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Editor: Alexandra Ward
Advisory Editor: Richard Ward
Email: kewguleditor@hotmail.com

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Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Front cover:

Main photo: *Banksia* willow sculpture made by Tom Hare to celebrate RBG Kew's 250th anniversary, taken on morning of insertion 26th March 2009 near the Orangery at RBG Kew © Stewart Henchie.

Top inset photo: *Banksia praemorsa*, named by Henry Andrews in 1802 from a plant grown at the Royal Gardens, Kew, from seed collected by Archibald Menzies in Western Australia in 1791 © Alex George, 1976, Albany, Western Australia. Note, 'Royal Gardens' is correct for this period; they became the Royal Botanic Gardens in 1840/41.

Second inset photo: *Banksia menziesii*, named by Robert Brown in 1830 from a specimen collected by Charles Fraser in Western Australia in 1827 © Alex George, 2007, Royal Botanic Gardens, Cranbourne.

Third inset photo: *Banksia integrifolia* subsp. *monticola*, named by Kevin Thiele in 1994 from specimens collected by Alex George in New South Wales in 1979. This has been grown outdoors to flowering at both Kew and Wakehurst Place in recent years © Alex George, Oct 2003, by the Herbarium, Kew.

Bottom inset photo: *Banksia hookeriana*, named by Carl Meisner in 1855 from specimens collected by James Drummond in Western Australia in 1850-51. The name commemorates both William and Joseph Hooker © Alex George, 1975, Eneabba, Western Australia.

Back cover: Joseph Hooker © RGB Kew.

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THE KEW GUILD

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EDITORIAL

Dear fellow Guild members,

Happily once again we have received a bumper amount of copy and thus we have produced another bumper Journal. Thanks go to all our contributors, and to our Printers for their efforts.

Much of your Journals is made up of reports of regular events in the Guild calendar such as the AGM, Dinner, Award Scheme write-ups, news of Kew and Wakehurst Place etc. but the extra, sometimes unexpected, copy material is often forthcoming in late January. Where too much copy is received we will always give preference to Kew Guild members.

Ninety-five percent of copy and photos are now sent to the Editor in electronic form which makes for better accuracy, better definition, easier and quicker communication and all at less cost to the Guild. Deadlines are such that it is just not practical for contributors to proofread their copy – apart from those Committee members who attend our April Committee meeting. However we are grateful to Professor David Cutler for his help in proofreading prior to our final document going to our Printers.

Much time and effort has gone in to planning to improve the Guild website (www.kewguild.org.uk) and we expect that Guild members will soon greatly benefit from this in many ways. Within these pages we have provided the wherewithal for you to keep in contact with The Kew Guild. Also to introduce the Guild to lapsed members. Do it!

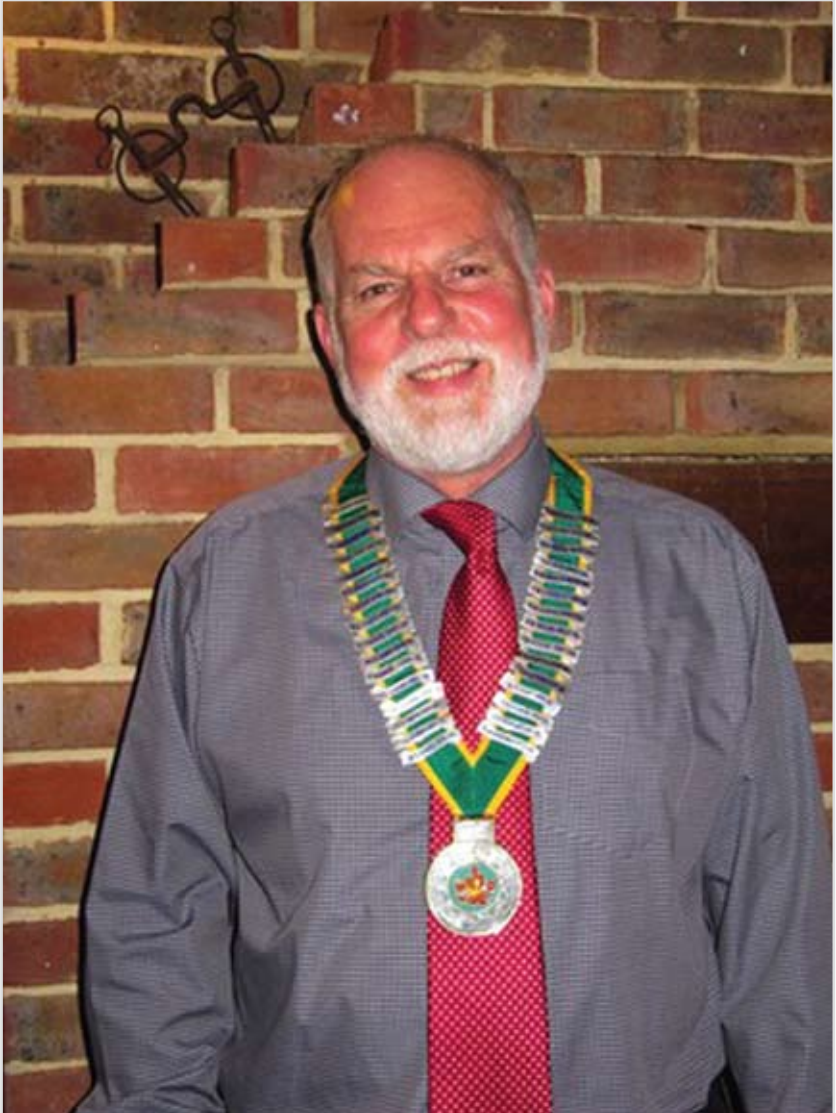
Floreat Kew.

Richard Ward Advisory Editor
Alexandra Ward Editor

62 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AT
Tel/Fax: (020) 8878 6696 Email: kewguildeditor@hotmail.com

President	president@kewguild.org.uk	Stewart Henchie
Acting Secretary	sara@secretgenius.co.uk	Sara Arnold
Treasurer	treasurer@kewguild.org.uk	Jennifer Alsop
Membership	membership@kewguild.org.uk	Judy Hancock
Events	events@kewguild.org.uk	Paul Sadler
Publicity and Promotions	press@kewguild.org.uk	Miranda Kimberley
Awards Scheme	awards@kewguild.org.uk	David Barnes

STEWART HENCHIE
President 2011/2012





Stewart in his garden in Churchtown, 1954

This is a brief reflection of your President's life's journey through horticulture.

