, American-born and educated James Sherwood, founder and former chairman, Orient-Express Hotels, researching and restoring the Orient-Express train that travelled from Paris to Istanbul. In 1983, she wrote *The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express: Return of the World's Most Celebrated Train*

which has been expanded as a fifth edition in 2010. For 24 years she edited the *Orient-Express Magazine* which she founded in 1984.

Her two books, *Contemporary Botanical Artists* (the standard reference work in the field) and *A Passion for Plants: Contemporary Botanical Masterworks*, serve as catalogues to her premier collection of botanical art that she began in 1990 and which she has put on display in Scotland, America, Australia, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Italy and Spain, following the success of a first exhibition at Kew in 1996. The Shirley Sherwood Collection includes more than 750 paintings and drawings, representing the work of over 240 contemporary artists from 30 countries around the world. In 2003 she showed a hundred works at the Smithsonian in Washington which were visited by over half a million people. She had an exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in 2005 with a book entitled *A New Flowering: 1000 years of Botanical Art, 2005*.

Her husband James Sherwood, her two sons and five grandchildren all supported the building of the Shirley Sherwood Gallery at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. It is the only purpose-designed botanical art gallery in the world, opened in 2008.

Her book *Treasures of Botanical Art: Icons of the Shirley Sherwood and Kew Collections* (2008) accompanied the first show in the new gallery. She curated *The Art of Plant Evolution* there, her twentieth exhibition in 2009, with a book of the same title

and *Old and New South American Botanical Art* in 2010. Both the gallery and the initial exhibitions have had a tremendous reception.

Dr Sherwood is on the board of the Smithsonian, Washington, is a Fellow of the Linnaean Society and was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society in 2004 where she has been Vice Chair of the Picture Committee for over ten years. She is an Honorary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford.

NEWS OF HONORARY FELLOWS

by Allan Hart

Derek Edwards

Derek has written to say that he is managing to gain some relief from his illness, Parkinson's disease, due to a combination of a good consultancy, a new drug regime and better personal control of the symptoms. Ever positive, Derek hopes to resume some of his business-associated activities in 2011.

His company, Inturf, continues to attract interest from a wide range of clients, including the Royal Copenhagen Golf Club, where a purpose grown cultivated and custom grown turf was supplied and installed in 2010.

Roy Lancaster

'I was invited to give a lecture to The Mediterranean Garden Society members in Majorca in early March. Not having visited this island before, it seemed the perfect opportunity to see something of the native flora – and I was right! Among the highlights were *Hypericum balearicum* and *Buxus balearica* growing in the mountains above the north coast. Both of these I first saw as a student gardener at the Cambridge Botanic Garden back in 1961. A stroll along the island's south coast meanwhile, produced colonies of *Pancreatium maritimum*, flowerless at the time in the sand dunes, and the cutest little hummocks of a sea lavender *Limonium minutum* wedged between crevices in coastal rocks. There were orchids too, including the Giant Orchid *Barlia robertiana* in grassy places and the curious marine perennial *Posidonia oceanica*, its fibrous remains washed up in heaps and long drifts on the beaches. Who said the only interesting plants are those from China and the Himalaya?'

Roy's other activities during the year included: the opening of the new Winter Garden at the National Trust's Dunham Massey in Cheshire, judging the Spring and Autumn Flower Shows at Courson, France and judging at the Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. He also gave the Geoffrey Smith Memorial Lecture at Askam Bryan Horticultural College.

The Guild is very pleased to offer its congratulations to Roy on having his achievements recognised by the award of an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Bolton.

John Melmoe

The heavy snowfall in early January was not a welcome sight for Willerby Landscapes. It is viewed by Kew Guild Member, John Melmoe, their MD, as an inconvenience. 'We simply have too much to do,' he explains. 'Despite the economic downturn we have managed to retain a very diverse portfolio of clients and have a number of exciting challenges for the year ahead.'

In 2010 Willerby saw the completion of many landmark projects with which they have been involved such as the luxury residential development at One Hyde Park, a million pound roof terrace as part of the urban regeneration at Central St Giles, London. In May 2010 Willerby achieved another Gold Medal at the RHS Chelsea Flower show for the creation of the show garden for Cancer Research. In February the roof terraces at the Four Seasons Hotel, Park Lane, opens for business, creating a green oasis for the use of guests and visitors.

Willerby are also responsible for the upkeep of the RBS complex at Gogarburn, Edinburgh, where they are contracted to keep the site frost- and snow-free. Despite the appalling weather, with pre-planning and an extremely diligent workforce, they managed to achieve this, working throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Willerby are heavily involved with the creation of some of the major parklands associated with the 2012 Olympic celebrations. Working closely with Sheffield University they have been busy establishing some of the largest wildflower meadows ever seen in the capital, involving sourcing a diverse range of seeds such as *Origanum vulgare*, *Kantia arvensis* and *Eschscholzia*. The injection of colour from annual and perennial meadows will be captured on camera and beamed around the world as a back cloth for the Opening Ceremony of the Games. They have also been supportive of an Apprentice training scheme, actively encouraging youngsters to explore a future career in horticulture.

Ed Wolf

In spite of the recession, 2010 was a busy year for Ed's company, Indoor Garden Design. It won a Silver Gilt Medal in the 'Interior Garden for an Office' category at the Chelsea Flower Show, and designed, supplied and installed the planting for Chelsea Gold Medal winners 'Green and Black' and The Malaysian Tourist Board.

Indoor Garden Design was also successful in winning a major new client in the City of London, together with headquarter buildings for the Japanese Nomura Bank, the Bank of China and the Four Seasons Hotel.

Ed and his wife Brita found time in 2010 for one of their passions, travel, particularly to the tropics to experience lush landscapes and vegetation – this time in Australia.

Dennis McGlade

Dennis has had a year rich in accomplishments and milestones. One of his most acclaimed projects, Bryant Park in New York City, was awarded the 2010 Landmark Award from the American Society of Landscape Architects.

As Partner and President of Olin, Dennis was selected to be the lead designer for the plaza redesign at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, after an extensive search of more than thirty leading landscape and building architects from around the world. Dennis has begun work on multiple projects across the US, including the Milton-Friedman Institute at the University of Chicago, a master plan for the Blithewold Estate in New Hampshire and two private residences.

As a lecturer and instructor he was a panellist for 'Cities of the Future' at the International Water Association's World Water Congress in Montreal, Quebec, and led the first ever studio on landscape architecture at Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles, exploring the challenges and possibilities surrounding the Los Angeles River. This experience was a precursor to Dennis' appointment as

Partner-in-Charge for Olin's expansion of its architecture and urban design practice, with the opening of the firm's office in Los Angeles.

For almost the last twenty years Dennis has been planning the redevelopment of Camana Bay town centre on Grand Cayman. He was recently very gratified to see the hopes and aspirations of the project recognised by the awarding of the first ever Governor's Award by His Excellency, The Governor of the Cayman Islands.

The Guild offers its congratulations to Dennis on his achievement.

Anna Pavord

Anna wrote that she feels, as always, awed by the activities of other Kew Guild members; however, the following itinerary shows that her feelings are very much misplaced.

During March, Anna undertook a book tour in the United States to promote 'Bulb' which included TV interviews, talks at Cornell University, New York, Denver and Missouri Botanic Gardens.

This tour was followed in the summer with lectures in the Netherlands and then the National Gallery, Edinburgh, for the opening of the exhibition 'Impressionist Painters and their Gardens'.

Autumn was a very busy period, lecturing in Italy to the Royal Oak Foundation, an American organisation that supports the work of the National Trust in England, followed by talks at literary festivals in Ilkley, Southwold and Lennoxlove. November was spent promoting her most recent book 'The Curious Gardener' published by Bloomsbury at £20.

Sadly Anna broke her ankle while walking the Dorset Coastal Path during the summer, but still managed to fulfil her lecture engagements, work on her garden (via a wheelchair), and continue with her gardening column for the Independent, with the assistance of her husband Trevor.

John Brookes MBE

'The first part of the year is always fairly dull, with nothing much to do in the garden. My practise, such as it is in these hard times, is often abroad. My current run is of the Chicago and upstate New York areas and they are under snow. A garden design school in Buenos Aires has my name upon it and in January and February they are on holiday.

So my year starts in March – and looking at my diary I see the memorial service to Anthony Paisley, a friend with whom I worked in the late 1950s at both Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe's office.

I gave a lecture to enthusiastic students at the Oxford College of Design at St Hugh's. I heard Helen Dillon lecture from Dublin as well.

In May I had a small operation on my face so was heavily bandaged and not about to appear. I had been asked to write a summary of the Chelsea Flower Show by Russian House & Garden. Since I couldn't go, they asked me to write it based on television coverage. You realise when trying to do this just how bad the coverage is, since you

can never fully explore a garden or see close-ups of materials. It's just flowers and personalities. Mind you, I think Carol Klein is really excellent value.

In early April I was in Poland, where I have been working on an estate for a number of years. It is near Torun. My client asked me to do a sketch for a shrine outside his village, which he would finalise. Which I did (more on this later).

At the end of April I should have guided a tour to Iran, where I once worked for a couple of years, but the flight was cancelled because of volcanic dust. It is on in 2011 however.

In June I went to a reception at Beth Chatto's – as I remember her nursery is 50 years old, and looking as good as ever.

In July I went to Japan, where it was 42°C in Tokyo and very humid. I went to celebrate twenty years of a garden I built in the mountains between Tokyo and Kyoto, above Nagoya. I did some lectures and tried to point out how my garden needed a good thinning out. Then on to Kyoto and up into the mountains to see the Miho museum by I M Pei. A truly wonderful building and amazing site planning.

Incidentally, with a bus-load of students from my Tateshina garden, we went out early one morning high up into the mountains, above the tree line to look at wild flowers, passing *Actinidia kolomikta*, clumps of *Macleaya*, *Miscanthus sinensis* and green hostas in the hedgerows. The stretches of highland had clumps of Azalea, with masses of hemerocallis and much else.

Back in Tokyo, I had dinner with the Japanese Society of Garden Designers executive.

In August a client flew down from Gloucestershire to nearby Goodwood, took me back to see a new property, walked around it, had lunch and was back home by 6pm. A rather weird experience!

In September I went to Chicago to celebrate 25 years of the making of the English Walled Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden, did a lecture, had a week's holiday with friends in Indiana, then to upstate NY to check on a garden near Albany and advice on more planting – they having now erected a 9ft-high deer fence round their property.

In October went to Hadlow School to lecture. And did another trip to Poland – where trouble was brewing over my shrine. The priest had hired an architect who provided a church building nothing like my sketch for the client. And the client was objecting. Sorted out – I hope!

In November to Buenos Aires where it is the end of term at Pampa Infinita and twenty papers to mark, being the end of the student year, prize giving and a party.

Then to Chile for a week's holiday with friends in the lakes area at Runco, their house looks across the water to volcanoes and the Andes.

From Chile to Uruguay for a day's symposium in Montevideo and home.

And those were the excitements of my year.'

Richard Bisgrove

'2010 was my first full year of retirement but not quite the seven-days-a-week gardening that I had anticipated. Continuing supervision of PhD students and other miscellaneous duties meant that I went into the University about once a week early on, less frequently in the latter part of the year.

In February my wife and I went to India to celebrate our 40th (Ruby) wedding anniversary by buying a ruby. I also added to my collection of paving and architectural details – out of habit I suppose, as I will probably never use them in lectures.

In March I gave a short course in Garden History to second-year Kew Diploma students, and enjoyed walking around the gardens during lunch and after morning lectures. Kew students always fill me with hope for the future of horticulture and this year was no exception.

In May I gave a lecture at the Indianapolis Museum of Art on Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson, hosted by the Indianapolis Hosta Society. The flight out was extended to miss the volcano, of which we had excellent views from the plane. My wife and I stayed with friends in Cincinnati. After a degree in Fine Art about twenty years ago, our Cincinnati host went on to become a very successful landscape contractor and is now developing water-absorbent synthetic turf with international contacts (there is a major problem with synthetic turf in the US, and presumably elsewhere, with heat build-up in their hot summers) so the breakfast conversations and the tour of his lab were fascinating.

In June I spent a week visiting English gardens with colleagues and students from the University of Turin, immediately followed by a week with our own (Reading) students on their East Anglian field course, followed by a quick dash to Alnwick to give a lecture to Oxford alumni in the north of England.

July was an international month with visits from a Japanese television crew filming for a programme on English gardens, a visit from a former Finnish student writing an article for her Finnish garden magazine and three weeks in Oxford lecturing to Americans on garden history for the Oxford/Berkeley Summer School.

Apart from occasional one-off lectures, the latter part of the year has been devoted mainly to family matters, including our youngest son's forthcoming marriage, but I was at Kew again in October, lecturing to the final-year students on Amenity Horticulture. As part of this course we recently went to the Olympic Park to hear about and to see the progress being made for 2012. I think we were all particularly impressed with the planning for beyond the Olympics when the Park will be open to the public as an extension of the Lee Valley Regional Park. The sophistication of the planting will undoubtedly require managers of Kew Diploma standard to ensure its continuing success.

On the day before the Olympic Park visit I attended the Landscape Institute's Award Ceremony and, much to my surprise and delight, received the Peter Youngman Award 'for outstanding contribution to landscape'. I therefore end 2010 with a Veitch Memorial Medal from the RHS, Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild and the Peter Youngman Award from the Landscape Institute – what strange but increasingly appropriate bedfellows!

The Guild offers its very hearty congratulations to Richard on his hat trick of very well deserved awards.

THE YEAR AT KEW 2010

by Miranda Kimberley
Photos © RBG Kew

As anticipated it was a hard year at Kew – coping with the DEFRA review, a senior staff restructure, as well as a pay and recruitment freeze – but staff managed to rally morale and produce beautiful displays such as the Orchid Festival, make further incredible scientific discoveries, win awards and continue all the excellent work carried out at the botanic garden.

Garden displays and developments



Tunnels dripping with orchids during the Tropical Extravaganza

Kicking off the year with a bang was another formidably put together Tropical Extravaganza, featuring mass plantings of orchids, bromeliads and anthuriums. The island in the Princess of Wales' Conservatory's central pond showcased the diverse colours and shapes of orchids and other tropical plants, and included spiky Miltassias, spiralling Dendrobiums and cockleshell orchids (*Prosthechea cochleata*) with their octopus shaped flowers.

A new play area opened in April outside Climbers and Creepers, called Treehouse Towers. It features a 20m long zip wire, two giant swings, scramble nets, slides and a mountaineering ramp, and is all made from FSC-certified wood. Kids also had a new zone to explore in the Conservation Area in May, which encourages children to learn about the parts of a plant, by taking them on a journey tunnelling through roots, clambering over stems, into a leafy maze, before reaching the flower head.

The caterers Peyton & Byrne took over Kew's catering contract in May. Great plans are afoot to revamp all the eateries, funded by the caterers themselves. Peyton & Byrne are responsible for the catering at the National Gallery, Wellcome Collection, British Library and the Wallace Collection, and as a big fan of the National Café, which has fantastic food, décor and service, I'm expecting great things! Chairman Oliver Peyton is one of the judges on The Great British Menu, and his company is producing everything fresh on site, including breads, cakes and a new range called 'Food from Kew' including chocolate, teas and coffees.

Work began in November to convert the Orangery into an elegant restaurant with waitress service. Visitors will be able to take afternoon tea as well as book a table for an evening meal. Victoria Plaza will be developed in January 2011 and White Peaks in January and February, with a new catering spot at the Treetop Walkway in March.



In the summer Butterflies, Bugs and Beasts took over the POW to show the link between plants and their pollinators. Three zones were full of fluttering butterflies and moths and there were also live bug displays. Later in the summer a 15-year-old *Agave abrupta* plant broke through the ceiling in the cactii section of the glasshouse. A pane of glass was removed to allow the 6-metre stalk to escape (left).

At the end of the year the Marianne North Gallery had been fully restored, after a two-year project which involved painstakingly restoring all 833 oil paintings, and installing state-of-the-art lighting, heating and air-conditioning in the exhibition space.

International Year of Biodiversity

2010 was the International Year of Biodiversity which Kew celebrated in many ways. Collaborating with the British Museum for the third time, a team from Kew built a South African landscape highlighting the diversity of the region's flora on the Museum's west lawn. Particular habitats were represented including the Western Cape's fynbos, succulent Karoo vegetation and the coastal flora of the Eastern Cape. The plants featured *Agapanthus*, cape heather, daisies including bright blue *Felicia* and *Osteospermum*, *Pelargonium*, the Lesotho red hot poker (*Kniphofia caulescens*) and shocking pink *Carpobrotus*. The landscape had a desert feel, being made up of tumbled rocks, scree and sand, interspersed with strangely shaped quiver trees (*Aloe dichotoma*).



The South African landscape outside the British Museum

Propagator extraordinaire Carlos Magdalena, a graduate of Kew Diploma Course 41 who works in the Tropical Nursery, made a breakthrough with the technique needed to germinate a rare waterlily from Rwanda. The waterlily, believed to be the smallest waterlily in the world, is named *Nymphaea thermarum* because it grows in freshwater hot springs.

It was only discovered in 1985 by German botanist Professor Eberhard Fischer. Endemic to just one location in the south-

west of the country, it disappeared about two years ago due to over-exploitation of the hot spring that fed its fragile habitat. Fortunately Fischer collected specimens and gave them to Bonn Botanic Gardens where they were grown for over a decade.

However, the species proved very difficult to propagate. As a result of a conservation plant exchange between Bonn and Kew, a handful of seeds and pre-germinated seedlings reached Kew in July 2009. At both botanic gardens the seedlings were barely clinging on to life and did not develop to adult stages.

Carlos took on the challenge of learning the secrets of successful propagation over many months. He finally realised the seeds and seedlings needed to be closer to the surface than other waterlilies, which germinate when submerged. This mimicked where the tiny waterlilies germinate in their natural habitat, in the mud on the edge of the spring where the water is cooler. He now has 30 plants growing and being displayed in the Waterlily House at Kew. There are great hopes if enough plants are produced they will be able to be repatriated to Rwanda, where it is said the natural habitat could be restored to its former condition with just a small amount of investment.



Carlos Magdalena with *Nymphaea thermarum*

In October the Conference on the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD) was held in Nagoya, Japan. Afterwards Professor Stephen Hopper told staff that what had been agreed was positive. He said: ‘Kew strongly supports the agreement reached in Nagoya for protecting the natural environment. This positive outcome shows international

consensus for the urgent need to increase our efforts in conserving biodiversity worldwide and to share the benefits of this natural heritage equitably’.

The 10th Conference of the Parties to the CBD covered the three main components of the convention, which are conservation, sustainable use, and access and benefit sharing.

The outcome of the Conference was that the parties agreed to create a new strategic plan with targets for 2020, a protocol on sharing the benefits of biodiversity and a finance plan to provide resources.

As the International Year of Biodiversity came to a close the Plant List was completed. This working list of all land plant species, including 1.25 million scientific plant names, was the result of a tremendous collaboration between the

Missouri Botanical Garden and Kew to merge many different sources of data on plant species. It means Target 1 of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) has been achieved – it called for a widely accessible, working list of known plant species as a step towards a complete world flora.

“The on-time completion of The Plant List is a significant accomplishment for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the Missouri Botanical Garden, and our partners worldwide,” said Kew Director, Professor Stephen Hopper. “This is crucial to planning, implementing and monitoring plant conservation programmes around the world.”

The Plant List can be accessed by visiting www.theplantlist.org.

Staff news

Aroid expert Simon Mayo retired in December 2009 and many of his colleagues and friends came together at the Herbarium to celebrate the many things Simon achieved in his highly productive career. Students from USA, Asia and Brazil sent video messages and he was presented with a ‘this is your life’ scrapbook containing heartfelt messages.

Stewart Henchie retired after 40 years at Kew. Stewart has been the Head of Hardy Display for many years, and a stalwart of the Kew Guild. His party was something to be remembered, as he was given a great send off at the Botanist on the Green, surrounded by good friends and colleagues (see photo below).

Stewart’s wife Pat said: ‘He returned home as a retired and very merry man at 12.20 am, who said that he was so proud, privileged and humbled at the warmth he was ‘wrapped up in’.’ His deputy Annette Dalton also moved on in July, to become Garden Manager at RHS Wisley. Kath Smith, formerly the manager of the Tropical Nursery, became the new Head of Hardy Display at the end of the year.



Plant Taxonomist Sue Smartzy was honoured with the William Aiton medal (formerly the Kew Medal) for ‘her exceptional service’, managing the field stores and the Overseas Fieldwork Committee’s (OFC) database in the Herbarium. The 2009 recipients of the Medal – Stewart Henchie, Nick Passingham and Mary Gregory – were presented with their awards alongside Sue, during the School of Horticulture’s Prize giving Day in September (photo above).



Monica Roberts in the Finance department retired after 35 years, making her one of Kew’s longest-serving members of staff. She experienced the reign of six Directors and remembers when students used to be paid in cash at the end of each week. She is looking forward to being able to spend more time in her garden and being a lady of leisure.



Kew staff and students managed to keep the social life at Kew as enjoyable as ever, despite the financial situation meaning the Kew summer party could not be held. As ever the Halloween party in the cricket pavilion on the Green was one of the highlights of the year, with Ashley Hughes doing incredible things with hair and make up for all and sundry. His own Mad Hatter costume was one of the best yet (see photo, left), complete with bizarre contact lenses, but the best costume prize went to the very original ‘girl in shower curtain’ recalling the film Psycho.

Two volunteers were singled out at the Volunteers in Museums Awards 2010 in June. Ian O’Reilly, who has volunteered in the Arboretum for six years, won the category entitled ‘Developing in a Role’. Marion Michell, a Schools and Families Volunteer, was a runner up in the category ‘Going the Extra Mile’.

I personally worked with Ian during my placement at the Arboretum Nursery – he is a lovely man and it is well deserved. Sectional Horticultural Volunteer Coordinator, Ray Townsend, said of Ian that his ‘diligence and commitment to the organisation have been exemplary. Come rain, shine, snow and any type of inclement weather or

adverse conditions, Ian is always willing to get stuck into his volunteering role in the Arboretum.’

‘This is all the more noteworthy set against a backdrop of considerable hardship. In 1999 Ian suffered a brain haemorrhage and as a result of this had to consider a change of career/focus. The resultant effects on his memory have impacted on his everyday life and he has had to attend Neuro-Rehabilitation and employ memory coping strategies each day. In fact he notes that one of his biggest achievements is that he can now find his way around Kew’s 330 acres!’

The Kew Plant Glossary written by Henk Beentje and illustrated by Juliet Williamson won the Reference Book of the Year prize at the prestigious Garden Media Guild Awards in December. The judges said: ‘We were unanimous in voting this the winner, a reference book that provides clear definitions, excellent line drawings and would fit into a large pocket for on-the-spot use. The cover is alluring and exciting and the contents exemplary in accuracy... Impeccable and a great investment.’

Other achievements

A project to build a web resource about Monocot plants was awarded a grant in June of £1.96m. A collaborative team involving staff from Kew, the Natural History Museum and Oxford University will now build the eMonocot website which will cover around 70,000 species including numerous groups of the highest conservation, ecological and economic importance, such as, orchids, palms and grasses. The aim is to provide information useful for biodiversity and environmental scientists, but it will also be available to volunteer biologists, the general public and schools.

In July Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman visited Kew Gardens and asked both the public and professionals to contribute to a discussion on environment policy, to help shape the government’s Natural Environment White Paper.

Spelman said: ‘It’s an important contribution that the new government is going to make to the debate about biodiversity. Many people are very concerned about the loss of species that they read about in their newspapers, but the whole subject of biodiversity goes much wider. It’s about the degradation and loss of environments in which so many species flourish.’

She continued: ‘Our white paper will address what we can do to arrest the decline of biodiversity. [We’re] asking all organisations and individuals that care about our natural environment to make a contribution, with their ideas on how we can enhance biodiversity and protect our natural environment.’

The consultation closed on 30th October 2010 and Defra received almost 15,000 responses from individuals, NGOs and businesses. The Natural Environment White Paper is due to be published in spring 2011. For further info go to: <http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

In September the new wing of the Herbarium was officially opened. It extends the Herbarium’s capacity by 5,000m sq, allowing for 40 more years’ worth of plant specimens, and ‘state-of-the-art’ space for the Library, Art and Archives Collection. The original building has now been extended six times, starting in 1877.

In October it was announced that scientists at Kew’s Jodrell Laboratory had

discovered that *Paris japonica* had the largest genome yet known in the world – bigger than the human genome and even larger than the previous record holder, the marbled lungfish. Research Scientist Ilia Leitch said: ‘Some people may wonder what the consequences are of such a large genome and whether it really matters if one organism has more DNA than another. The answer to this is a resounding ‘yes, it does’.

‘In plants, research has demonstrated that those with large genomes are at greater risk of extinction, are less adapted to living in polluted soils and are less able to tolerate extreme environmental conditions – all highly relevant in today’s changing world.’ The results were published in the *Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society*.

The Future

It was a year of uncertainty, as the impact of the global recession continued to bite and the new government began to make cuts. As the year drew to a close, the job evaluation scheme (known as JEGS) was due to be implemented from January 2011. Director Steve Hopper and Chairman of the Board of Trustees Marcus Agius were due to receive further detail on the outcome of the Defra’s Comprehensive Spending Review and what it meant for Kew in December. We can only hope, with such a variety of achievements made during the International Year of Biodiversity, that our favourite botanic garden will continue to be supported for many years to come.

Thanks to Bronwen Davies, the editor of Kew’s staff newsletter Vista, for permission to include news items considered to be of historical interest to Guild members, and to the Kew Press and Media team.

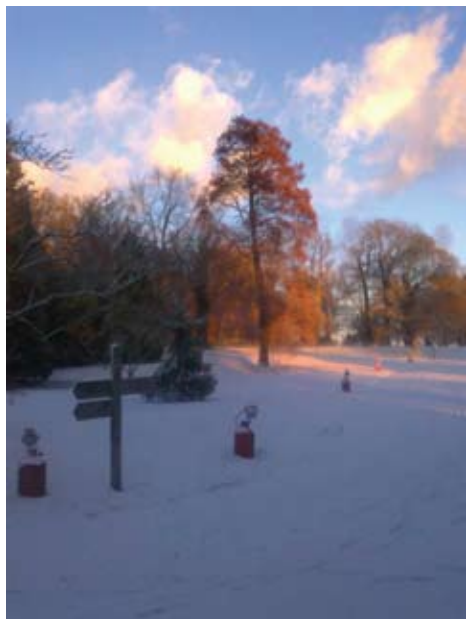
SNOW TIME TO STOP: THE YEAR AT WAKEHURST

by David Hardman

2010 ended as it had started with the gardens encountering snow and ice. This posed difficulties for staff trying to get into Wakehurst as the surrounding roads became almost impassable. The weather statistics (Appendix 1) show how many days we encountered with air temperatures below freezing. Initially, in January the garden was closed for six days. However, the difference this December was that we were prepared, having taken delivery of a snowplough just two days before the first snows arrived. This did not help staff getting to Wakehurst on the local roads however, but once these roads became clearer it did mean anybody able to get here could enjoy relatively snow free paths from the car park to the Mansion and other buildings. In fact we received congratulatory messages from garden visitors for the phenomenal effort the Horticultural team had made to clear snow at Wakehurst.

The annual Carol Concert had to be postponed in 2009 due to deep snow and ice but this year we were determined that the show would go on. All was in place by lunchtime, but then a snowstorm early in the afternoon deposited several inches of snow across Sussex. Undeterred, the team rallied forth again, jumping into action to make sure it would happen. Sadly for all that effort we did have a somewhat reduced attendance on the night due to almost impassable roads from Turners Hill and Lindfield.

The tree damage we encountered following the December 2009 and January snowfalls was much greater than we had originally envisaged, with over 200 trees having branches smashed. This kept the arborists very busy as they worked their way



Heavy snow just before the Carol Concert

round the garden to clear up the damage. The gardens team was also forced to undertake unplanned pruning work on the numerous shrubs also broken due to the weight of snow.

Despite the distraction of snow, 2010 proved to be a very exciting year with a range of horticultural highlights including a rare Chinese tree, *Emmenopterys henryi*, flowering in September for the first time in 23 years. This was believed to have been initiated by the unusual weather conditions. By July, new accessions of New Zealand plants had been completed in four beds: Paddock; Tennis Court; Yew Tree and one New Zealand bed.

New Plantings

The continuing improvements to the Kangaroo Pen beds witnessed over 1,000 *Cyclamen hederifolium* planted amongst the *Skimmia* collection that has thrived there since being moved to

this location over the last couple of years. By the Visitor Centre another 6,000 *Cyclamen coum* were added to the mass plantings of snowdrops and *Cyclamen hederifolium* which have become a seasonal attraction for visitors entering the garden.

The garden is now meeting different aspects of the Environmental Stewardship grant scheme which was obtained early in the year. This affects maintenance regimes across several locations enabling a standardized approach to managing woodlands, sward and the SSSI for appearance and grant purposes. We are still settling in to what it means in some areas but a noticeable impact is a switch to mowing regimes and timings, to ensure habitats are protected for wildlife without causing a loss to the horticultural appearance.

Planning

Kew already has a Landscape Master plan in place so throughout this year a Project team has met at Wakehurst on numerous occasions, to consider the historic developments that have made the garden we see today and to consider how to take the garden forward for the future. Other planning processes in train include the Conservation management plan, which is looking at the historic parkland and its relationship with the Mansion. This is also being assessed to evaluate what else the Mansion might be used for and included a public consultation process to gather a wide range of opinions. The final recommendations will be produced for discussion in 2011.



Left: Archaeological dig exposes original Mansion walls. Above: Mansion archaeology – exposing the south front wall and brick hearth from an earlier building.

Archaeology at Wakehurst

During the year, two pieces of archaeological research have been undertaken on site. In front of the Mansion, turf from the western panel lawn was removed and based on geo-physics soundings investigation trenches were excavated to enable Wessex Archaeology to undertake the dig to establish whether foundations of the west wing and south front could be found. The findings were very exciting and created great interest as we were able to locate the walls and foundations of the original footprint for the mansion built in 1590. We were very excited when by chance we also unearthed an unknown brick hearth and foundation walls which may be remnants of the previous house; glazed tiles unearthed suggested that the age would fit a building of the correct era.

Several other trenches were opened up on the croquet lawn and lawns in front of Mansion with mixed results. Hopefully more work can be undertaken in 2011. From a horticultural perspective the plan to renovate both lawns was not possible due to the successful dig that needed more time to complete than allowed in the timeframe due to events in the Mansion. The eastern panel lawn renovation had to be postponed and hopefully will be completed in 2011. With our new knowledge it is expected that we will possibly find the eastern wing and south front foundations.

The second piece of archaeological research is more recent in historical time and was brought about when a hole appeared in the Pinetum. We knew this was the site of the secret underground radio station from the Second World War. Minor excavations located the structure and the problem of a collapse on the main shaft wall. Engineers are now establishing how best to deal with this to make it safe.

Throughout the year Wakehurst dealt with many challenges – we await the next stage following the Defra review that referred to the lease with the National Trust

and most recently the major funding limitations that the whole of the public sector is encountering following the crash of 2009 which is of great concern to all at Kew and Wakehurst.