Stewart was born in 1949 and didn't come from a family of professional gardeners. His parents were interested in gardening and allowed him to play and experiment in their small suburban garden in Churchtown, near Rathfarnham, South Dublin, Ireland. Being given his own growing patch in the garden was where Stewart started his life-long interest in gardening and the outdoors. His bedroom window looked out onto the derelict 18 C 'Landscape House' which still had an avenue of Monkey Puzzle trees, *Araucaria araucana*, leading up to it. This sight had a lasting impression on him. Little did he realise that later on in his career he would get the chance to collect seed of this incredible tree from its native stands in Chile.

He benefited from the early influences and encouragement of elderly relations, especially Dennis and Phoebe McArdle, who regularly took him to the National Botanic

Garden at Glasnevin, Dublin. Family friends introduced him to the skills of composting, propagation of seeds and growing plants.

Stewart was educated at Rathgar National School, St Andrew's College and Rathmines College of Commerce in Dublin until he moved to the UK to Histon, near Cambridge, with his parents in May 1964.

He attended the local Village College at Impington, north of Cambridge, which had one of the largest rural science departments in East Anglia. At that time it was ably led by Albert S Jones (a Kew student gardener from 1953-55). Albert was a great teacher and helped your President in his Rural Science exams and used him to help in his winter adult evening Gardening class practicals. These were attended by Frank Shaw (a Kew student gardener from 1936-38) who was the County Horticultural Officer to Cambridgeshire Education Committee.

While at Impington he was able to go on a work experience week to Unwins Seeds also then based at nearby Histon, where he learned the joys of manually mixing growing media, Sweet Pea sowing and sweeping the floors of seeds that had fallen out of seed packets in the packing area. The best bit was being allowed to take them home and grow them!

At 16 years of age, in the summer of 1965, Stewart left Impington Village College and began his horticultural career at Cambridge City Parks working in all the various parts of the Department at that time managed by Parks Superintendent Tom Garwood (also

Kew student gardener in the 1950's). Amazingly these three gentlemen never influenced or persuaded him to make a career in Botanic Garden horticulture, but perhaps some of their passion did rub off eventually!



Stewart planting out Pansy seedlings at Cherryhinton Hall,
Cambridge Parks Dept, July 1966

In September 1967 Stewart decided to pursue a career in commercial horticulture and attended the Isle of Ely College, Wisbech, gaining the National Certificate in Commercial Horticulture. No botanical influence arose but great teaching in the principles and practice of Horticulture, leaving in July 1968 with the best all round student prize. In April 1965 the college organised a study trip to Holland, Germany and Denmark.

Moving on, he went to Chobham, Surrey as a 'ganger' (team leader in today's language) to work at T.Hilling and Co., a large commercial grower of open ground nursery stock, and then moved to a nearby wholesale Roselands Nursery working in their propagation and container section. In early 1968 he applied and was interviewed for the Kew Diploma course but was unsuccessful, as he needed further practical experience. So with contacts gained at the college he applied to work in Boskoop, Holland at PJ Grootendorst, a grower and exporter of high value shrubs and conifers.

In September 1970, after the year's practical experience, he commenced the three-year Kew Diploma Course under the watchful eye of Leo Pemberton.

During those three years of studying and practical work in the Sections under the influence of Assistant Curators Brian Halliwell, George Brown, Charles Erskine, John Warrington and Gardens Supervisors, Pat Smallcombe, Alan Cook, Hans Fliegner, John Woodhams, Ruth Storr (née Henderson), Bill Bridle, Jack Jackman, Jack Sadler, 'Jock' Slater and 'Mac' MacDonald, he stored up horticultural lessons for life. Many memories of practical work could be written up.

A few highlights are:

Brian Halliwell's practical classes and working in his office as his assistant – Alan Titchmarsh was the assistant before him and his was a hard act to follow with written skills that can be seen in bookshops today!

Digging out (your President always seemed to be digging!) the Annexe attached to the

Temperate House with Paul Everett a Diploma student from Australia.

Water fights with Roger Holmes, in the Centre Section, luckily closed to the public at that time!

Moving and transplanting large Rhododendrons in The Dell under the direction of Ian Beyer using crude but effective methods.

Thinning out directly sown annuals in pans for the Alpine House with tweezers!

Planting the Order Beds far too quickly for Alan Cook's liking because Stewart had been used to fast and effective planting in commercial conditions in Holland.

Finally, before the end of the course, all alone in the old Cacti and Succulent house but being paid overtime, he repotted all the succulent plants from clay pots into plastic pans. This enabled him to get enough money to supplement an award to work at the Arnold Arboretum and visit Botanic Gardens all the way down the East coast of North America afterwards.

In his final student year the post of Garden's Supervisor of the newly amalgamated Temperate and Arboretum Nursery arose, which he successfully obtained. He started in post the week after the Student course ended at the end of September 1973, following Graham A Pattison. He managed to pass the course with Credit but missed the prize-giving as he was still in North America. His proud parents received his prizes – The Matilda Smith Memorial, The Proudlock and for the best Vegetable Garden Plot – on his behalf, no doubt remembering his 'first garden'.

Apart from supervising the daily work in the nursery and learning how to lead a team, he grasped other opportunities. The very first was to put up an exhibit in 1975 for the first International Conservation Conference at Kew, and exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, under the guiding hand of Gren Lucas. This showed living plants and habitats endangered in the wild. In 1975 and 1977 he was part of the expeditions led by Dr Ronald Melville with Jim Keesing and Ruth Storr (née Henderson) scouring the English countryside collecting mainly soft wood cuttings of Elm, *Ulmus* clones/species. This involved plotting their positions and collecting herbarium specimens of each tree. It was carried out before the Elm Bark Beetle finally destroyed this most magnificent tree on our skyline.

In the summer of 1977 he assisted Alan Radcliffe-Smith collecting seed, live and herbarium specimens in the mountains and valleys of Yemen. John I. Wood, a British Council employee living in that country, used his local knowledge to support this expedition.

Promotion followed, becoming an Assistant Curator of the Services Section responsible for the arboricultural management of all the trees at Kew plus centralised purchasing, management and development of horticultural mechanisation at Kew under the guiding eye of Ian Beyer. The responsibilities of this section increased to include bulk purchasing for the living collections, the living plants records database, centralised growing media mixing and large scale composting of all plant materials generated on site at Kew.

During this period of eighteen years, apart from developing and expanding all these areas, the Section was involved in each major new build or refurbishment project involving the Temperate House, Palm House, The Princess of Wales Conservatory, Sir Joseph Banks Building and Rock Garden.

In 1985 he became an expedition leader travelling to Southern Chile with Tony Kirkham, mainly collecting seed and herbarium specimens of woody trees and shrubs. In October 1987 the biggest arboricultural challenge to the section arrived in the shape of hurricane winds. This tested the Section's expertise in the clearing up operation, disposal of timber and the systematic inspection and pruning of the tree collection over the next three years. Garden Supervisor Roger Howard and leading tree pruner Andy McClure and others carried out this huge job.