Restoration and conservation

Work restoring habitats has increased this year with meadow plantings in Bloomers Valley and the continued support to Ashdown Forest bracken removal to enable restoration of heathland. The Nursery team has supported the propagation of Black poplars now for over 15 years and another project to produce plants of *Carex depauperata*, a plant threatened with extinction, has resulted in reintroduction into the wild.

A display of rare and endangered plants brought back from the brink of extinction was shown in the Millennium Seed Bank to mark the International Year of Biodiversity. Conservation work was also highlighted at special open weekends in October to mark the 30th anniversary of the Loder Valley nature reserve, a wildlife haven which forms part of the Wakehurst estate.

Playtime

A new willow sculpture play feature called Tunnels and Tents opened and has proved a big success. Scents of Direction is a containerised maze in the Carriage Ring based around the site where previously the sundial and box hedges were located. The sundial has been removed and is being re-positioned in the Pleasance on the site where the pool and boy sculpture were previously located.

More natural play features are planned for next year and include a labyrinth, with a cast bronze disc of a seed at the centre, carved wooden ‘talking totems’ with associated stories and activities inspired by the wood they are carved from, and a ‘sherpa trek’ through the Himalayan Glade. All the play features will be designed to blend into the natural surroundings, and encourage children to have fun while learning about their surroundings and the vital work of Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank, as we strive towards our goal of securing 25% of the world’s flora conserved by 2020.

Summer sounds and events

Thousands of people enjoyed a series of summer concerts at the first Wakehurst Music Festival held over three nights in June and included appearances from Katherine Jenkins and the Bootleg Beatles. As a first it proved to be reasonably successful and each evening provided different challenges weather-wise. It is pleasing to record that no damage to the collections was encountered and the impact on garden visitors was minimal.

Now in its third year at Wakehurst, the International Garden and Plant Photographer of the Year exhibition display from October to January moved from its site above the Slips to the Chapel Lawn. Close to the Mansion it has been well received by garden visitors who enjoyed spectacular pictures near our large illuminated Christmas tree which is the focal point of the Carol Concert and the well attended ‘Light switch-on’ event.

More than 400,000 people visited the gardens with over 9,000 pupils and students taking part in school visits, learning through a range of educational projects, from meeting scientists carrying out vital work in Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank, to nature trails and workshops in the plant nursery.

The expansion of the events programme included seventeen wedding ceremonies in the historic surroundings of the Mansion. On one occasion that meant pulling out all the stops to ensure the wedding could go ahead when the surrounding area was brought to a standstill by heavy snow – Wakehurst staff used a 4x4 vehicle to bring in the Registrar from Haywards Heath to conduct the ceremony, used snow ploughs to clear the drive into the estate, and organised a coach to bus guests to the venue. The Mansion has also been used for a range of other special events.

Support to the Foundation Coffee mornings with walks in the garden have continued throughout the year and are greatly appreciated by Friends of Wakehurst.

The team of loyal volunteers play an important role, carrying out a range of different tasks around the estate, from leading guided tours to helping in the Seed Bank. The Horticultural volunteers' contribution is very much appreciated and their appearance during the week adds different skills to the teams.

As the year started in snow so finally it went out with cold conditions but the interesting point was seen in the weather statistics showing rainfall lower than the previous four years, with 136 rainless days and 95 nights with air temperatures below freezing. We wait in anticipation to see whether this cold period will bring forth flowerings of unusual collections next year.

Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2010

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals Cal. year
Month's total rainfall (mm)	83.1	119.8	85.5	18.6	26.7	58.2	14.3	120.7	58.4	117.5	85.0	67.0	854.8
Comp 2009	123.0	70.5	47.7	43.0	65.1	21.1	81.6	40.2	27.1	74.5	230.1	136.3	960.2
2008	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
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	35.9	83.0	22.5	123.9	120.1	14.9	47.5	38.6	137.3	288.7	222.0	202.5	1336.9
1999	120.8	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)	16 th	21 st	29 th	3 rd	1 st	5 th	14 th	25 th	29 th	1 st	8 th	1 st	
	16.1	21.4	18.5	6.9	8.7	26.4	6.6	36.5	15.8	28.8	18.3	16.3	
Rainless days	2	2	14	20	18	19	20	8	11	7	6	9	136
Highest Max Temp	8.3°C	10.1°C	15.7°C	22.6°C	29.8°C	30.2°C	29.9°C	24.3°C	23.2°C	24.0°C	14.7°C	8.3°C	
	17 th	17 th	18 th	24 th	23 rd	27 th	9 th	8 th	3 rd	8 th	3 rd	29 th	
Lowest Max Temp:	-1.8°C	0.0°C	3.7°C	8.1°C	7.2°C	14.9°C	18.1°C	15.9°C	10.7°C	8.2°C	-0.5°C	-3.2°C	
	7 th	8 th	11 th	1 st	2 nd	1 st	16 th	27 th	26 th	20 th	30 th	1 st	
Highest Min Temp:	4.4°C	4.7°C	8.6°C	7.7°C	11.6°C	14.6°C	14.7°C	16.2°C	13.8°C	12.6°C	12.2°C	4.7°C	
	23 rd	25 th	25 th	25 th	21 st	30 th	26 th	21 st &22 nd	11 th	9 th	4 th	30 th	
Lowest Min Temp	-8.1°C	-4.8°C	-6.6°C	-0.8°C	-0.7°C	6.2°C	8.5°C	6.3°C	2.7°C	-2.4°C	-5.8°C	-10.0°C	
	17 th	20 th	5 th	1 st	13 th	3 rd	30 th	31 st	25 th	21 st	28 th	4 th	
Nights - air temp below freezing	23	16	12	4	2	0	0	0	0	3	9	26	95
Windiest day	10 th	27 th	31 st	13 th	4 th	1 th NNE	15 th &16 th	23 rd	25 th	12 th	12 th	24 th	
	ENE	SW	W	NE	NE	19 th NNW	WSW	WNW	NE	ENE	W	SW	
	1.9mph	2.1mph	2.5mph	20mph	22mph	19mph	2.1mph	1.9mph	17mph	19mph	25mph	18mph	

LIFE MEMBERS' RECOLLECTIONS

The Editor wrote a personal note to all 12 Life members during 2010, inviting them to submit their memories and experiences at Kew, together with their other news; for posterity.

A Student Gardener and Foreman in the 1950s

by Eric Curtis

These notes follow on from last year's essay on being a 'Garden Boy'. I managed to raise the required £3.3.0d for Life Membership on 17th September 1951 so I must recognise that this was money well spent!

To become a Student Gardener in the 1950s you had to have four years' previous experience, be unmarried – and male! The two-year course led to the Kew Certificate. When I returned to Kew in 1950, after service in the RAF and having taken the Scottish Diploma in Horticulture, I was still six months short; I had had a year as a garden boy and later six months as an Improver in the Arboretum Nursery under the inimitable Charlie Coats. I therefore became an Improver again for six months before becoming a student.

The lectures were given by the specialists of the Royal Horticultural Society on Entomology and Mycology; Mr Campbell, the Curator, on Landscape Design, and Drs Turrill, Melville and Metcalfe on Ecology, Taxonomy and General Botany. Dr Metcalf, who was in charge of the Jodrell Laboratory, was a special friend to the students and he and his wife invited us to their home each week during the winter to a 'music circle'.

On Monday evenings we went to the Mutual Improvement Society in the old 'Iron Room', chaired by an assistant curator. Each student was expected to give a lecture. Discussion followed, often opened by a friend 'feeding' a pre-arranged question – but the 'seconder' was meant to be more critical!

During the summer of 1951 I joined a students' British Botany Club, where we learnt about the British flora and made a herbarium collection of 125 plants. Excursions were led by Herbarium botanists, for example for Box Hill with its chalk habitat and Sittingbourne for the orchids. An annual evening excursion was to the Queen's Cottage grounds where Mr Hubbard, the well-known specialist, introduced us to the identification of grasses. One memorable visit was to Cambridge Botanic Gardens from where we were taken by Max Walters to Wicken Fen. Having seen our vasculums he steered clear of the rarities! At the end of the season my collection was awarded the Dümmer Memorial Prize, and following custom I became secretary of the Club, with the job of arranging the excursions the following season.

I was also involved with the Students' Association after I had criticised the students' fortnightly publication 'Kew Notes'. The secretary, George Mellors, sought me out and I became secretary, with him as chairman. The main work at that time was arranging of the twenty demonstrations meant to be given by the assistant curators each year, but which happened only after much urging! I was also able to write in the Kew Guild Journal about the course from the students' point of view. My report noted three rises in the 'subsistence allowance' so giving us 110/- (£5.50) a week!

My first six months 'charge' was No 1, the Aroid House, which came under the Ferneries. I later had six months there and I enjoyed being with Bert Bruty – a real expert. He has been a prisoner-of-war, building the Burma railway – a grim introduction to tropical plants! I also had six months in the Temperate House Pits. My final charge as a student was in the 'T-range', since replaced by the Princess of Wales Conservatory.

One morning Mr Stenning, Assistant Curator, asked if I would help out by taking cuttings from the plants in No 15. The foreman of the Tropical Pits was ill and I soon found that I was also meant to stand in for him. Later, after my time as a student had come to an end, I had a Civil Service interview and was officially promoted to 'foreman' grade. When the previous foreman, Harry Collins, returned he became responsible for the Quarantine House where, among other things, a large number of a new strain of Cocoa plants were being prepared for introduction to Ghana. The important quarantine work then being carried out at Kew is detailed in the *Kew Guild Journal* (1995, p. 221).

My main objective in going to Kew had been to train for work in the colonies, until then a common move for students, but family circumstances then made it necessary to remain near home, so staying on at Kew was ideal. However, on the suggestion of Mr Campbell, a civil servant from Jamaica interviewed me about a vacancy at the Hope Botanic Garden. Under other circumstances I would have jumped at the chance. However by a twist of fate the Governor, Sir Hugh Foot, decided that, as part of the policy of preparing Jamaica for independence, a local man should be sent to Kew for training. So I became partly responsible for helping Vernon James train for the job!

I found it very rewarding working with students from abroad. Those from the then colonies were sent over for a year before taking on jobs, which in the past would have been done by former Kew students. They all had to do some practical work in the Tropical Pits. They included two from Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Thomas Ekanayaka, who later took charge of the famous gardens at Peradeniya, and 'Pat' Dahampath, who became Director of Parks in Colombo. Two came from Malaya. George Alphonso – who later became curator of Singapore Botanic Gardens where he bred orchids now famous in the cut flower trade – and Noël Lange, with whom I first visited Glasgow Botanic Gardens while on a Youth Hostel holiday in Scotland. My closest friend from among these students was Godwin Amoah from Ghana. He later came to visit me in Glasgow before returning to take charge of the government-owned parks and gardens throughout the country.

Receiving students for the Kew Certificate from the old 'Dominions' was long established. Ian Galloway, who became Director of Parks in Wellington, and George Fuller, a fine photographer and orchid specialist, were contemporaries and Des Riach, who remains a good friend, came a little later.

In 1953 I met Herman Spooner, then President of the Guild, who suggested that I should help Ernest Nelmes in editing the *Journal*. Mr Nelmes, the sedge botanist in the Herbarium, was delighted – he had been appointed without his agreement! The *Journal* had fallen behind in publication and the Guild was in financial difficulties. I arranged for Rowling's, a less expensive printer, to do the work, which they continued for nearly 50 years. To reduce costs further we included plenty of advertisements. Mr Campbell gave me the memoirs of William Dallimore to edit and

these formed a substantial part of our next volume as well as the one published in 1956, which I edited on my own.

In April 1956 an advertisement in the 'Gardeners Chronicle' announced a vacancy for the Curator of Glasgow Botanic Gardens. If it had to be in Britain, this was the sort of post that appealed to me. I was interviewed and offered the job, which was to last through the rest of my working life.

Memories

by Esmé McCulloch (née Thompson)

Since I was a tiny child more than ninety years ago, one of my greatest joys has been to see a tree burst into bloom. In those days, we were surrounded by gardens and green fields. When I left high school and became a civil servant with the Ministry of Agriculture, the 'Redemption of Tithe Rentcharge' and the issuing of Bull Licences seemed pretty uninspiring. Then I discovered that Kew Gardens was under the auspices of the Ministry and I was delighted to obtain a transfer.

Then began one of the happiest times of my life. I was Secretary to dear Dr John Hutchinson, the Keeper of the Museums. He was so kind and such a very interesting and enthusiastic personality. I had an office to myself in Cambridge Cottage, with a window overlooking Kew Green. We shared the first floor with Dr F N Howes, and upstairs was Dr Ronald Melville who studies all manner of plants, and little Mrs Collins was busy mounting Herbarium specimens with meticulous care.

I got to work for most of the senior staff, including the Curator, Mr Coutts, his Treasurer, Mr Dunk, and Mr C Metcalfe in the tiny Jodrell Laboratory. At times I stood in as relief in the Director's office for Sir Arthur Hill, whose tragic death while horse riding in Richmond Park shocked us all. Occasionally I went to Mr Cotton in the Herbarium where I met my future life-long friend, sweet Mollie Kierans. I also became friendly with Betty Shepherd who married a student Gardener, Johannes Cramer, and they went to Denver, Colorado. Mr Coutts' Secretary Gwen Rockell also married a student Gardener, W G Sheat, and after having twin girls they moved to Natal, South Africa.

I was happy to do a variety of jobs, ranging from making enquiries at the Natural History Museum, to typing contributions to the Genera Plantarum. I spent a lot of time on Dr Hutchinson's 'Flora of Southern Africa', of which I still have an autographed copy.

Then came the War and all things changed. I was transferred back to Whitehall, where we spent the Blitz sleeping in the basement of the Ministry, and the roof of my home was blown off. Soon Dr Hutchinson requested that I return to Kew, where all was concentrated on the War effort. The hedgerows were raided by Boy Scouts (Dr Melville's idea) to collect rose hips to make Vitamin C jam. Dr Metcalfe was busy collecting microscope slides from the roof to obtain pollen samples and identify them. Incidentally this led to the capture of a criminal due to identifying pollen found in his trouser turn-ups.

Mollie Kierans and I did 'firewatch' in the Museums to the sounds of approaching V1 bombs and the crash of V2s. Then I married my Gerald, a young mining engineer, who opened up the world to me. We went to South Africa where I saw

living specimens of the dried flowers seen at Kew. Gerald managed diamond mines and we had four sons and three daughters.

After 14 years we realised that the political situation in South Africa held no future for our children, so we went to India where Gerald advised the Indian Government on diamond mining. I revelled in seven servants, which was just what we needed with seven lively children. Later, having to send our two elder boys back to England to school, we decided it would be better to move to Australia to be together. A move we have never regretted.

Our family has flourished and now extends over many professions, including the Church, Law, Medicine, Biology, Teaching, Oil search and IT to name a few.

As I look out of the window to see our lovely garden, the sunlight sparkles on the swimming pool, the fountain at the end and the Italianate cherub in the corner nearby. I am content.

Happy Kew Times Sixty Years Ago by Frank Senogles

Never a day passes without thoughts of Kew passing through my mind – the happiest times of my working life – and it gives me great pleasure to put some into print.

I was fortunate enough to live two miles from the famous topiary gardens of Levens Hall in Cumbria and I was offered a post there after leaving school. After three years I moved to the propagating department at Blackpool Parks for another three years. The Parks Superintendent, Mr Arthur Blackburn, an ex-Kewite, encouraged ‘us lads’ to apply to Kew and he would support us.

I went to see the Curator, ‘Big Bill’ Campbell, as he was affectionately called, and he took me onto the staff with the offer of a two-year studentship in a year’s time. I was thrilled to be given this opportunity and duly reported to Mr Stenning, Assistant Curator in the Tropical Department, and Mr Stan Rawlings, the foreman, who was later promoted to Assistant Curator in the Decorative Department. I spent some time in the T range, ending up looking after the two orchid houses.