Stewart showing his children Matthew and Anna how to sow in the garden of Kew Cottage, 1980

In 1995 with the retirement of Hans Fliegner he made a lateral move to become the Assistant Curator, Temperate Section, which involved the management of four of Kew's largest display glasshouses, and the nursery which supplied them and the Arboretum. Following Charles Erskine's retirement in June 1999, responsibility for both the Arboretum and the Temperate Sections passed to Stewart until the Living Collections Department was restructured. From mid-February to March 2000 he led a further seed collection and herbarium specimen expedition with Charles Shine to the Temperate rain forests on the slopes of the volcanic mountains in Southern Chile.

The Department was renamed the Horticultural and Public Education Department. The restructuring process was challenging for all in the Department and Stewart was interviewed for and appointed Head of the Hardy Display Section in April 2001. This was previously the Alpine and Herbaceous Section with a large part of the North Arboretum. He had the task of reorganising the management of just under a third of the most intensively managed part of the gardens, recruiting new staff and building a new team.

On his first day in his new department he was informed by the Curator, Nigel Taylor that Kew had been given a prestigious donation. Ruth Stafford-Jones had given her

personal Bonsai collection, which she had lovingly grown and nurtured for over forty years. He had to find a new home for the public display of the collection. This was the old Alpine House site with a new glasshouse donated by Hartley Glasshouses.

During May 2001 he began the first of six working visits ending in September 2009 to the Caribbean, to the devastated volcanic island of Montserrat. In cooperation with the Montserrat National Trust, this Overseas Territories project led by Colin Clubbe and assisted by him was tasked to redesign the garden, build a nursery in the newly relocated botanic garden and train local staff. Martin Hamilton, Jeeun Song, James Beattie and Nick Johnson contributed their skills to the task on different visits.

In 2002 Stewart was in charge of implementing a new and challenging project set out by the Director of Kew, Prof. Peter Crane. This was to look more critically at the landscape and use of the North Eastern part of the gardens. This linked to the proposed new extension of the Jodrell Laboratory. This critical analysis resulted in the demolition of the 1981 Alpine House and the clearing of the northern part of the Rock Garden in readiness for the design and build of an iconic new Alpine House. It was designed by Wilkinson Eyre with a donation provided by Mr Davies – hence the Davies Alpine House.

This prestigious task was completed in 2006 through in-house expertise. Katie Price and Richard Wilford completed the internal landscaping and planting whilst Joanne Everson and Charles Shine completed the external landscaping and rockwork surrounding the house. Following the completion of the Davies Alpine House, the Grass Garden was redesigned with funds donated by Michael Garston. The beds and planting were rearranged and new brick pathways laid, enabling a link between the Aquatic Garden, Grass Garden and Secluded Garden.

Your President continued to lead the department in a further part of the north eastern project. This was the relocation of the Student Vegetable Plots. He remembered when he had his vegetable plot where the Sir Joseph Banks Building now stands, and considers still how important this valuable task still is especially as he had the best plot! This project was part funded by the generous legacy of Stella Ross-Craig to the Kew Guild and with Kew funds enabled a ‘badger-free’ area to be opened to the public to view close up the vegetables grown by first year Diploma students. The detailed design work and time for the project was provided by past Kew Guild President Allan Hart, and Roy Lancaster formally opened the plots in May 2008.

Stewart led many alterations and changes in this reorganised section. Finally, to celebrate RBG Kew’s 250-year anniversary a world map was constructed near Victoria Gate. This showed RBG Kew’s importance around the world through examples of Kew’s outreach work. Your President had the enormous privilege and pleasure to design and indeed plant and do some real ‘hands on horticulture’ creating the anniversary beds to complement the map.

In September 2010 after forty years as a proud employee of Kew, and with his wife Pat and family living on site for thirty-two of those years, he retired to Teignmouth, Devon. Has he left horticulture behind? No.

He was on the original board of PlantNet then renamed PlantNetWork. After

retirement he continues this important work of linking up the plant collections and associated training in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. He is now a very active volunteer involved in the care of a recently restored orangery built in 1842 in the grounds of Bitton Park, Teignmouth. Not as large as the other glasshouses he has cared for but an important part of the town's history.

Perhaps of greatest importance for the future of horticulture and for his grandchildren living in Holland and Wales he is providing 'hands on' horticulture and fun.

JONATHAN RICKARDS

Vice President 2011/2012



I began my career at Regent's Park in central London as an apprentice under Millar Gault as superintendent and Jim Smith as foreman, both formidable characters, sharing with Bob Ivison and Michael Fitt, (Royal Parks Guild) contemporaries above me, the formative experience in horticulture the London Royal Parks had to offer.

Our studies were supervised by George Cooke who went on to be superintendent of Hampton Court, and who Michael Fitt was later to succeed.

In those days, one tried for Kew and Wisley to take one's career forward, both very different places and equally prized, but my instinct favoured Kew on account of its botanical bias. I became interested in the growth of plants under extremes of climate, soil and moisture, in particular plants such as Cycads which have extreme longevity, and the adaptations they possess. Several years spent in the Middle East in the early 80's helped to test out some new plants and establish them in landscape schemes under extremes of climate.

Whether or not one's career is served staring into a computer I can't be sure, but I booked many hours doing so in the course of furthering my career in landscape architecture when I returned to the UK.

The deskwork has been offset by the excitement of new projects and only now am I appreciating the breadth and variety of work it has created over the past 25 years. I have recently become involved in wetland design at the London Olympics and have been supervising the installation of the '2012 Gardens' which run alongside the River Lea at the Stratford Olympic site. Landscape architects rarely retire, but in the course of slowing down I hope I can disseminate some of my experiences via the Guild and help develop its strengths.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHARLES FUNKE

Observation and Circumstance

*Twenty Bridges from Tower to Kew
(Twenty Bridges or Twenty-Two)
Wanted to know what the River knew
For they were young and the River was old
And this is the tale that the River told
(Rudyard Kipling)*

When I was asked by Richard Ward to contribute some lines to the magazine, he intimated that I might consider centering the article around my landscape projects both at home and abroad.

Before launching into examples of such works, I thought it prudent to describe where I believe my journey through the Landscape of Man began. The logic of perhaps why I chose to open this article with words from Kipling will I hope, become clear as the article progresses.