Each day Mr Stenning would tour round his department and I am sure he could detect a dry plant when he entered with the remark ‘why didn’t that one get a drink?!’. A much respected gentleman.

One amusing incident occurred when moving plants and equipment to another part of the Gardens on a small motorized truck with another student and Stan. I was driving, took a corner too fast and deposited our foreman on the pathway. A little cursing but no damage to humans or plants! I got on well with Stan who was meticulous with the cleanliness and presentation of his department.

One evening when ‘botanising’ with two or three other students when passing Mr Raffill’s house (Assistant Curator in the Temperate House), he spotted us and invited us into his garden where his special collection of Bearded Irises were in full bloom, and gave us an insight into the history of each variety. Charlie Raffill was a very knowledgeable horticulturist and told us where we could find interesting trees and shrubs – some of the flowers appearing in the plant identification test the next morning!

In my final year, the Horticultural Education Association (HEA) held their summer conference at Kew and I was lucky enough to be one of four students allotted to take a small group of their members to each department where they were given ‘mini-demonstrations’ by a senior member of staff – I learnt quite a lot myself!

I finally ended up in the Duke’s Garden where each day Mr Campbell would pass through just before 9am between his house and office. One day he told me to have a look on the library notice board, where a job was going at Bristol University which I might be interested in. I duly applied and was invited for an interview where much to my surprise, one of the panel was an HEA member of my group some weeks previously.

I was offered the post (Horticultural Instructor) so to Bristol I went. I was very sorry to leave Kew where I had got on very well with the staff and made many friends with other students – I am still in contact with a few.

From Bristol I moved into teaching Rural Studies/Horticulture for 32 years and in my time in West Sussex I met up with more ex-Kewites. Taking many evening classes and talks to Gardening Societies was most enjoyable and I was able to organise a few Kew trips for them.

On one visit I was greeted by the Gate Constable, ‘weren’t you a student a few years ago?’!

YOUR KEW GUILD WEBSITE UPDATE

www.kewguild.org.uk

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www.kewguild.org.uk

Dear Kewite,

I want to encourage you to use the Kew Guild website (www.kewguild.org.uk) following work that has been carried out over recent years.

The first phase was completed in 2009 and was to scan all the Journals to make them available for members and other people interested in the history of the Kew Guild.

You will find this located on the Homepage. It allows anyone the opportunity to scroll through our magnificent history captured there, recording our predecessors’ and current members’ activities. Some issues are currently being resolved and improved to make searches easier for everybody.

What next?

The next phase of the project will be to develop our website pages so that it will become a great source of information about the Guild, our events and members. You will be able to see what is going on and keep up to date about events and member activities.

To maximise the value to you we will develop the ‘Members Area’ during 2011 where you will have access to information available only to members, such as Guild business, links to members and profiles, plus interesting items prepared by members for members, but you will need to obtain a special username and password first to

access this.

How to do this?

Please register your interest by clicking on the ‘Register’ button in the top right of the website page, and a message will be sent to the Membership Secretary. For security reasons and to ensure that no ineligible person can gain access, you will not receive an instant response but as soon as your membership has been confirmed, you will receive an email with your personal access details. Once on the site you will be able to create your own personal profile so that other members are aware of your background, skills and other interesting details.

To keep the website fresh, your stories, information and news will be much appreciated since it is a website for all members to use and an opportunity to let everyone know what you are doing, perhaps ‘meet’ old acquaintances and renew friendships.

Without member involvement the website will fail, so please spend a little time looking at the site, get involved and contribute to it. Otherwise a great opportunity will be lost.

Thank you,

David Hardman
Website Manager

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BLUE PLAQUE

by Allan Hart

It was reported in the 2009 Journal that Sir William Hooker and Sir Joseph Hooker were being considered for commemoration by the installation of an English heritage Blue Plaque on the Director's house at 49 Kew Green.



Left – right: Dr Celina Fox from English Heritage, HRH Princess Alexandra, and Kew Director Professor Stephen Hopper

The application was dealt with very speedily and on Tuesday 27th July 2010, the plaque was officially unveiled by HRH Princess Alexandra, Patron of the Kew Guild.

In his introduction the Director, Stephen Hopper, paid tribute to the Guild for its initiative in the promotion of Sir William and Sir Joseph by discussions with English Heritage who have administered the Blue Plaque scheme since



1986. The Guild was represented by Allan Hart, Bob Ivison, Kenwyn Pearson and Mike Wilkinson, who were all able to meet our Patron and who were impressed by her knowledge and understanding of the aims of the Guild.

Allan was also able to conduct Elizabeth Banks, the new President of the Royal Horticultural Society on a mini tour of the Gardens, where she took particular interest, as a landscape architect, in the design and detail of the new students' vegetable plots.

The earlier report initiated correspondence with Eric Curtis, a past President of the Guild, and a former Editor of the Journal, who had been responsible for another commemoration of Sir William Hooker with a plaque, this time at 10 Woodside Crescent, Glasgow, his home from 1834–1841, when he was Director of the Glasgow Botanic Garden. Eric wrote that windows of this house had to be removed to enable Sir William's library and herbarium to be moved to his new home at 'West Hall', close to West Park Avenue in Kew. (This library formed the nucleus of the world famous Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Gardens). The plaque, featuring a portrait by John Sell Cotman, was unveiled by Professor Malcolm Wilkins, Regius Professor of Botany, Glasgow BG, and Arthur Bell, Director of RBG. Kew, on 8th May 1985, which highlighted the bicentenary of the births of both Sir William and Thomas Hopkirk, founder of the Glasgow Botanic Garden.

I am very grateful to Eric for providing details and the photograph of the ceremony at Glasgow. I am also very pleased to be able to thank Joan and Harold Lambert for allowing the Journal to publish their studiously detailed research into the original Kew home of Sir William Hooker, 'Hooker's Home – A Jigsaw: A Search by Joan and Harold Lambert'.

The portrait on the plaque is from an engraving by John Sell Cotman of Hooker as a young man. The two associated plants are:



Left – right: Malcolm Wilkins, Arthur Bell and Eric Curtis at the unveiling of the plaque on 8th May 1985

Zygopetalum mackaii – this orchid, grown at Glasgow Botanic Gardens, was delineated by him in the Botanical Magazine (tab. 2748) of 1827, this was the first of the volumes produced by him in his 37 years of editorship.

Maidenhair Fern, forming the gold embossed emblem on the covers of his five volume work, *Species Filicum*.



HOOKER'S HOME – A JIGSAW

A search by Joan and Harold Lambert

West Hall was a Manor from 1386. This manor was conveyed to John Juxon in 1619, who, in his will of 1626, said that he left to his younger son Thomas 'the Close where I lately built a brick house, and the orchard and yard adjoining the said brick house and a Close called Brick Close' (information from John Cloake). By a circuitous route the Manor eventually passed to the Taylor family, who shared the Lordship of the Manor and indeed held Manor Courts as late as 1808. The seventeenth century house called West Hall is still there but there is much confusion in the names of the other houses in the areas. Brickstable (one word) in the parish of Mortlake, referred to in 1825, appears to describe a hamlet or group of houses rather than one dwelling, but an indenture in 1826 includes, as one of its executors, Elizabeth Taylor of Brick Farm, Mortlake, spinster. (This is the house which later became West Park).

The will of Elizabeth Taylor in 1833 bequeathed separately to various legatees Brick Farm (her own house), Brick Stables, and West Hall. Frances Houlbrooke, nee Taylor, who was Elizabeth's sister, says in her will 'commonly called Brick Stable, Mortlake, but lately named by me West Lodge'. But 1838 documents about the Popham Family Estates in Mortlake include West Hall and Brickstables (one word) Farm, so perhaps Mrs Houlbrooke's direction for the change to West Lodge were not immediately followed.

William Hooker arrives at Kew from Glasgow in 1841. No house was immediately available so, with £200 a year from the Government, he rented a house nearby. On May 9, 1841 he wrote to Joseph, then on the Erebus 'Henceforth Kew is my residence and your residence: or rather a very pretty place within ten minutes walk of Kew called *Brick-Farm*. Do not be alarmed at the name:- it may lead you to suppose *Bricks* at some time have been made there, No such thing:- except the house is made of bricks and may possibly have been a farm. I know of nothing to justify the name...'. And elsewhere he writes of going home to Brick Farm (Blomfield, 1984).

Very soon, however, the house became known as West Park. Disappointingly, we have not so far found a reference to an actual formal or informal process by which the name was changed; it must have been very soon after the move because even by September 1841 Grandpa Hooker, then very infirm, joined them at West Park. It was here that Sir Williams's Herbarium was established and indeed, many of the specimens in the present Herbarium at Kew bear the stamp 'Herbarium Hookerianum'. After the Herbarium, and later the Hooker family, moved into Kew itself, we know that 'The Lease of Property known as 'West Park'' was announced for 2 June 1862 in a 21-year lease at £150 per annum, but we are uncertain whether this was the first leasing of the house to follow their departure.

To summarise the changes of name:

West Hall remains the same throughout and is still there (v.i.)

Brick Farm becomes West Park.

Brickstables may have earlier referred to the whole group of buildings, but later the buildings other than West Park (and somewhat separate from it, see maps) became known as Brick Farm or Brick Stables. Then Brick Stable was applied to one part of the farm complex, and this is the part which Frances Houlbrooke renames West Lodge, which the larger building remained as Brick Farm.

The present topography

Numbers below refer to the current 1:50000 map below.

Travelling southwards along the Mortlake Road from Kew, one passes a loop of road called West Park Avenue. A bit beyond the second turning to West Park Avenue there is a rather inconspicuous drive, number 159, which leads to the Headquarters of Jigsaw, the front component of which is the residual part of West Park (4). Behind this are the warehouses running back to the boundary of Kew retail park. From the retail park, most easily from the Marks and Spencer car park, one can easily see these warehouses and, at least in winter, the white building which is part of West Park, Hooker's home and the original home of the Kew Herbarium.

Back to Mortlake Road and slightly farther South, there is a terracotta nameplate with the name 'Brick Farm Stables' on a low wall adjacent to the prominent white wall directly abutting the pavement (1). Beyond this the next turning on the left is West Hall Road. Passing along this, one first passes two houses (2), semidetached and of different ages corresponding either to part or the whole of West Lodge on the map of 1865. The part of this with the bay window is now called West Lodge, while the other half is now called West Farm. Further down the road is the new cul-de-sac called Brick Farm Close, undoubtedly on the site of the large house labelled Brick Farm in the 1894-96 map and on maps as late as the 1930s. Beyond the entrance to Brick Farm Close is West Hall (3) and outlying buildings, unchanged from the old photographs and unmistakable.

Notes

Sources. Books, Proceeding of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society, maps and documents in The Richmond Local History collections, the Surrey History Centre, the RBG Kew, Herbarium Library and the National Archive (formerly the Public Records office) Kew. David Blomfield, *Kew Past*, 1984, Phillimore and Co. *Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew*, John Cloake, 1996, published by Phillimore and Co.



- ① Brick Farm Stables
179 Mortlake Road
- ② Two contiguous houses, see
older larger scale maps, the one
nearer the main road is West
Lodge the other is West Farm
- ③ West Hall
- ④ Remaining part of West Park,
now embedded in the HQ of Jigsaw,
159 Mortlake Road

PERENNIAL – A HELPING HAND FOR HORTICULTURISTS

by Sue Tasker, Dip. Hort. Kew, Perennial Trustee

I think it's safe to say that none of us went into Horticulture in order to make our fortunes; we work in the industry because we love working with plants and being close to nature, and that's something we can be proud of. But job satisfaction won't pay the bills and, in these difficult financial times, there may well be many among us who are struggling to make ends meet. When you get to the end of your own resources, it can be hard to know who to turn to, especially for gardeners who are, by nature, an independent bunch.

And what if you fall ill, can't work or have to give up your job – who will take care of your kids? How will you pay the mortgage if you are made redundant? Have you got a pension or savings? How will you cope when you retire – will you still be able to make ends meet?

That's where Perennial comes in, as the national charity for those who work or have worked in horticulture, together with their spouses or partners, when they face adversity or need. The charity can help with matters such as housing, welfare, employment or family difficulties and with specific debt advice.

Founded in the 19th century, and originally known as the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, Perennial helps by providing money and services, and by ensuring people get the help they need from government departments, public and private organisations that are there to assist. They employ highly skilled caseworkers who are accessible and available to all who work or have worked in horticulture.

Because people in trouble aren't usually reading adverts in the trade press or attending flower shows where they might see Perennial's stands, the charity relies on other gardeners and managers to be their eyes and ears. If you know of a fellow horticulturalist who might be in need of help, financial or otherwise, you can suggest they contact Perennial at the address below. Or, with their permission, you can contact Perennial yourself. A caseworker will then be in direct touch with them.

Please tell your friends, staff or work colleagues about Perennial so that we can all keep an eye out for each other...

Perennial, 115/117 Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 7SU
 Telephone: 0845 230 1839
 E-mail: info@perennial.org.uk
 Website: www.perennial.org.uk

WINSTON CHURCHILL MEMORIAL TRUST – TRAVEL FELLOWSHIPS

by Graham Burgess, Chairman for South

One of the key benefits of gaining a place at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew is that it raises one to a very special level.

I have a metaphor for life and it is that in a career one might have aspirations to rise and one is faced with a staircase.

A goodly number of well-designed steps will lead to the first landing. From this landing there may be more than one set of stairs moving upwards so there may be a choice.

I ascended to a certain point at Kew and whilst there won a Winston Churchill Fellowship. I had looked around me at Kew and decided that the only way one would be able to cover the costs of much of what was extant there was not through science, but through leisure. So my Travel Fellowship took me to all the top Botanic Gardens and Zoos in Europe where I learned more about botanic gardens and a good deal about the leisure business. That experience empowered me to win a post as a Director with Britain's most favourite retailer The John Lewis Partnership.

Once on that landing the power of strict financial management at all levels entered the frame.

The Travel Fellowship did something else for me. It takes you to a very much higher perceived level than one would normally achieve through normal daily work. Vision is always part of it and even now 39 years later I am still empowered by things I learned.

I am now Chairman of the Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship for the South and it still excites me to attend gatherings of past Fellows including those who have just returned full of enthusiasm for almost any sort of work.

There are many major challenges out there and Kew-trained people are well founded in knowledge. You need a bit of vision and some entrepreneurial energies so if you feel you may be interested have a look at the website www.wcmt.org.uk

The grants are not massive but if you are clever you can plan to meet people who are well up their own staircases and because they are so few and far between you learn things that can be of lasting value throughout your whole life. At a recent meeting our Secretary, a lady who has put more wheelchairs into Africa than anyone on earth, introduced a young man who went to California to learn about flood control and sea rescue, so he now knows more than any other Fire Officer in the UK on that topic. Another fascinating set of stories were told by a dance teacher who went to the heart of New Orleans to discover the real secret basis of Hip Hop dancing. She now teaches it in schools and prisons in addition to her other work. Another told of his studies of Marine Insurance in respect of ferries worldwide.

If you have something you feel can convince the committee will bring a benefit to the United Kingdom when you return from a study abroad, apply.

Any queries, ring me personally if you wish 01256 892837.

ONE KEWITE INSPIRES TWO OTHERS

by Graham Burgess

I have often said that some of the times I have learned of the most inspirational attributes of Kewites is when I have researched for their obituaries. When my friend, a world-class facilitator, offered his services free to the Kew Guild, the outcome included at the top of the list a need for a Skills Register so we could access that sort of data while Kewites lived so we could empower effective sharing of vision, knowledge and skills to the betterment of all.

Recently another example of a Kewite's vision surfaced, albeit sixty-four years after his death. I speak of Henry J. Moore.

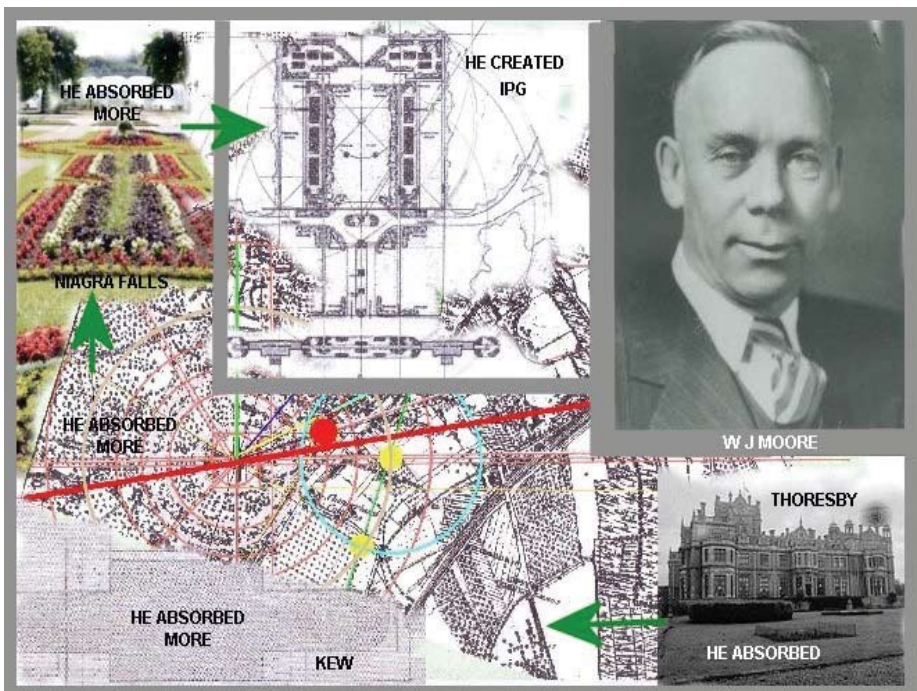
In 2009 I approached Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council with regard to a project whereby a rock would come from every country in the world to end up in the Friendship Circle in that town. Brian Souter of Stagecoach was poised with special trains, special tickets and language facilities so that visitors to the Olympics could have a day out, see their country's rock and see a bit of green England. It was not accepted. Contributing to the rejection was something else quite interesting. They had heard of what they thought was potential competition, namely the dream of

another man to build a New Stonehenge. Competition? Well, no supermarket would avoid putting a store in where others were there to compete. Footfall wins whatever.

My own experience in such matters (I led a team to build a full-sized Stonehenge for Lord Bath) convinced me that they would not be competitors.

Then I spoke with another Kewite, Bob Ivison, and the power of Vision re-ignited. He contacted colleagues in London to no avail but then still nurturing the Vision, Bob happened to be in Canada where he spoke of the project to one Doug Hevenor, Chief Executor of The International Peace Garden in Canada. He leapt at it and over the past year he has been trying to fit this enormous project into their planning and we have just had some very positive news. The aim is still to have a rock going from every interested country in the world and the first rock will be the UK rock.

The most exciting thing for Kewites is the Kew connection and the project planning for the UK rock tunes into this. Let us travel back to the late 1800s when a young man called Henry Moore started work as a gardener up North. He already had a questing nature. My research, in the Herbarium, Kew, shows he worked in several major gardens – Rug Hall, Brayton Hall, Chipgate Castle and Thoresby Hall. The handwritten references are outstanding. He eventually entered Kew in 1907 and in his first year won academic prizes. He was soon promoted to sub-foreman working in the Decorative and Temperate Pits. His lecture to the Mutual was on Woody Greenhouse Plants. So, he was a wanderer and one who studied. It is apparent from my research that what he took on board as acquired knowledge was deeper than most in certain areas.



Many of the mansions he worked at contained hidden symbolism and underlying special geometries, which I have proved also exists at Kew. When he left Kew his wanderlust led to a bigger step, this time to Canada where eventually he carried out major creative works at the Queen Victoria Gardens at Niagara Falls. He was also very good at fostering public awareness. In a letter to the then Director at Kew he thanked him for using information sent by him on the Victoria Gardens in promotions done in the UK supporting his work at Niagara Falls. A case of a Director of Kew actively supporting a Kewite.

Henry Moore then had a dream and one day whilst flying in a small aircraft near Turtle Mountain, the centre of that land-mass, pointed down and said 'that's where we should put the Garden'. He was referring to his dream of an International Peace Garden bestride the boundary between the USA and Canada.

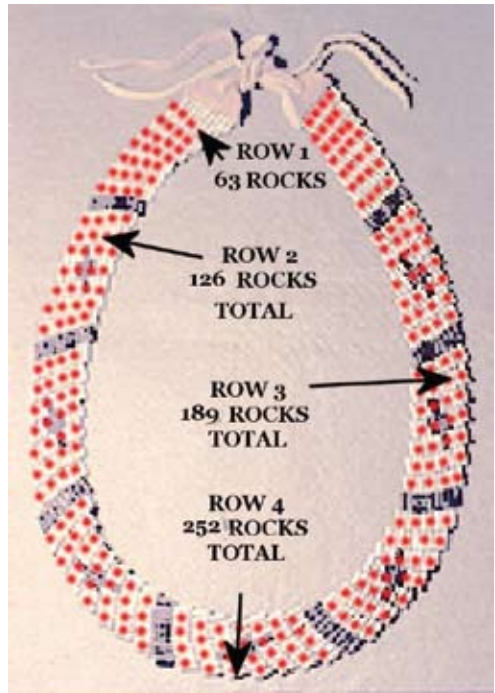
If you look at one of his drawings and apply the old analyses relating to a sacred geometry, you will see a design that exceeds in cleverness what Decimus Burton applied to Kew and is nearer to the design applied to Chartres Cathedral.

How difficult it would be to construct a garden over two properties in England never mind over the borders of two countries. Those without vision could find millions of reasons why it should not be done. In 1932 it opened. 74,000 attended and it has since developed steadily on the theme of Peace.

Due to three living people plugging into the vision nurtured by Henry Moore it is about to take a major step forward. The UK rock will leave the Preseli Quarry belonging to Colin Shearing. It will be a bluestone as we see in the middle of Stonehenge.

It will journey throughout the UK stopping off at key places so that people can touch it. Two key things to do with our life on earth, rock and friendship. It will touch upon key locations where we have found the footprints of Henry Moore. First honouring another Kewite Daniel Bliss, we hope it will go to The Singleton Botanic Gardens, inspired by Daniel. Then up North to the homeland of Henry Moore. It will then come down to Kew as Henry did, possibly spending time in a park and the perhaps even spending some time in Kew Gardens after which, with due ceremony, hopefully Her Majesty The Queen will send it across the ocean to Canada.

The American Rock will cross the USA and the Canadian Rock will tour Canada before finding their way to a special layout, not a circle but a



catenary.

Doug Hevenor suggested we ought to tune into the Native Indians so following his inspiration an old traditional necklace inspired the proposed layout design. The catenary is the ‘angle of the dangle’ used in later symbolic geometries and one of the early hints at later chaos theory. Gaudi used it.

So if there are any other Kewites out there with contacts abroad and some visionary energy I would be pleased to hear.

REMATIO

by Graham Burgess

The Greeks had a concept rematio, ‘to return’. It alluded to the fact that often one learns something only when one returns. Flipping through a Journal whilst doing an Obituary for Peter Green, I came across an old report concerning the old bridge over the Thames at Kew Green.

In an earlier Journal I reported how Decimus Burton had placed the Palm House according to Egyptian numerology and the number 18 of Isis.

Well the old bridge, now long gone, had a central roadway eighteen feet wide with pathways measuring 3ft 3in either side. Thirty-three being the average number of vertebrae; the number of degrees in freemasonry; the years that Christ and Horus reigned.

All symbols of something, strong, flexible, and somewhat hidden but capable of providing support for the most of one’s useful life.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT IN KEW’S ARCHIVES – ‘HIDDEN MEMORIES’

by Michèle Losse

In 2007, I came across some old audio interviews which had been recorded in 1975 featuring ex-members of staff and prominent botanists; the very first was Eric Court, ‘Reminiscences of the buildings of Kew for which he worked as a carpenter for 42 years’, interviewed by John Simmons. Others followed in the 1980s and 1990s. These have now been transferred from audiocassette to CD and are held as part of the Library collections. However, I noticed that these interviews were not very structured, and although interesting for the most part, many lacked direction.

What is Oral History? It is the recordings of memories which would otherwise be forever lost. Many people have led interesting lives, professional and personal, often intertwined, and whereas some of our colleagues have often published papers on their work, or spoken casually about it, many in fact have memories which they do not think of sharing with others. Their stories bring meaning to and also complement the records we have in the Archives about their work. Often enough though, we have nothing at all save for a few Collectors’ Notebooks.

I had the idea that this project could be resurrected, this time concentrating mainly on ex-Kew employees and with a firm structure, which would involve research into

their career at Kew and setting up questions which would be asked at the interviews. The questions are sent to the interviewees in advance; this serves as much to refresh their memory as to encourage them to add further topics of discussions if they desire it, and raise specific issues or tell specific stories.

Although I first looked to continuing the project using audio, it was brought to my attention that Kew had purchased a professional camera, and that Andrew McRobb, our Photographer, would be willing to handle the technical side, which left me free to concentrate on the interviewing. His professional input was invaluable, and the end result is that we have some beautifully clear and nicely framed films. Although some people refused to be interviewed because they would be filmed, most contacted were willing to cooperate and some contributed objects and publications for filming as well.

With minimum funds, and some internal help – Rebecca Bower, the Head of Finance, kindly donated money from the Kew Donations Fund – we have so far interviewed the following:

- Bernard Verdcourt, Martin Sands, Diane Bridson and Dick Brummitt, from the Herbarium
- Leo Pemberton from the School of Horticulture
- Mary Gregory from the Jodrell Laboratory
- Janet Terry from the Millenium Seed Bank
- John Lonsdale from Horticulture
- Pat Smallcombe, formerly Horticulture and presently Volunteer Guide
- Jack Andrews, also Volunteer Guide.

What next? It is my intention to interview as many more people as possible and also to promote the project externally. A blog and web page are both in the planning stages. I have also submitted a proposal to Chris Mills the head of the Library and Archives for the future of the project, which hopefully would enable us to obtain further funding. The aim is also to widen the knowledge about Kew's work behind the scenes, through stories which are both engaging and interesting. This in turn I hope would attract further researchers to the Library and perhaps new funders.

I have also recently discovered that Oral History, a relatively new method of recording and preserving testimony in the UK, is in fact commonly used and widely recognised in the USA and Canada. Many projects are run by Universities and Academics, and are made available through well-designed websites. As a result, I have started building up contacts with North American professionals and through this exchange of ideas, I am rapidly gaining new knowledge which will hopefully enable me to find new ways of developing what I have found to be a very exciting project.

VOLUNTEERING AT KEW

by Amanda le Poer Trench, Volunteer Coordinator

‘Plants, People, Possibilities’ – our organisation’s punchy strap line. However, those of us working with Kew’s volunteer taskforce have a slight problem with the order of the wording – we believe that ‘plants’ and ‘people’ should be transposed, that our people are our organisation’s most valuable resource. If we start from the premise that people are an organisation’s most valuable resource and in support of that philosophy, it is vital that we have the right person, in the right place, doing the right

activity at the right time. We fear that some of our colleagues who are passionate about monocots and dicots might disagree with that premise, but how would our plants thrive without our people and how would we meet our organisational goals and targets without our people? Hence we need to attract, recruit and retain the best people in a transparent, lawful and cost-effective way. However, we need to examine that people equation in greater depth because Kew's people are no longer just made up of our 700 employees – increasingly it is our growing army of 600 volunteers – who are a vital and integral part of Kew and whose support enables us to achieve our fundamental corporate mission – ‘to inspire and deliver science-based plant conservation worldwide, enhancing the quality of life’. Our volunteers give us the two most precious gifts they have – their time and their talent, and for that we celebrate and thank them.

Kew has a record of working with volunteers since 1992 and there are currently over 500 volunteers supporting our work at Kew and over 100 at Wakehurst Place in a wide range of settings. Our ‘green-fingered’ Horticultural Volunteers help out with the basic maintenance of Kew's plant collections, for example, weeding, pruning, mulching, tidying, and lawn edging. Our knowledgeable Volunteer Guides lead tours of the Gardens for the public and provide a wealth of interesting information and orientation for visitors. Our enthusiastic Schools and Learning Programme Volunteers engage and involve children and their teachers or carers in the various exhibits around the Gardens. Our volunteers in the science departments help in a variety of ways including project and administration support within our Herbarium and Jodrell Laboratory, and in addition our honorary researchers contribute their intellect and skills to our scientific research and publications. Volunteers also provide valuable seasonal support for events, festivals and the Foundation & Friends of Kew. There are volunteer placements in all areas on the Kew site including in retail, in the Nash Conservatory and in our library, and indeed our Trustees are ‘12 good volunteers and true’.

Last financial year our volunteers donated in excess of 65,000 hours to Kew's mission, an average of 117 hours per person and more than 50% of our volunteers gave more than one day per week to the organisation. In addition, Kew benefits from the valuable contribution made by c. 60 Honorary Researchers/Associates.

Alongside the traditional volunteer roles, RBG Kew provides short-term work experience placements and internships in conjunction with various agencies and educational establishments. In the financial year 2009/10, 41 Horticultural interns donated approximately 14,000 hours to RBG Kew.

In addition, Kew promotes environmental volunteering by hosting ‘Employee Volunteering Days’ for the corporate sector. Last year 240 people undertook corporate volunteering within the horticultural teams over 12 days.

RBG Kew is committed to enabling as diverse a section of the community as possible to become involved in varied forms of voluntary activity at Kew and to offering them any necessary support. We work with our ‘third sector’ colleagues to provide assisted volunteering placements for those volunteers who may have some sort of special educational need or disability, and last year such placements accounted for over 10% of our horticultural volunteers.

In recognition of how important volunteers are, Kew has consulted with pertinent stakeholders and developed an integrated ‘Three Year Strategy for the Development

of Volunteering at RBG Kew', which was ratified by Kew's Corporate Executive in March. This has been translated into an action plan that will provide a framework for the continued development of work with volunteers across RBG Kew in a common, consistent, equitable and sustainable way within the context of Kew's Mission and the Breathing Planet Programme.

Kew celebrates and thanks both its volunteers who donate their precious gift of time and talent to the organisation and the many Kew employees who support and nurture our volunteers, enabling them to optimise their volunteer placement with us. Whilst our volunteers enjoy many benefits volunteering at Kew they do not get paid for their efforts. Of course this is not because we think our volunteers are worthless – quite the opposite – it is because we think that they are priceless!

HORTICULTURAL VOLUNTEER 2004-05

by Alex George

From December 2004 to late August 2005, while I served as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer at Kew, I worked as a horticultural volunteer in the Hardy Display Section of the Gardens. My partner and I lived at Gloucester Court, directly opposite the Jodrell Gate. At home in Perth, gardening is my main way of keeping fit, so volunteering provided good exercise during the year. It also gave me an insight into public usage of the Gardens. I worked most Sunday mornings from around 8.30 or 9am until 1 pm. This meant that I put in up to an hour before the gates were opened to the public.