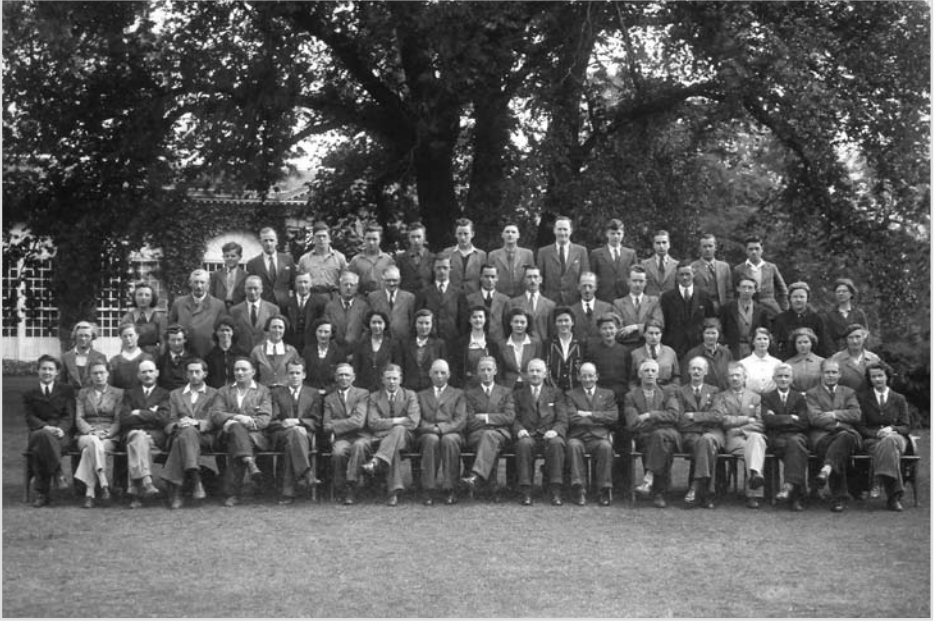
My first thoughts of anything of a living green nature stem from early days as a child, frequenting the various green parks and/or squares of the City of London where I was born. In company with my father, we would frequently walk all the way from Clerkenwell, where we lived, down and along the Barbican, ending along Walbrook, down to the River's edge. The circuitous bus journey back was always a great relief.

In addition to the London walks in the parks, we as children would accompany mother and father to Kassel in Germany for summer holidays. Whilst mother was an east end lass, father's parental home was Kassel.

The city of Kassel has an exceptional park, and sits at the base of a great Cascade of Hercules. Many happy hours were spent wandering the many green walks and rose gardens of the Hercules Strasse. The formal Nature of the Landscape as described by Großvater on our walks are in my mind to this day.

At the age of fifteen I was accompanied by my parents for an interview with W. M. Campbell, the curator of RBG Kew at the time. 'Big Bill' as he was affectionately known, was to have an effect on my life that is perpetuated to this day. I consider myself a most fortunate fellow to have been taken under the wing of such a professional person.

Accompanying these few words is a collective photograph of the entire RBG Kew team of 1943. Again, the guidance and friendship of this community of *Homo sapiens* reflects on myself and my commitments to Horticulture to this very day. When looking back as a rather small and insignificant potting shed apprentice, one of the early comments made directly to myself by W. M. Campbell was that I should take myself to the Shaft Yard. There I was to identify any plants growing on the ash heap that was the residue of the Palm House boilers. The comment was posed when a



The entire RBG Kew of 1943 (Charles Funke back row far left)

similar apprentice to myself, named Roy Cropley, was studying after a day's work in the library of Descano House. The question had arisen because I queried the use of such material in the standing ground, by the Economics House in the dec pit area.

Having duly named the subject matter it became obvious that when any contaminated material such as fossil fuels etc., when allowed to become aerobic from an anaerobic state, nature takes over. In the case in question, the Shaft Yard had a stockpile of very old ash in one corner, where the upper echelons had been leached over a period of time. My interest in sustainable matter to support plant life began.

I have been privileged to work with many great architects, but as with W. M. Campbell, one architect stands out above all others. The main reason for this is the importance he has always attached to the built form of any structure, having a symbiosis with the external surroundings of a living landscape. I refer of course to Sir Phillip Dowson.

This period of a total immersion into the world of horticulture on my entry into Kew continued for a period of two years. The principal departments that I traversed were the dec pits and the Arboretum nursery. Together with soil-less cultivation and related sub-irrigation trials, propagation in both departments dominated my daily life. The time came for myself to leave Kew and once again I must pay tribute to W. M. Campbell.

The knowledge accrued during my time at Kew was to enable myself and a small team of colleagues to embark on implementing in 1973 roof gardens that to this day

represent a mini Park in the Sky. I mention this project, which was an Arup Associates design under the direction of Sir Phillip Dowson. The project in question was Mountbatten House for Wiggins Teape, Basingstoke.

This was my first serious landscape element where all general soil levels did not exceed 30 cms. We contoured up to 40 cms where we wished to develop any trees of a serious height. Students from Kew, under Emma Fox and her predecessor, have visited the roof levels in question on several occasions.

Resultant from my time in the Arboretum and an increasing interest in ericaceous shallow rooting plants, W. M. Campbell had discussed with me the opportunities of going to Bodnant Gardens and working with Lord Aberconway for further study. Having jumped at this, W. M. Campbell even arranged my travel itinerary. I recently found in my notes a copy of a letter to my parents indicating that the head gardener F. C. Puddle, who was a great plantsman in his own right, would meet me at Llandudno Junction Station at the head of the Conwy Valley in North Wales. My life once again began to change direction.

Instead of giving you an example of my work abroad I will name four projects in the City of London that have a clear symbiotic element with one another. Each of the named projects have an all up planting depth that does not exceed 40cms. General open areas do not exceed 30 cms in depth.

- St Swithin's Churchyard which is part of 25 Walbrook, City of London (see photo below).
- St Stephen's Churchyard, Walbrook.
- New Court Tower, Rothschild Bank, which has St Stephen's Walbrook as its adjoining garden and its own garden at 11th floor level.
- Barings Asset Management, 12th floor level, Asian and European Terraces, 155 Bishopsgate, City of London.

In the case of the St. Swithin's, 40 cms was the limit for any excavation or make-up for reasons of human remains in shallow graves. This equally applied to St Stephen's. In the case of the Rothschild Tower and Barings Asset Management weight loadings constrained the volume and depth of soils.



My parents and Großvater have long passed but as I pass through Walbrook at frequent intervals I imagine

I hear laughter from a cloud amongst whom must be W. M. Campbell.

*But I'd have you know that these waters of mine
Were once a branch of the River Rhine
When hundreds of miles to the East I went
And England was joined to the Continent.*
(Rudyard Kipling)

JIM HANDLEY



I was introduced to horticulture in my late teens through working at Frank P. Matthews Ltd. a large wholesale nursery specialising in fruit and ornamental trees in Worcestershire. After spending two years there I decided to travel and became a builder's labourer in order to save enough money. During this time I met my now wife, Jo, who was taking a gap year and planning to travel Europe. So six months later we found ourselves in a very old but trustworthy Talbot campervan travelling through the Pyrenees

with a leaky petrol tank and broken ball joints! Having carried us through France, Spain, Switzerland, Italy and Ireland we arrived home penniless and I was bearded!