The main tasks allotted to me were weeding and collecting rubbish, but beyond that I was largely left to myself to choose where I worked within the Hardy Display Section area – the north-eastern sector from The Pond to the Main Gate and the Jodrell Gate, thus including areas much-visited by the public. I concentrated on beds or around trees where there was a weed build-up that interfered in the appearance. Most days I checked the area in front of the Museum, the view from there across The Pond to the Palm House being one of the most photographed at Kew. One of my self-imposed tasks was fishing rubbish from The Pond.

Since my work was mainly weeding there was little need for training or supervision; if I was uncertain whether a plant should be removed I left it and inquired later. For example, some species in the Grass Beds are weeds in Perth gardens so I had an almost instinctive urge to pull them up!

In all I worked for 140 hours, removed 75 barrowloads of weeds and collected 28 25-litre pots of rubbish. I kept a brief diary and provided a report when my term at Kew ended. A summary of some aspects may be of interest.

Queries

Once the gates were opened and the public appeared I was sometimes asked for information or advice. Many queries were standard: Which way to the Main Gate? (I learned to check whether they meant the Main Gate or the Victoria Gate, since some who had entered via the latter thought it was the Main Gate), toilets, stops for Kew Explorer? Where is the old Ginkgo? How many work at Kew? Where is the Woodland? Why was a large poplar near the Jodrell cut down? (answer: for the Jodrell extension). How do you become a Volunteer? Is it better to leave fallen leaves as mulch or place on compost heap? Can't something be done about the

Canada Geese? What is the [broad-leaved] weed under the lime? When do students attend their plots? How were the Chihuly sculptures placed on the Pond?

One query that I particularly liked came from an elderly lady from the Midlands visiting Kew for the first time: don't weeds grow at Kew? I assured her that they do but the staff do their best to keep them down.

Another, when I was weeding, was 'What are you doing?', from a boy about 6 years old (passing by with his father). I thought quickly and wondered if he had been told that 'this is Kew Gardens where the plants are special so you mustn't touch them', yet here was a man pulling them up. I explained that some plants grow where they are not wanted and must be removed so that others can grow properly. And a father with a small girl stopped to see 'how it [weeding] should be done'. You had to be on good behaviour!

Two that were appropriate for me were: Can eucalypts be transplanted, and are their roots invasive? Is there a Wollemi Pine on display, and how is it propagated?

The strong, curry-like scent of *Escallonia* near the Weeping Beech (near the Princess of Wales Conservatory) attracted much attention.

Around the Gardens, there are quite a few very large, old trees that invite the public's interest. On a number of occasions I was asked for names and ages of trees such as the Stone Pine, the Weeping Beech, Weeping Silver Lime and Turner's Oak.

In my report I suggested that labels be placed next to the path (instead of on the trunk where they can be read only by walking off the path, in some cases obscured within the canopy). These should include the age, even if known only approximately.

Rubbish

I collected any loose rubbish (i.e. not placed in bins), though occasionally rubbish had been scattered from bins during the night by scavenging animals. Items included plastic bags (various kinds including shopping), plastic and glass drink bottles, bottle caps, aluminium cool drink cans, steel cans (some rusting), Fosters carton, beer bottles, wine bottles, sweet wrappers, foil packets, cellophane packets, plastic sandwich packets, drink cups and lids, straws, tissues (including whole packet), paper napkins, plastic cutlery, single gloves and mittens, child's sock, child's moccasin, handkerchiefs, chewing gum (half-used packet), pharmaceuticals (part unused), Canon camera instruction manual, camera battery, plastic film canisters, Kew maps and other guide papers, plastic tape and ties from packages, Christmas wrapping paper and ribbon, bus/train tickets, supermarket receipts, child's drinking cup, baby's nappy (used!), babies' dummies, plastic toy camera, plastic toy soldier, plastic comic toy, child's paintings, eraser, pencils, biros, biro tops, marker pen, glasses case, balloons, Making Spirits Bright laminated poster, woollen jumper with hood, man's peaked cap, bicycle locking device (last three items handed to Constabulary).

A bonus

Just before Christmas I found a seedling of a Yew about 1.5 metres tall under the large Weeping Beech. Clearly it was not wanted there and I was able to remove it intact. As I was taking it to a skip where material for mulching was placed, I realised that it would make a nice Christmas tree, so I carried it across to our flat at Gloucester Court and we decorated it. Afterwards I took it back for mulching. We

thought that not many have a Christmas tree grown at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew!

NEWS FROM THE HIMALAYAS

by Udai C. Pradhan

The hands on the clock of life move ever so fast that with each passing year, engrossed in our daily chores, it is sometimes difficult to realise there is but a thin line between the 'virtual' and the so called 'real' world. The restless innovative human mind, in search of more and more perfection, has arrived at a stage where living dinosaurs stalk our bedrooms and the galaxies far away are just a click away. Our intelligence and the reckless manner in which we are using up our resources is also speeding us to the brink of extinction. It is therefore important that we take up conservation activities as a part of our day-to-day activity.

The highlight of 2010 was the National Seminar on Orchids organised by Professor Suraj Prakash Vij, Editor and Executive Secretary of the Orchid Society of India (TOSI) and sponsored by the Department of Biotechnology, IUCN-India and the Govind Ballabh Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED).



Left-right: Dr. Sarat Misra, Professor Vij, Professor Mohan Ram and Udai Pradhan, during the Conference recess

The three-day seminar from 19-21 March 2010 held at GBPIHED, Kosi Katarmal near Almora, a whole day's drive from New Delhi, brought together Orchid veterans, growers and students from all parts of India. The Institute, located some distance from Almora town, is perched on a hill covered with *Cedrus deodara* and *Pinus roxburghii*.

Prof H. Y. Mohan Ram, former Professor of Delhi University and Honorary Scientist, Indian National Science Academy, was the Chief Guest. While my wife Tej helped set up the Orchid exhibits, I delivered the keynote address 'Future Adventures with Orchids' on the first day and had the

pleasure of getting to know Professor Mohan Ram. At over 80 years old he was an example of a great and inquisitive mind combined with infectious enthusiasm and experience that comes out from being a teacher of excellence. He told us that he became aware of my daughter Hemlata's paintings of Indian Orchids through the Editor of *Vanda* magazine, Dr. C. Sathish Kumar, another Orchid expert from Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute in Kerala and had admired them. He also mentioned that he had written about her works in the chapter on plants in Platinum Jubilee Volume of the Proceedings of Indian National Science Academy, along with her well-known painting of *Vanda coerulea*. Later that day, Dr. Sarat

Misra of the Orchid Study Centre, Bhubaneshwar in Orissa, announced that he had named a new species of orchid from Orissa, *Liparis udaii* and it was accepted for publication in the Journal of the Orchid Society of India (*J.Orchid Soc. India* 23(1-2):87-90 2009 released 2010). Prof. Mohan Ram was a UNESCO Fellow in the Laboratoire de Physiologie Pluri Cellulaire at Gif-sur-Yvette near Paris, France, during the period I was at Kew and he was doing research with Dr. J.P. Nitsch.

Tej and I had a wonderful time specially interacting with our old friends and young orchid scientists and growers. Many of them were gradually taking on the mantle of decision makers in their society and

the togetherness that the meeting generated should go a long way in the conservation and scientific exploration and use of Indian Orchids. It was marvellous seeing a lovely blooming plant of the very elegantly fragrant *Calanthe plantaginea* at the entrance of the venue and we later also saw this species in the flowering *Rhododendron arboreum* forests on the way to Briddha Jageswar temple – a place of pilgrimage. The Institute and the Guest House was impeccably clean and well maintained and Dr. L.M.S. Palani, the Director of the Institute and his wife, Dr. Mrs. Palani, were excellent hosts.

This time around our Blue amaryllis *Worsleya rayneri* refused to flower during the rainy season in spite of the good growth. But now in mid-winter, its offshoot has produced an inflorescence with three large buds giving me hope that the dry cold season might also enable seed set as in its Brazilian home. We have decided to give it a clonal name 'Blossfeld's Empress', in honour of Robert Blossfeld whose plant seeds from South America and other countries have made remarkable contributions to our developing plant industry.

The rare species of Jewel Orchid that I have been studying, *Aenhenrya rotundifolia* seeds germinated well in a simple Knudson C with coconut milk media and the seedlings transplanted in 2010 are growing well. We have maintained the cultures also and look forward to the transplanted ones coming to flower, hopefully in the New Year. This is one of the species that has been listed for the OSSSU – a Darwin Project Initiative now being conducted by Dr. Hugh Pritchard and Phil Seaton at Kew. I understand from Phil that India and Brazil are yet to sign the MOU and hopefully 2011 will pave the way to this end.

Kalimpong, our hometown, is the largest subdivision in the Darjeeling Hills. It has an area larger than that of Singapore and has a rare combination of salubrious climate, exemplary schools and plant nurseries that have played important roles in advancing the economic and literary aspirations of the hill people and also those of neighbouring countries. Kalimpong is also very well known as the home of the Graham Family, which established the Dr. Graham's Homes School. Reverend and



Illustration of *Liparis udaii* S. Misra (after S. Misra, 2009)

Mrs. Kathryn Graham's youngest daughter, Betty, was to marry Major George Sherriff, the intrepid plant collector and administrator and join him on his trip to Tibet during World War II. During her last visit to Kalimpong, Tej and I had the privilege of hosting Mrs. Sherriff for lunch. She was frail and not very well at that time. After her return we received a packet containing a book from Edinburgh University Press and a note 'Sent at the request of Mrs. G. Sherriff' and dated 26th May 1977. It was the fascinating tale of the plant explorations of Major Sherriff and his friend, Frank Ludlow, *A Quest of Flowers* by Harold Fletcher.

In 2008, as a part of our Scottish trip, we had been invited to stay at 'The Barn', a part of the Sherriff Estate that now belonged to Geoffrey and Teklata Bush, and Geoffrey had kindly made arrangements for us to visit 'Ascreavie', the one-time home of the late Sherriffs that they had created years ago. Many Himalayan species of Rhododendrons, Primulas and *Meconopsis* still remained and we couldn't help but wonder what a glorious sight it must have been during their best years!



We had also gone prospecting to seek the possibility of starting a plant nursery devoted to Himalayan plants and to revive the connection of Kalimpong with Scotland. In 2008 we formed the Himalayan Gardens Ltd with two Scottish partners and in 2009 our son Satyam and son-in-law Chris went and established the nursery. It was hard work for them and while they went about doing so, Hemlata and Upashana (Satyam's wife) went around the countryside and gardens. Hemlata had always wanted to paint the Himalayan Blue Poppy, *M. betonicifolia* and found it growing robustly and flowering in their neighbour's garden. She took the opportunity to make close studies of the plant which she has now completed painting (see photo, left).

Hemlata became one of the first recipients of the Recognition Award instituted by the Orchid Society of India to young orchid scientists for her outstanding contribution to the application and popularisation of Himalayan Orchids through her art. It was awarded at the Indian Institute of Genome Research in Delhi in May 2010 in absentia. During the year-end on 5th December 2010, she was honoured by the local

newspaper *Himalaya Darpan*, and they had commissioned Kalimpong TV to prepare a short documentary on her development as a botanical illustrator in Nepali, which was presented during the ceremony. We hope we will be able to have an English translation in the near future. She is now preparing for her solo exhibition at the Serindia Gallery in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17th March – 1st May 2011 where she will also be displaying the *M. betonicifolia* she sketched in Scotland.

The unique three-dimensional palm, *Wallichia disticha*, below left, (there are two species of *Wallichia* in the Himalayas – *W. densiflora*, below right, is another and both extremely elegant) now grossly threatened by the Teesta Dam Project from seed collections made many years ago, when we introduced it to horticulture, grows in a colony beside our house at the Relli Nursery in Kalimpong. This time it surprised us by producing a gigantic inflorescence with thousands of seeds and the whole plant had to be held up using strong bamboo stilts. It was a sight any palm enthusiast would have loved to witness. The beautiful fin-like leaflets of this palm are attached to the main stalk in a spiral manner that gives it a three-dimensional look. *Wallichia densiflora* is a dwarf species not exceeding 2-2.5 metres and forms clumps that are impenetrable. The male flowers are encased in large purple black bracts and they are unique and impressive.



In May, another lady member joined our family – Alana Sancharatti, our granddaughter through our youngest daughter, Sanjivini and her husband, Alister. We commemorated her arrival by naming a new *Phalaenopsis* hybrid (*Phalaenopsis Alana Sancharatti*). We also honoured three prominent Indians who made remarkable contributions to Indian Orchids by naming four more hybrids. They are *Phalaenopsis Triloki Nath Khoshoo*, past director General, Indian Council of Agri Research and founder Member of the Orchid Society of India (*Phalaenopsis Triloki Nath Khoshoo*), Dr. Manju Sharma, retired Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India and President TOSI (*Phalaenopsis Manju Sharma*) and Mrs. Usha Vij, wife of Professor Suraj Prakash Vij (*Esmenanthera Usha ki Suraj*). We also commemorated India's Cactus Surgeon by naming the one he liked best *Phalaenopsis Tek Bahadur Pradhan*. All hybrids have since been registered with the RHS.

This year's reading included Tim Flannery's magnificent account of the history of the Australasian Islands, *The Future Eaters*. I had been trying to obtain this book through various dealers in India without success and finally a group of visiting friends from Sweden carried a copy in October. It was worth all the trouble that my friends took to get the book to the Himalayas. Other readings have included Seneca's *Life is short*. After Marcus Aurelius's *Meditations*, this is another little book that is worth a read. Perhaps it will help guide us to simpler and saner lives. We seem to

forget we are spiritual beings here for human experience rather than the other way round, and our connections with the Universe is deeply spiritual and eternal – just like the fascinating orchid in your greenhouse, a tree in your yard, the whale in the deep seas or the majestic eagle that soars in the skies. Plant life directly or indirectly supports our life systems and the international roles played by remarkable institutions like Kew in conservation may one day help save the world's biodiversity and contain the extinction crisis looming large over the human horizon.

May the new decade beginning this year with all its wonderful discoveries in the living world also prompt each one of us to feel concerned and act wherever necessary and to lend a hand in bringing awareness and taking steps in the protection and scientific use of our biodiversity. May this year noted throughout the world as the Year of Biodiversity continue through all the years to come until such time that a sustainable balance is struck.

We wish that all happiness be yours in the New Year and may it bring world peace, goodwill and scientific and spiritual discoveries that can enlighten us.

Take care. Tej and family join me in sending every one of you at the Kew Guild and Kew our very warm regards and best wishes.



Tej and Udai next to *Cedrus deodara* no. 2 with 8.3m girth at Jageshwar Temple, NW Himalaya

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2010

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Jim Emerton

'It was a very uplifting experience passing the Mensa supervised test. I had studies in formal education establishments for around ten years, including the revered RBG, Kew.

On the positive and plus side, the psychological rewards are a feeling of confidence, attainment and perhaps some elitism. As a feature writer for an international magazine, I call upon my high IQ every time I write, and it means that I can analyse any topic in my specialist field of interest, for my 'mass' audience. My expertise, due to years of intense study, means that I have changed thinking, attitudes and, to a certain extent, the life of individuals.

The loyal fan base is very nice! However if I want to go really abstract, I write for the Mystics & Scientists Mensa SIG. Here, I find that a few are starting to see a glimmer of the real, essential me.

One of the more negative consequences is that in my pure form, I am little understood. I have the feeling that this is the case with many people; gifted or not

gifted in the IQ stakes. I find a lot of conversation is inane, yet I manage to punctuate mine with lots of ‘original’ puns and plays on words.

In conclusion, I relish a high IQ since I can remember, express and learn about myself and life in many of its complexities – it has helped in the individuation process.’

Rev’d Hugh Flower (1976)

During 2009 Hugh resigned from HM Prison Service after 16.5 years as RC Chaplain at HM Prisons High Down and Downview. He continues to work as Parish Priest at Church of the Holy Spirit Fetcham where he has been since December 2005.