At this point I decided to rejoin the education system and enrolled at Warwick College's Moreton Morrell site to study a National Certificate in Horticulture and having enjoyed this, decided to bridge the certificate to the National Diploma which was awarded with a distinction grade. Whilst studying I worked part time at The Cottage Herbery, a small nursery producing herbs and cottage garden plants organically, bio-dynamically and peat free.

Having completed the Diploma with plant idents, work placements and study blocks merging seamlessly, alongside getting married and having our first baby, a major highlight was my travel scholarship to Ascension Island, which would not have been possible without the support of the Guild.

Since leaving Kew, I have worked at Friar Park in Henley on Thames and am now currently the sole gardener at Stonor Park, managing the three acre walled garden. I look forward to being part of the Guild and to promoting its benefits to future students and staff as they begin life at Kew.

TONY OVERLAND

Tony commenced his career in horticulture in 1957 as an apprentice gardener with the City of Manchester Parks Dept. In April 1963 he entered Kew as one of 10 students on the last intake of the two-year course.

During his time at Kew he worked in the temperate house, the orchid house, and the tropical pits. He also spent some six months with fellow student Clive Popham developing the profiling and structure of the Queen's garden behind Kew Palace. Tony returned to Manchester in 1965 as technical assistant in the landscape design office and during this period gained the Diploma of the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration. In 1966 he married his wife Jan and had twin sons and a daughter.

In 1970 he was appointed Deputy Chief Officer of Parks and Amenities at the London Borough of Ealing. He spent some five years there with responsibility for parks, swimming pools, leisure centres and other amenities.

In 1975 he moved to the Metropolitan Borough of Knowsley, Merseyside, as Deputy Director of Community Services, later becoming Director of Contract Services. The duties here were to create a new department, to submit, win and operate tenders for running all services subject to the government's competition rules. The department eventually had a workforce of some 1700 people with responsibility for Highways maintenance, Refuse collection, Transport services, School meals, Building cleaning, Security services, Public halls, Parks and Open spaces.



All of this he found very challenging and interesting, but far removed from his real interest of growing plants and developing his garden. So in the nineties he took early retirement and started a specialist plant nursery with his twin sons and daughter. The nursery and garden at Stonyford Cottage (www.stonyfordgardens.co.uk) is centered around a large pool and wetland area, close to Delamere Forest. Open to the public, they showcase many of the plants for sale at the nursery and are listed as one of Cheshire's Gardens of Distinction.

Tony's other interests include membership of the local parish council, committee member of Mid Cheshire Bridleway Association. He is also involved in tourism activities, with Marketing Cheshire and the Gardens of Distinction Steering Group.

ALAN STUTTARD

Well it's nearly 40 years since I finished the Kew Diploma Course and as a fresh faced horticulturalist, went out into the 'big wide world' to earn a living. All of that time has been spent in a career within the public sector, with horticulture playing a major part in many of the roles in which I have been involved.

On leaving Kew I remained in London working for the London Borough of Haringey where I led firstly, the Landscape Design Group, then the Horticultural Maintenance Group and finally co-ordinated the work of both groups as Head of the Parks Service.

The mid 80s saw the role of horticulture diminish in the public sector, to become subsumed into the broadening Recreation Services and for me it was time to move on.



In 1988 I moved to the Midlands taking on responsibility for Parks and Open Spaces, Museums and Tourism for Worcester City Council. Whilst I planned to stay for only 3-4 years, I eventually stayed until taking early retirement two years ago (plans rarely turn out as expected!)

These were exciting times of change that allowed me to fulfil a number of roles within the recreation remit and for which the provision of horticultural services, park refurbishment and open space improvement remained key elements. The roles of Head of Recreational and then Cultural Services allowed me to continue promoting the benefits of horticulture in the improvement of the city and for it to play a big part in developing its recreational 'offer'.

In a time of reducing resources, it was good to see us finding new methods of service management and new sources of external capital to undertake an improvement programme which eventually had an impact on all of the city's major Parks and Open Spaces. It was also amazing to see the growing enthusiasm that the local communities had for their Parks, whether it was through increase in usage, satisfaction rates, or through the number of joint management arrangements that we were able to forge.

I eventually completed my career as the Council's Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive). This allowed me to use the many years of experience for service improvement gained in the Parks and Recreational sector to start to address the Council wide need for review and structural change to meet the new stringent financial climates that local authorities find themselves in. All in all, an interesting career journey for a garden apprentice from Accrington, Lancashire.

Suddenly, retirement has allowed me the time to pick up on all those interests that work commitments had rendered dormant and not surprisingly horticulture was high on the list. The need to 'garden' has driven me to acquire extra land adjacent to my home and embark on the creation of an orchard stocked with some of the more historic fruit varieties, whilst also, for the first time in many years, allowing me to develop my very own allotment.

Then, as part of furthering my botanical interests and seemingly completing the 'full circle', I joined the committee of the Kew Guild and re-established my links with Kew. I have to say, after only a couple of meetings, "it's great to be back".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Sara Arnold, Acting Secretary

The Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild held on Saturday 10th September 2011 at Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, West Sussex RH17 6TN

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

01.11 Welcome by the President

The president opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

02.11 Apologies for Absence

Colin Hindmarch, Alexandra Ward, Mike Clift, Dr. Shirley Sherwood, David Barnes, Wolfgang Bopp, David Cutler, Michèle Losse, Jim Mitchell, Pamela Holt (delayed by travel in Italy), Jean Bell, R. Bletsoe, M. Lycett, J. Woodhams, Phil Cribb, Stephen Hopper, Roy Lancaster, G. Morgan, James Mitchelmore, Diana Polhill, Martin Sands, Nigel Taylor, Alan Stuttard, Tim Stretton, John Simmons, Prof I Prance, Mary Thorp.

03.11 Notice of Death of Members

The following members died during the 2010/11 Kew Guild Year:

Peter Kilby

Alan Barber – Alan was the recipient of the Kew Guild Medal in 2010.

04.11 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 11th September 2010 printed in the Journal.

There was one amendment to the minutes; the Retiring President's report on pp.483-484 was attributed to Peter Crane and should be amended to read Simon Owens.

With the amendment agreed, Jean Griffin proposed that the committee accept the minutes. Allan Hart seconded and the committee approved. The President signed the minutes as a true and correct record.

05.11 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

There were no Matters Arising.

06.11 The Honorary Secretary's Report – Kenwyn Pearson

The Committee has met four times during the year in the Kew Guild room in the Herbarium. It is hoped the Guild can continue to meet in this room.

The year has been eventful for Kenwyn, culminating in his resignation from the post of Honorary Secretary. The President thanked Kenwyn for all his work over the years, being a true stalwart of the Guild. The meeting gave him a rousing round of applause.

07.11 Treasurer's report – Jennifer Alsop – Financial Statements printed in the Journal

The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2010. The restricted funds decreased by £421 and the unrestricted funds increased by £31,394.

Income in 2010 totalled £33,817 of which £6,221 was from subscriptions, £23,339 from our investments and £750 from donations.

Awards and prizes of £11,410 were made and £4,874 was spent on producing the Journal.

There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £27,661. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units. £92,097 in the endowment funds, £69,391 in restricted funds, £274,615 in designated funds and £97,147 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2011.

There were no questions and the meeting approved the accounts for the year ended 31.12.2011.

The meeting also approved the appointment of an Independent Examiner for the annual accounts of 2011.

It is proposed that the subscription rates remain the same as 2010: £15 for full membership, £6 for Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Diploma Students and £20 for Library members. The meeting accepted this proposal.

08.11 Membership Secretary's report – Judy Hancock

Membership as at 8th September 2011

Membership category	Numbers
Staff	55
Students	38
Library	1
Standard	352
Life	12
Total	458

New Membership Proposals

Name	Kew Connection
Heli Fitzgerald nee' Markkola	(ex Diploma student)
Aude de Liedekerke	(ex Diploma student)
Barbara Boyle	(ex volunteer Guide Co-ordinator at Kew)

Above membership approved via email to committee members, September 2011.

Membership

First of all, I would like to thank Alex George, Stewart Henchie and Richard Ward for their sterling work in connection with trying to identify and contact ex-Kewites and encourage them to re-join/join the Kew Guild. Unfortunately I have to say that I have not received a great response following the mail out. However as membership of the Guild officially runs from the 1st January to 31st December, hopefully I will be inundated with requests to join at the beginning of next year...

Thanks also to Sara Arnold for professionally helping out with the AGM and other notices mail out.

Friends of Kew Membership

At our committee meeting in October, we will need to discuss what is now on offer to Guild Members in connection with Friends of Kew membership. There have been a number of changes to the membership terms and conditions on offer to both RBG Kew/Wakehurst Place staff and the general public. Information in connection with this will need to be updated on the website.

HMRC are looking into what membership entails and have found that it wasn't compliant with their rules. Kew is re-looking at their membership rules and further information will be passed on as soon as it is available. The Guild is aware that correct information needs to go on the web site.

There were no questions for Judy.

09.11 Events Officer's report – Paul Sadler

It is surprising how quickly the year has gone. It is my second year as Events Officer but it was not as successful as it could have been.

The Annual Dinner was attended by over 50 guests and it was my first year as Master of Ceremonies, taking over from Richard Ward who has done this for the past 31 years.

The Committee noted the concern over the cost of the Annual Dinner and how this affects attendance. We are exploring alternative ways of holding the Annual Dinner and what the needs of the members are.

Martin Staniforth arranged the Olympic Park tour this year and there is an article about it on the web site.

The proposed tour to South Devon didn't materialise but I learnt a lot and still have the option to rearrange.

Thank you to David Hardman and his colleagues for arranging this AGM weekend.

Date for the diary: Cambridge Botanic Garden tour on 29th October, being the first in a very exciting year of events to come.

10.11 Editor's report – Alexandra Ward

The Events of 2010 Journal was produced on time at a cost of £4,874. The higher cost was associated with 50 additional copies printed due to membership increase and 36 additional pages as many more articles were submitted this year, which make for an ever more interesting Journal.

Thank you to all contributors and in particular to outgoing Secretary Kenwyn Pearson, Graham Burgess for compiling obituaries and Nigel Hepper for compiling 'News of Kewites'.

Reminders and copyright assignment forms for regular contributors will be sent out with the October Committee agenda.

11.11 Web site and Archives Officer's report – David Hardman

This item was not on the Agenda.

Presenting my report will be my last task as the Website Manager and Archives Officer, which I seem to have been undertaking for many years now. It has been an interesting learning journey grappling with each new challenge. You will remember that the archives project investigated the wealth of information we hold on Kew's Archive and undertook to catalogue and index it to make it more accessible to all. Then when Christopher Weddell handed me the literature for the web site I reluctantly agreed to take this forward. The logical step was to expand the archive and take forward work scanning the journals as the first phase of the Website project.

Working with SomCom approximately 12,000 pages of text were scanned from the journals all about the Kew Guild and its members, a very basic website was created and launched at the AGM two years ago. We have continued to develop the website but it is now time to take it to the next stage which is the website appearance and expanding its potential for members.

On Wednesday 18th May a group of Kewites (Alex George, Miranda Kimberley, Mike Wilkinson, Graham Burgess and I) met with SomCom at Wakehurst Place regarding the Kew Guild website and its future development. Alex chaired a very productive meeting which covered a range of topics about the current website and how it might be improved in content and accessibility. In the afternoon, time was spent discussing the recommendation from the development workshop some years ago and to create a skills database. Like all the other aspects of the website, it will need members to provide information about themselves for it to succeed.

It became apparent that there is already a lot available that we are not using within the website area that could be developed. The style and appearance was discussed with SomCom who recommended we change to a new framework format that would improve the accessibility and ease of use and provide a modern feel.

Today we have the new draft front page outline to show you.

I am not a computer expert so David Pottinger from SomCom has kindly agreed to attend today and will be happy to explain what is possible. We do not have time to enter discussions in this meeting; he will also stay for the soirée.

Your Trustees agreed to take Phase 2 of the website project forward so Jonathan Rickards and Bob Ivison will now continue these discussions on behalf of the Guild with SomCom.

I will of course be happy to assist them as they go forward, if asked.

It is important that members are aware that maintaining the website in the future will need funding if we want to project a professional image.

I must take this opportunity to thank Kevin Wah who lives in the USA. I am extremely grateful for all his support and technical skills in keeping the site alive. Also to David Pottinger and his colleagues at SomCom for their help as we tackled each issue as it arose. His contribution needs to be recorded.

Concluding, I would like to wish Jonathan and Bob every success in taking Phase 2 of the website forward and to Michèle Losse who has kindly agreed to take over as the Archives Officer. We are extremely lucky that she is prepared to do this and as a professional archivist at Kew we can be sure the Guild archive will be in good hands. Look through your paperwork for any archives that may be relevant. Try to format it in a way Michèle can use. I wish Michèle every success; I know they will all do a sterling job for the Guild and thank you to everyone for their support over the years.

11.11 Award Scheme report – David Barnes

As always I am very grateful for the support given by all members of the Committee to making the process an easy and enjoyable one.

Since the last AGM we have received sixteen applications, fourteen of which were successful to a total value of £11,540.