In May 2010, he celebrated the silver Jubilee of Ordination in a Mass of thanksgiving followed by a reception in the neighbouring school hall. He was joined by many friends from across the years, including from Kew, David Hardman, Alan and Alison Titchmarsh, Chris and Val Bath, Kenwyn Pearson, and Shan and Roger Watkins née Davies.

Hugh also keeps in touch with Bob Carrington, who has been in South Africa for several years. During 2010, new work has come to Hugh showing that there is life after gaol, in the form of chaplain to St Andrew’s Comprehensive School and to Surrey Police.

Jean Griffin is a member of BBC’s Radio Kent Sunday gardening team, which scooped Gardeners’ World’s annual award for 2010 – the best of the regional broadcasts and this with a staggering 87% of the vote. Full details can be viewed at www.gardenersworld.com/awards. The Guild is pleased to offer its congratulations to Jean.

In a Christmas card to the Editor, Winnifred and **Bob Hebb** said that their grandchildren have been keeping them busy and entertained. Following Bob’s recuperation from various health problems during the year, they have been travelling several times, to Longwood Gardens, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and a week in Cape Cod with Guild webmaster Kevin Wah and his wife Sue.

Stewart Henchie

‘September 2010 was a busy and a momentous month for the Henchie family.

At the end of September, I retired from Kew having worked in most Sections of the Living Collections (HPE) since starting as a Student on September 28th 1970. During September the house we lived in on site at Kew was used for the AGM Kew Guild soirée with perfect weather conditions and company.

On 12th September, we had a final get-together party of Year 1970-73 with partners in our garden on the site, also with perfect weather conditions!

Phil Williamson and myself organised it. Unfortunately Phil could not make it in the

end. The following were able to come: Alan Stuttard, Keith Smith, Bill Pusey, David Howarth, Martin Abrahams, Gareth Stanfield and Brian Stannard – all of year 1970-73. Also John Fielding, years 1977-80.

We also had a final get together of the immediate family on 19th September.

During my last week of work at Kew, The Hardy Display Section staff organised a fantastic early morning breakfast for me coupled with the giving of amazing and thoughtful presents. A great end to running a great bunch of people.

On my final ‘working’ day, Pat (my wife), the Curator and Tony Kirkham colluded and organised a 7am breakfast and slide show in the Stable yard messroom.

While breakfast was being cooked I had to identify a number of trees in the arboretum nursery. Providing I identified them I could take them – I identified them all and now I have to find a large piece of land to plant them out – no pressure in my retirement. They also arranged for Hans Fliegner (Ex-Assistant Curator Temperate Section) and Charles Erskine (Ex-Assistant Curator Arboretum Section) to come to the breakfast and it was wonderful to have them there on that occasion.

During October, Pat and I spent most of the time finally packing, downsizing and giving away to charities the ‘stuff’ one accumulates after living a happy 32 years in Kew Cottage.

We have now moved to Teignmouth, Devon, into a much smaller Edwardian house with a small front and back garden with a new lean-to Glasshouse – unheated at the moment – plus another piece of land nearby, sloping down to a stream to grow the vegetables and everything else.’

Colin Hindmarch (1968)

‘I have not been involved in Guild things for a while (pressure of time), but I have been in touch with various people in Kew over one on my latest concerns, the UK Overseas Territories (UKOTs), which has been a delight.

In my dealings with the UKOTs, I have identified a major problem in the way the UK deals with the UKOTs, and its ‘hands off’ approach to them, which is reflected in the way these precious resources are managed. It came to a head for me when the UK refused to get involved in an EU research networking project (Net-Biome), and later, refused to support Net-Biome’s first Research Joint call. Not being one to be pushed around by governments, I am taking up the challenge at a political level. The note, below, sketches out my line of attack, but basically, I have:

- Negotiated with Defra and the Foreign and Commonwealth office to secure support and funding for Net-Biome;
- Taken up the matter with my local MP;
- Raised the question in Parliament through the British Ecological Society (though, in the event, the question was highly diluted);
- Tried to enlist the support of Lord Prescott by way of Aleksei Lotman, a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, who chairs a Council of Europe Committee attended by John Prescott (Aleksei has helped a great deal, but I have had no response (yet) from Lord Prescott);
- Contacted my MEPs with the aim of pushing things from Brussels – so far I have

had an offer of help from Martin Callanan MEP.’

Jim Mitchell (1966)

‘When one is on vacation the opportunity to meet and mix with the locals really enhances the experience but when they are fellow Kewites these visits are truly memorable.

During 2009 my wife Val and I revisited the USA and met up with past president Bob Hebb (1968) and Kevin Wah who proudly showed us around their home state of Virginia and we visited many famous historic sites and gardens that we were unable to see on the memorable Kew Guild Tour. It was good to see the pair still dedicated to putting together their botanical photographic collection which will be second to none when it comes on to the market.

In 2010 after an enjoyable 29-night cruise across the Pacific Ocean from Sydney to Cape Town we managed to catch up with Errol (far right of photo, right, with Jim and Jenny) and Jenny Scarr (1967) who we hadn’t seen for over forty years. At our first meeting Errol brought along a photograph of the successful Kew Beer Drinking competition team we were both members of, just in case he couldn’t recognise this now ‘grey haired gent’. Errol and Jenny are now happily retired and enjoying taking many botanical excursions with friends around this marvellous country.

Before leaving South Africa we gave Gilbert Briscoe (1961) (far right of photo, right, with Jim), who is presently living in Johannesburg, a call and he kindly showed us many projects he had been involved with around Soweto as Director of Parks. Whilst in the district we couldn’t miss seeing the humble home of Nelson Mandela, an experience not possible without local knowledge.

Jean Griffin (1964) paid us a visit at our home in Manly and we managed to empty a few bottles of red (between



visits to local botanic gardens) but there are still a few left over for any future welcome Kewites.

In May on route to the Kew dinner we called in to see Bill Bessler (1967) in Southern Spain who is now happily enjoying raising many exotic parrots on his 100-acre Finca after a successful landscape architectural career in the Middle East.

Driving along the entrance track through a huge mountainous granite gully full of River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) we could have been back home in New South Wales, especially when greeted with the shrill call of a flock of pink and white Australian Galahs in one of many breeding cages.

The highlight of 2010 was undoubtedly the Kew Guild Dinner and to be present to see Alan Barber MBE (1965) receive the Kew Guild Medal, a no more worthy recipient. Alan was a remarkable man and amazingly so robust and active in spite of his unfortunate handicap.

Couldn't miss having an Indian curry with John Jones (1966) a fellow student on the first diploma course whilst on a trip up to Yorkshire. John is still active running his landscape contracting business.

Having been fortunate at being able to attend the AGM and the Dinner this year to meet up with so many Kewites, unfortunately too many to mention by name here, made us appreciate how valuable the Guild Network is and the part it played in making 2010 a very memorable year for us.

Patrick Nutt (1953) writing from Longwood Gardens, Philadelphia, shortly after snowfalls in the winter of 2010, sent a number of newspaper cuttings.

‘We received large snowfalls causing severe damage to trees, especially conifers (*Pinus strobus* worst damaged). Even with our gang, we had to clean up for Easter – not quite like Wakehurst though after the great storm in 1987.

All elderly men were warned not to shovel snow, but at 80 years of age I can work at least 4 hours. I am assisting a local tree man chipping. It's difficult for him to get a young man to work an 8-hour shift (except Mexicans, but they are not completely safe hands and a language problem).”

Right: RBG Kew Curator Nigel Taylor is pictured with his winning silverware at the Kew Horticultural Show in August.



© Richard Ward

Kenwyn Pearson received the London Spade from the Metropolitan Public gardens Association in honour of outstanding services to horticulture and horticultural training. The Guild offers its congratulations to Kenwyn.

Valentine Tynan

‘I live in a little place in the west of Ireland known as Gort and only a stone’s throw from the Burren. The poet W.B. Yeats spent time here and wrote his poem The Wild Swans at Coole down the road. I have lived here on and off for most of my life.

Thirty years ago I was fortunate enough to win a scholarship to study at Kew. Since the age of 3, I was out in the garden helping my mother. After my Leaving Cert. (the Irish equivalent of A-levels) I went to study Commercial Horticulture at Kildalton College; it was a two-year residential course. When I graduated from there I found work near Hamburg in West Germany, as it was then. I loved my time at Kew and made lifelong friendships there. From there I went on to work in several large private gardens throughout England and Ireland.

In 1991, I set up my own business trading as Consultant Gardener, I was shy of using my own name. I was offering an Advice, Design, Development, Care Service. My business boomed. Unfortunately in 1996 my mother had a bad accident and I had to wind down to care for her. She died in 2001.

I am re-launching the same service in Spring 2011 but using my own names this time. Garden Design by Valentine Hilary, the Horticulturist, pruning expert, and Tynan Landscape Contracting. At present clients come and collect me, as I have no transport of my own. I feel optimistic about the future. It is a real joy for me to be a Guild member and I live in hope that I may yet meet some of the others that were there in the early eighties. This part of Ireland is very picturesque and accessible.

When you are over please call: I will be happy to show you around.
(Good to see you at the AGM Valentine! Advisory Ed.)

Guild Journal Advisory Editor **Richard Ward** keeps busy in semi-retirement. As an active Committee member of Richmond in Bloom – badgering Kew businesses to sponsor floral collars on lamp columns around the Kew area – and helping judge pubs and business premises throughout the Borough. For the first time Richmond has been invited to enter the Britain in Bloom competition, in 2011.

25 years after initiating the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens he continues his involvement with local fundraising (Kew Fair and Kew Horticultural Society), and projects, and encouraging links with Kew Gardens. The Club sponsors an annual Award to the Diploma student who contributes most to the community during the year, as well as one-off funding. Meetings take place every Wednesday 8pm in the Coach and Horses Hotel on Kew Green and visitors are always welcome.
www.kewrotary.org.uk



Richard completed 31 years as MC at the Kew Guild Dinner in 2010 and will hand over the job to Paul Sadler (left of photo), Guild Events Officer, in 2011.

John Whitehead (Log) (1972) has been on his travels again: ‘French Guiana is covered impressively by 90% forest, mostly intact due to intriguing influences probably focusing on the successful French Space Station. Bren and I drove southeast on a good road through continuous jungle, all the way to Kaw. Our jungle botanising was authenticated by the evocative Screaming Piha (*Lipaugus vociferans*), the latin meaning a dull, gregarious, noisy bird and the vernacular name resembling their repetitive calls. Its famous signature sound is synonymous with wild Amazonia. Hear them on Google and would you believe it, now available as a ring tone!

Travelling by ferries and dragonfly-like planes, we hopped through the French Caribbean Islands. During March, three weeks after a volcanic eruption, a new lava flow had made the island of Montserrat larger and we witnessed a haunted looking jungle, recently clothed in a powdery light grey volcanic ash.

We journeyed north visiting the British, the American and the lesser-known Spanish Virgin Islands. Finally, the biggest trees we encountered, although lacking in cambium, were at Disney’s Animal Kingdom and by midnight, we were with Mickey and friends.

When exploring the jungles of West Africa in the autumn, we saw interesting old trees such as the giant cola, conserved in small areas of the sacred forests, where the voodoo culture is endemic in Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo and Benin. Our final botanical adventure included finding grand specimens of digitalgenic baobab trees and we measured their impressive sized trunks in Limbe Botanic Garden, Cameroon and on the island of Sao Tome'.

OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

MURIEL GAZZARD

The Kew Guild welcomes any member of the Kew Staff and we enjoyed the support of Muriel Gazzard.

In her long career at Kew she was a typist in the library preparing, with necessary accuracy, entries for the Library Catalogues, the Current Awareness Lists, The Library Index and Herbarium News and the Index of Artists names for the Illustration Collection.

She retired in 1982 but continued to apply her many years of experience on a part-time basis. She lived to a good age and passed away suddenly in hospital, on 26th July 2010, aged 89. A devoted wife and mother to Paul, Sarah and Mark.

We offer our condolences to her family.

PETER GREEN BSc FLS FI Biol

1920 – 2009

Peter was born on 11th September in Rochester in Kent. He was educated at Taunton School for Boys where he joined the Cadet corps, rising to be an Officer before he left school. He entered Kings College but soon war broke out and he joined the Northumberland Fusiliers as an Officer. Captain Peter Green was a crack shot and was soon training new recruits on how to use their rifles accurately on Salisbury Plain. After a serious bout of typhoid fever he went to serve in Greece. In 1946, whilst still in the army, he married Winifred Brown, a onetime fellow student at Kings College. Peter graduated from Kings College in 1948 after six years serving in the army. He moved to Birmingham University where he was initially an assistant lecturer and then moved to be Lecturer on Taxonomy. His kind nature combined with academic brilliance was recognised very soon and a special arrangement was made between Sir Edward Salisbury and his friend Professor Walter Stiles for Peter to enter Kew for an enrichment of his training in taxonomy. He worked in the Herbarium under B.L. Burtt and Dr W.B. Turill combining this top-of-the-tree study with return visits to lecture at Birmingham. His lifelong friendship with Professor Jack Hawkes began there.

In 1952 he left Birmingham to become Senior Scientific Officer at Edinburgh Botanic gardens focussing on Oleaceae.

In 1961 he emigrated to the United States with his family to take up a post as Horticultural Taxonomist at The Arnold Arboretum, part of Harvard University. One of the many treats he enjoyed was a visit to remote parts of the Pacific.

He returned to this country and Kew in 1966 initially working in the Australasian Section and then taking over from Ronald Melville as Head of that department.

On 16th June 1969 he became Deputy Keeper, taking over from Edgar Milne Redhead. With the job came Editorship of The Kew Bulletin. His interest was worldwide and it included visits to Paris where he was involved with UNESCO in respect of 'The Rational Use of Island Ecosystems'. On 20th September 1976, when Professor Brenan became Director, he was appointed joint Keeper of the Herbarium and Deputy Director. He held both those posts until his retirement in 1982. That team led to enormous improvements in efficiency in various places. He worked closely with all his staff and in 1978 enjoyed a trip to China with the Curator. He was an important member of The Kew Guild. In 1976 he appealed for funds from The Kew Guild for one of his projects.

He was Vice President of The Guild 1977-78 and President 1982-83 – the Guild was always in his thoughts.

In 2005 he suggested that The Guild celebrate one of our dearest members of staff, Stella Ross-Craig. He visited Stella with Allan Hart in the nursing home shortly before she passed on. At that time she was almost one hundred years old.

Peter officially left Kew in 1982 but of course like so many carrying out vital roles, he visited and continued to add value to Kew life. He never lost his love for plants and in particular Oleaceae and Jasmine.

He finally moved to Scotland and soon after entered a care home before passing on.

The Guild expresses condolences to Peter's family.

Compiled by Graham Burgess, with extracts from an obituary by Gren Lucas.

TOM RISELY
Master of Horticulture (RHS) FI Hort; Dip Hort Kew;
Dip Inst. Parks and Recreation
 1934 – 2010

Tom was born in Leicester in 1934, the son of a professional gardener. He was the first intake into the free grammar school system in 1945, attending Wyggeston Grammar, where both Richard and David Attenborough were pupils at roughly the same time.

Academically successful, he was encouraged to obtain a place at Cambridge to read Economics. However, horticulture was in his blood and he was determined to study it at Nottingham University (the Sutton Bonnington campus). Advised to obtain practical experience, he joined the local Parks Department where the Superintendent was an enthusiastic Kewite – Edwin Cherry (President of the Kew Guild 1975-76). Edwin advised Tom that he would have a more interesting and satisfying career if he studied at Kew rather than Nottingham. This was agreed and in order to fill the time until reaching the minimum age entry level for Kew, Tom became an indentured apprentice, studying botany and zoology during the evenings at the local Polytechnic, and for RHS exams. For the last year of his apprenticeship he accepted a place, funded by Leicester City Council, at the Grotto (IPRA training college)

where he obtained the College Diploma. He began the Kew Certificate course on 1st October 1956 (the same day that Sir George Taylor officially began his Directorship).



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

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

During this time at Kew, Tom received the Dümmer Memorial Prize for a collection of British flora and obtained two external qualifications, the National Diploma in Horticulture and the Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration. He was very active in Kew affairs, which can be seen in the Guild Journal 'Events of 1958'. He was a student representative on the Guild Committee and contributed articles as Honorary Secretary for these sections, the Kew Botany Club and the Kew Gardens Cricket Club, for whom he organised a tour of Holland with the help of Hans Overeynder (the first Guild overseas tour). According to Allan Hart (a contemporary at Kew), Tom was a keen member of the music circle (1956-8) which was held once a month at the home of Dr and Mrs Metcalfe, who gave wonderful hospitality to the students, many of whom were lodging in spartan digs.

He kept Kew in mind throughout his life, frequently suggesting the employment of fellow Kewites at the various companies he was either employed by or started up off his own bat. Upon returning from various overseas sojourns running his own enterprising companies, he offered to become a committee member of the Kew Guild. He was Honorary Secretary of the Guild from 2003 to 2008, but his main contribution to the Guild was to be the Events Secretary between 1993 and 2002, during which time he organised the Annual Dinner and AGM, including during the centenary year. In 2006, after retirement, he was a protagonist in promoting the Kew Guild overseas tour to the eastern USA, which was highly successful.

Employment

Having obtained his Kew qualification in 1958 he returned to parks in the form of managing the parks at Lytham St Anne's and Hayes and Harlington. In the 1970s he decided to broaden his influence by accepting the offer of working at the Ministry of Transport (Marples/Castle) where he designed the landscaping and ecological management of motorways and trunk roads. It is said that in the early 1970s he was 'groomed' by the private sector to then bid for managing and restoring derelict and chemically spoiled land such as the Welsh colliery spoil heaps (after Aberfan), and the areas surrounding the graving docks in northern Scotland where the oil rigs were built. When the organisation VEB gave him the opportunity to use his Kew-based horticultural knowledge to develop their communal gardens, forests they had acquired in the Middle East, they also gave him the opportunity to develop his skills in a wide range of ecological environments. He worked with his family in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia (1970s–1980s). Being entrepreneurial, in 1981 he set up his own family company, Leycester Landscapes, working exceptionally hard in an extremely hostile environment to create, literally, grass-filled oases in the desert, cool library gardens, three grass football pitches and several large projects for the military and other public sectors, under the management of the US Corps of Engineers.

After working back in the UK during the mid-1980s, the family decided to move to Spain (where the climate was more predictable), and after a few local gardening jobs, he formed a JV with the Elche company of Jardineria Huerto del Cura, to successfully tender for and then create the hanging gardens at the Hotel Arts on the beach by the yacht basin, for the Olympic Year of 1992. He learned enough Spanish to direct the construction by a Spanish workforce of those gardens, but his work can also be enjoyed on the public levels on the ground floor, by the beach by the Frank Gehry Big Sparkly Fish. Those plane trees were imported individually from Hamburg and those palm trees along the prom sourced throughout Spain, with great pleasure.

His fearlessness and love of travel led him to a huge variety of countries both in search of plants for his Middle Eastern projects, and also just for the sake of learning about other cultures. On plant searches he visited Sicily, India, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Pakistan, the Lebanon, Spain, Jordan, and Israel and he returned in later life to investigate the ancient cultures of these countries, including Baalbek, with his family.

In 1994 he returned permanently to England and was appointed Business Manager for the City of Liverpool Environmental Services with responsibility for maintenance and landscape construction of the city's parks and open spaces.

After retirement up in Liverpool in 2002 he became a senior judge for the Institute of Horticulture Green Flag Awards, having to pass comment on major parks in the UK and overseas including the Royal Parks e.g. St. James's Park. More locally he was engaged in his Rotary district's Tree Planting Programme the Wirral and this year more trees were planted in his name in Birkenhead Park.

In 2003 the Kew Guild awarded Tom with a scholarship that enabled him to study the Commercial and Botanical Horticulture of Costa Rica. He combined this with an effort to raise funds for one of his favourite charities, the National Deaf Children's Society, so he actually cycled across that country to raise funds.

He was an avid supporter of the local rugby club (Caldy), where he supervised the pitch maintenance with a group of elderly gentlemen styling themselves ‘The Last of the Summer Wine’. Richard Ward introduced him to Wirral Rotary Club in 1994, and he became President during 2007-2008.

Tom passed away on Saturday 6th March 2010. He leaves a wife, Julie, and eight children, none of whom are horticulturists, though Kate and Alice are professional zoologists.

Thanks to his wife Julie for the substance of this Obituary.

Tom Risely: A Memory and a Desert Journey

by Jonathan Rickards

The Middle East was further away than it is today when I worked there and much of what is familiar to visitors now was a shadow on the horizon.

In 1977 an escape from recession-torn England and the prospect of another winter of ‘my’ discontent was far more than I needed to accept an overland drive to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Sharjah was previously used as a staging post for Imperial Airways flying boats en route to India. We were stopping there. Now consisting of newly-built and largely unfinished (and unfurnished) Spanish-style villas, and accessed by a largely unstarted road system, together with my colleagues, I drove the Range Rover up to the door of Tom’s villas with his family waiting on the steps. We had only hit one oil barrel on the 18 days of travel, where the road gave out somewhere between Qatar and Abu Dhabi, but it left a dent.

Building landscapes in the desert was not new at the time, but from an English perspective it could have been the moon. Tom relished this challenge and had already established himself as an expert from Kew while waiting for his car to arrive. It was also typical of him to have bypassed the port delays with this solution, and given me an entertaining delivery.

With rainfall being less than four inches a year, botanically it did not look promising. Not having the evolutionary advantage of time, the Arabian flora has not developed any of the strongly attractive adaptations associated with the American, African or South American deserts and over most sandy parts it consists of only short-lived annuals and grasses. To start with I only recognised three trees, or rather I only recognised five plants as trees, and two of those I could not name.

It was time to put my inexperience into practice. The day began by collecting Pathan and Baluchi labourers from underneath another tree (*Ficus bengalensis*), the only one in town, and transporting them to the site. I see myself instructing them on the basics of incorporating organic material into the sand with shovels to create soil. Their willingness to work (at least some of the time) makes up for the lack of equipment but had I been building an Indian railway embankment in the last century, the scene would not have looked out of place.

Several villa gardens got built in this way, and a sports pitch for Sharjah’s national team, with too many idealistic proposals to count. One project took Tom to the Palace, that of the Ruler of Sharjah, Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammad al Qasimi. A

series of small gardens would be created on the outskirts of town for picnicking families to enjoy, each surrounded by hedges and shaded by trees. It would require irrigation and an irrigation engineer from Switzerland was sent for. It needed illustrating for publicity so an artist was commissioned, and it some measure of Tom's judgement in selecting staff that they both still live in the UAE today.

All projects were subject to many variables, good water being the most valued, then mostly drilled, so that it could run saline (nowadays by desalination). Power was also in short supply and power cuts frequent, all of which makes for difficulty of execution when carrying out a project.

Our life was a round of extremes. On one day we might be seated queued in front of a giant bow-fronted desk the size of billiard table with its gold and leather accoutrements, as supplicants in the process of getting paid from a ministry official; the next, well, there's a photograph of Tom and his family visiting a new 'farm' irrigation project, the water gushing forth over the bare ground as yet unsown, having travelled by Rolls Royce, belonging to a cousin of the Ruler.

Desert landscape work is far more interesting horticulturally than architecturally. One can be so pleased to have achieved a growing plant in the prevailing conditions, encountering salt, heat, wind, camels, goats etc., that the design is secondary. Thus landscape architecture, which was to be my ultimate career, took a back seat.

Until recently, architectural aspects of landscape design in the Gulf have followed a similar unsustainable path rather at odds with the enclosed ancient Islamic gardens that surround the area. The new initiative of Masdar, a sustainable city outside Abu Dhabi, may help to reverse this trend.

There were few early floras of the region, it being of more interest to arabists than botanists in the nineteenth century. I had acquired a 'Student's Flora of Egypt' by Täckholm from Cairo University by this time, which I still have, and a copy of 'The Wild Flowers of Kuwait and Bahrain' 1954 by Violet Dickson, but realising the landscape flora was subtropical-cosmopolitan, I did rather better exploring nurseries in India on my leave, and visiting the quaysides in Dubai where dhows would bring plants from Pakistan as deck cargo. Where these had not been watered with seawater by an over-enthusiastic crew, they had the potential of quickly recovering and outgrowing their original size once planted out.

One feature of the region quickly recognisable was the date palm plantations under which imported plants of all types could survive sheltered from the sun and wind, as well as fruits and vegetables. One could drive out on a Friday into the mountains which extend from the Straits of Hormuz through Oman where the best palms grew and camp in their shelter. Fresh dates, quite common now, have a unique taste in season. The Range Rover came in quite handy.

Sadly the picnic project was not to be fulfilled. As oil does, so the money ran out (temporarily at least), and Tom and I went our separate ways. It was to be later projects in Saudi that I imported subtropical plants from around the world, visiting California, Thailand and Sri Lanka to select and despatch plants, some of which we managed to ship by sea from Mexico.

It had been a privilege to live abroad for a while and it is a sign of the times that business today is effected more easily in the region by a visit measured in days rather

than years. I tot up what I know today on the subjects of irrigation, salinity, climate response, plant selection, sand-based growing media, percolation rates, leaching requirements, tropical plants and world flora generally and realise that all I gained at Kew was to be confirmed in the desert environment through Tom's introduction and pioneering confidence.

TERRY SUTCLIFFE

Terry Sutcliffe came to Kew from Nelson Parks Department and began his studentship in April 1957. He was involved with the Social Club, Music Group, all visits, including those to the theatre, especially to any Gilbert and Sullivan. He left Kew in 1959 and was appointed Glasshouse Foreman at Uxbridge Parks Department. Here, he was responsible for staff training, raising plants both for bedding schemes and floral decorations which he staged in the Borough. A year or so later his holiday was a horse-riding jaunt around Dartmoor. Here he met Anne, who he married, in Exeter in 1962.



A few years later, and a complete change of scenery, they moved to Crosse Farm, Cheriton Bishop, north-west of Exeter, a cattle farm, and here they began to breed horses. It was his later trip to Poland, when still under Communist control, that he tapped out his ever-present pipe on the carriage door, which caused consternation for the security guards.

This trip was to obtain new breeding stock, and apparently some of our Olympic mounts can be traced back to this visit. During this time, Tim and Catherine had also arrived on the scene.

A few years later brought another change of address. They acquired a nursery, but still in the same locality. Here he raised annuals and some perennials which he showed locally. A later move to the village of Chagford, Devon, and another nursery, kept Terry busy for several more years, and they celebrated their 45 years of marriage there in April 2007.

Terry's death in April 2010, just after his 75th birthday, came as a great shock. Just a few weeks later, Anne also passed away.

We send our sincere condolences to Tim, Catherine and families.

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2010	TOTAL 2009
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Donations and legacies	2	750		750	5
Membership subscriptions		6,221		6,221	5,685
Investment income and deposit interest	3	16,503	6,836	23,339	12,540
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and other membership activities:					
US Tour					
Annual Dinner		3,102		3,102	3,341
AGM Soiree		380		380	410
Other events and income		25		25	14
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Awards and prizes:					
Donations and legacies	4				1,307
Total incoming resources		26,981	6,836	33,817	23,302
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and membership activities:					
Website project					
Website project		2,145		2,145	25,329
Archiving project		-		-	-
Journal of The Kew Guild		4,874		4,874	5,063
Annual Dinner		3,944		3,944	4,012
AGM Soiree		329		329	232
Presidents' name bars		-		-	-
Presidents' medals		-		-	-
Other events and membership activities		-		-	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Award making: Awards					
Awards	5	480	10,930	11,410	7,677
Prizes	5	605	25	630	621
Student fellowship		100	-	100	36
Diploma Student Cup		-	-	-	129
Kew Guild Garden		-	-	-	-
Kew Guild Medal		377		377	366
Governance costs		1,015		1,015	1,264
Total resources expended	6	13,869	10,955	-	24,824
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		13,112	(4,119)	-	(21,427)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Unrealised gains on investment assets	8	18,282	3,698	5,681	(27,661)
Net movement in funds for the year		31,394	(421)	5,681	(36,654)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	340,368	69,812	86,416	496,596
Total funds carried forward	12	371,762	69,391	92,097	533,250

**THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010**

		2008		2007	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		448,443		420,782
Current assets					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		2,513		2,872	
Debtors	9	7,427		3,367	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	77,676		70,872	
		87,616		77,111	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(2,809)		(1,297)	
Net current assets			84,807		75,814
Net assets			533,250		496,596
Funds and reserves as restated					
Unrestricted general fund	12		97,147		94,995
Unrestricted designated funds	12		274,615		245,373
Restricted funds	12		69,391		69,812
Endowment funds	12		92,097		86,416
Total funds			533,250		496,596

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 15 April 2010 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 STAFF MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD(as at 5th March 2011)

Alsop, Jennifer J.	Gasson, Peter E.	Marriage, Helen D.
Barnes, David M.	Grace, Olwen M.	Morley, James T.
Beattie, James E.	Green, Paul W. C.	Moss, Kath J.
Bell, Sandra D.	Hall, Anthony M.	Nesbitt, Mark
Bower, Rebecca M. †	Hamilton, Martin A.	Owens, Simon J. †
Bowers, Julie	Hancock, Judy	Robinson, Steven P. C.
Brown, Robert, D.	Hardman, David	Sanchez, Michele D.
Chase, Mark W.	Harris, Timothy	Scott-Brown, Alison S.
Clubbe, Colin P.	Hart, Lucy J.	Sellaro, Marcelo
Corcoran, Marcella	Hastings, Laura H.	Shaw, Wesley K.
Crosfield, Sam	Hodgson, Paul E.	Shipp, David A.
Dalton, Annette	Hopper, Stephen D.	Simmonds, Monique S. J.
Darroch, Georgina	Jones, Matilda	Smith, Kathleen
Davis, Steve D.	Kirkham, Tony	Staniforth, Martin
Dolphin, Philippa M.	Kowal, Jill	Tatham, David
Dowding, Kevin	Le Poer Trench, Amanda	Taylor, Nigel P.
Edwards, Robert S.	Leon, Christine J.	Varela-Garrido, Isabel
Everson, Joanne M.	Losse, Michele	Walmisley, Joanna E. H.
Fox, Emma C.	Luke, Andrew	Wojtas, Slawomira E.

RBG STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD(as at 5th March 2011)

Alcock, Robert	Lamb, Alice
Allen, Emma	Middleton, Beccy
Baker, Kelly E.	Miller, Sara L. B.
Bancroft, Neil	Mulrain, Crissy
Chapman, Alison E.	O'Brien, Stephen
Clayton, Karen Marie	Olliffe, Wesley
Cook, Katherine E.	Oram, Lee
De Silva Benedito, Micael Mauricio	Ostley, Phillip M.
Darroch, Georgina	Phillips, Sam A. J.
Das, Sheila	Rees, Paul E. J.
Dixon, Kate	Ross, Maija
Dyer, Adele	Rostek, Anne
Feilen, Peter R. R.	Sarginson, Jen
Gdaniec, Andrzej	Schuman, Lindsey C.
Haines, Stephen J.	Summers, Alexander
Harbott, Elizabeth A.	Walker, Saul P.
Hickey, Timothy P.	Western, Tsuyeko
Hilgenhof, Rebecca	Williams, Craig E.
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