The unsuccessful applicants were because they either already had full funding or the proposal was inappropriate.

With the Editor's help we are almost up to date with the reports from award winners. There are a couple outstanding that missed being included in the last Journal, but they will go into the next. It is good to see that the applications are still wide and varied in their subject matter as well as their global destinations. The Guild continues to have influence across the globe!

12.11 Result of Prize Day

The Prize Day was yesterday, 9th September 2011. The Individual Study Prize was awarded to Richard Greaves, the Kew Guild Cup to Alexander Summers and the Proudlock Prize to Nimai Hedemark. It was a very successful afternoon, with a stimulating address from the guest of honour, Sir David Attenborough.

13.11 Retiring Presidents Report – Alex George

I think I must have the easiest job in presenting a report, since those officers who have worked hard have told you most of the year's progress.

In accepting this position last year I commented on my long journey from a boyhood in Western Australia, and on the wonderful diversity of Kew and its people. The past 12 months have emphasised that diversity and strengthened my links to an organisation that will always hold a special place in my life.

It has been an interesting experience to occupy the position at a distance, although knowing Kew well, Wakehurst not quite so well, and having met most of the committee has made the gap smaller, even appearing non-existent at times. Having email has made it possible – there were times (afternoon and evening in Perth) when emails were flying back and forth between committee members. Because of the distance, I have been perhaps more dependent than most presidents on the Guild's committee and advisors. I acknowledge very deeply the Trustees and advisors, but I have to give a special and very large 'thank you' to Mike Wilkinson for chairing meetings on my behalf, and to Kenwyn Pearson for being an ever-prompt Secretary. We had just four committee meetings, the fifth that should have been held in

December being cancelled because many members were snowed in! That's one experience that we never have in Perth.

Membership

We had a membership drive throughout Kew and Wakehurst Place, which attracted just a few new members. But then, Richard Ward and Stewart Henchie, assisted by Judy Hancock, put many hours into drawing up a list of 134 potential members, to whom a letter of invitation was sent. To make it easy for them we included a membership application and standing order form. I also contacted former ABLOs (most of whom qualify for membership by spending a year, in a few instances 6 or 9 months, at Kew). As Judy has reported, these approaches resulted in a number of new members.

Journal

With this year's number we completed 15 volumes of the Journal, containing 115 numbers. The eagle-eyed readers among you will have spotted that number 115 has an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) on the cover and title page. This will appear on all future numbers. It's used especially by library cataloguers and bibliographers. The next number of the Journal will include an index to the five numbers of volume 115.

Website

A number of members, together with David Pottinger from our hosting company SomCom, participated in discussions and a meeting in May aimed at improving our website. SomCom drew up a quote for taking it to Phase 2, and this was accepted by the Committee. I want to acknowledge David Hardman's work on the website. He has put a great deal of time and effort into improving it, and I have to emphasise his plea for members to become active in using it, and especially contributing, for it to be successful.

Archives

As from this AGM we have an officer dedicated to co-ordinating the Guild's archives. It so happens that Michèle Losse works in the archives of RBG Kew so we have a seamless connection. Guidelines are in place for those members of the Committee who should provide papers for archiving. I encourage them to submit these.

Strategy

This was updated for the period 2011–2016.

Job descriptions for committee members

These were revised and may be viewed on the website.

Guild international tours

Guidelines for these were accepted.

Other matters

We have resumed use of the Kew Guild Room in Hunter House. The future use of the room is being reviewed by the Herbarium and I hope we will soon have confirmation that we may continue to use it.

The Guild is supporting a meeting on 9th December this year to commemorate the centenary of the death of Sir Joseph Hooker, Kew's second Director. There will be about six papers on Hooker and his legacy, and we anticipate that they will be published soon afterwards. The meeting will be held in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre on 9th December. Registration is £35 (£15 for students) which includes morning and afternoon tea, lunch, a reception and a tour of an exhibition.

I have already acknowledged Kenwyn's support but would you all like to thank him for his contribution to the Guild over a number of years. You would be hard pressed to find anyone more dedicated to our organisation. Kenwyn, thank you, and accept our best wishes as you settle into your new environment.

Concluding

From the winter's day in December 1967 when I first entered the herbarium, Kew became a special part of my life. I have been so very fortunate to have been able to stay closely associated through these four decades, and the past year has confirmed and extended that association. They say that all good things come to an end... for me, the past year has been a very good thing but, whilst it is ending in one sense, in another it is not. I look forward to continued fellowship in the Guild, and I offer any member who visits Perth a warm welcome.

So, a big 'Thank you' to Kew and all the Kewites who have so enriched my life over the past 43 years. And thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your President.

14.11 Retiring members of the Committee

Mike Wilkinson is finishing his second year as Vice President, Simon Owens is finishing his term as Immediate Past President. Kenwyn Pearson is standing down as Secretary. David Hardman is standing down as Website and Archives Officer. He will continue to sit on the Committee as the Kew Gardens Representative. Kevin Wah is also standing down as Website Manager.

Four Committee members are finishing their three-year term: Wolfgang Bopp, Jonathan Rickards, Martin Sands and Paul Sadler. Paul will continue to sit on the Committee as Events Officer.

On behalf of the Guild, the President gave thanks to all these members for their contribution to the Guild over a number of years. Alex then presented Mike Wilkinson with a certificate marking his term as Vice President.

15.11 Election of officers: Proposed

President	Stewart Henchie
President Elect	Progression from President Elect Jim Mitchell
Vice Presidents	Proposed: Mike Wilkinson Seconded: Jennifer Alsop Jonathan Rickards (first year) Proposed: Alex George Seconded: David Hardman Pamela Holt (second year)

Honorary Secretary	Vacant (Acting Secretary, Sara Arnold) No nominations received. Committee accepted SA as Acting Secretary
Honorary Treasurer	Jennifer Alsop continuing
Honorary Membership Secretary	Judy Hancock continuing
Award Scheme Chairperson	David Barnes continuing
Kew Gardens Representative	David Hardman Proposed: K. Pearson Seconded: Judy Hancock
Events Officer	Paul Sadler continuing
Editor	Alexandra Ward continuing
Website Officer	Bob Ivison Proposed: David Hardman Seconded: Alex George
Website Manager	Jonathan Rickards Proposed: David Hardman, Seconded: Stewart Henchie.
Archives Officer	Michèle Losse Proposed: David Hardman, Seconded: Miranda Kimberley.

The above 2011/2012 Committee posts were approved by members present.

Committee

There were five nominations received for four committee places. The President called for a democratic vote of full members to elect four nominees. This was done by a show of hands for each nomination.

Nominations for committee

Alan Stuttard

Proposed: Kenwyn Pearson

Seconded: Alex George

Tony Overland

Proposed: Jean Griffin

Seconded: Mike Wilkinson

Jim Handley

Proposed: Paul Sadler

Seconded: Jean Griffin

Graham Burgess

Proposed: Richard Ward

Seconded: David Hardman

Charles Funke

Proposed: Bob Ivison

Seconded: Kenwyn Pearson

Alan Stuttard, Tony Overland, Jim Handley and Charles Funke were elected to the Committee.

16.11 Any Other Business

The Guild were unable to present two honours in 2011 as the recipients were unable to attend the Annual Dinner or the AGM. The Guild hopes they will attend the 2012 Annual Dinner. Dr. Shirley Sherwood receives an Honorary Fellowship to the Guild and Jim Mitchell receives the George Brown Award.

Richard Ward distributed a list of lapsed members with whom the Guild has completely lost contact. Richard asked for help to discover where these 29 people have gone. These members have either changed their e-mail addresses or postal addresses and correspondence is being bounced or returned.

17.11 Inauguration of the new President

The outgoing President asked the Committee to thank David Hardman for arranging the AGM weekend, the meeting and the associated tours. They have set a very high standard for future years to emulate!

It is with great pleasure that Alex hands over the role of President for the Guild year 2011/12 to Stewart Henchie who has been inextricably linked to Kew for many years. His enthusiasm for the post will continue to take the Guild forward in the future.

The new President thanked Alex for all his hard work during the year and remembered when Alex worked for Stewart as a volunteer gardener at Kew several years ago.

The new President vowed to carry on the work of the Guild and to take it forward, especially concerning the website.

Stewart personally thanked Kenwyn for all the work that he has done, and presented the outgoing President with a certificate of his tenure.

18.11 Date of next Annual General Meeting: Saturday 8 September 2012

Note: Meetings during the 2011/12 Kew Guild year will be held on Wednesdays:

12 October 2011, 7 December 2011, 15 February 2012, 11 April 2012, 6 June 2012

Members present

Jennifer Alsop, Sara Arnold, Nick Boy, R. Danigh, Alex George, Jean Griffin, Judy Hancock, David Hardman, Allan and Joan Hart, Stewart and Pat Henchie, Nigel Hepper, Bob Ivison, E. G. Jones, K. R. Jones, Miranda Kimberley, B. Momford, Momoni Nejero, Tony and Jan Overland, Kenwyn Pearson, Sylvia Phillips, Amanda le Poer Trench, Norman and Eve Robson, Paul Sadler, Martin and Wendy Staniforth, Sue Thorne, Richard Ward, Mike Wilkinson, Tom Wood.

Guests: David and Tomori Pottinger



PLANTS PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

School of Horticulture

Conservation, Living Collections
and Estates Directorate

Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes 2011 Course 46

Friday 9th September

3.00 pm **Introduction**
Professor Steve D Hopper FLS
Director (CEO and Chief Scientist)

**Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes,
followed by the Travel Scholarships awards**
by Sir David Attenborough OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS
(read by Emma Fox Dip Hort (Kew) (Hons))

Address by the Guest of Honour
Sir David Attenborough OM, CH, CVO, CBE, FRS

Vote of Thanks
Marcus Agius CBE
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Stephen Haines Dip Hort (Kew)

Close of ceremony

4.00 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 began the ceremony by welcoming everyone. He noted that plants and fungi are all the more important in times of austerity, and paid tribute to those students who had helped to refurbish the Director's garden. Emma Fox then presented the Kew Diplomas and Prizes:

‘Your Worship, Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I add my welcome and thank you for joining us today, for one of the main events in the School of Horticulture calendar.

Prize Day is very a special day and one we treasure as an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Kew Diploma graduates and prize winners, and I would especially like to welcome their families and friends some of whom I know have travelled many miles and even oceans, to be here today.

I am also delighted to welcome Sir David Attenborough – our Guest of Honour to this year’s ceremony. Sir David, as someone who has become the world’s leading natural history filmmaker and broadcaster, you have served to inspire generations, educating us about the diversity, complexity and fragility of our natural world and we are truly honoured that you have once again agreed to present the Diplomas and Prizes at today’s ceremony – thank you.

So as I say, we are here to celebrate the achievements of our 12 graduating students who three years ago, embarked on the life-changing journey which is the Kew Diploma.

The Kew Diploma has earned its reputation as being one of the most prestigious horticultural qualifications in the world. So why is this? What is it about the Kew Diploma that sets it apart from any other qualification?

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. But it is more than this.

No other horticultural qualification is able to offer such a wealth of opportunities, with access to the kind of knowledge, experience and diversity of collections. And it is thanks to many of you who are here today that we are able to continue to deliver this unparalleled course.

As any Kew Diploma graduate will tell you, the Diploma could be likened to a kind of botanical horticultural production line. For as one course graduates on the Friday, by Monday morning the School of Horticulture will be welcoming its next intake (which this year will be Course 49!).

As with all high quality manufacturing lines it is imperative that we start the process with only the best quality raw materials, so after a rigorous interview process we successfully narrowed our 2008 selection down to just 13 fresh-faced individuals who became Course 46.

Following the top secret Kew Diploma recipe, which includes generous measures of knowledge and experience, there has been a rigorous programme of testing, assessing, grading and marking.

Course 46 should be congratulated for their collective passion and enthusiasm for learning and their desire to maximise the learning potential of every opportunity.

Together, they have shared the best of times and the worst of times, and have formed enduring friendships that will last a lifetime. So now finding ourselves at the end of our production line, we can be assured that our graduates will join that long list of noted horticulturists and we wish each and every one of you every success as you embark on your chosen careers.

Alison Alexander will be starting a 2-year part-time MSc in Biological Recording run by The University of Birmingham in collaboration with the Field Studies Council. She also plans to continue with her volunteering at Kew, working with the UKOT's team.

On Monday **Emma Allen** will be starting work in her new role as gardener working alongside a fellow Kew graduate Andrea Brunsendorf, at the Inner Temple garden on the Embankment. Emma will also be volunteering for Kew, working in the Conservation Biotechnology Department.

Kelly Baker aims to continue working in public gardens where she would like to have a role that includes developing and working with horticultural volunteers.

Neil Bancroft will be returning to his beloved Scotland, to be closer to his loved ones. Professionally he will be returning to Landscape Architecture, applying the plant and habitat knowledge he has gained at Kew.

Richard Greaves is in the midst of packing as he and his family relocate to Hong Kong – so we wish you all a 'Bonne Voyage'.

Despite many valiant attempts to find a way around Kew's current recruitment restrictions, **Steve Haines** will return to life as a 'Brummie' where he looks forward to opportunities with Birmingham Botanic Gardens.

Meanwhile **Nimai Hedemark**, together with his wife and three young children, will be emigrating back to Australia where in the short term he will take up work maintaining private gardens along Sydney's North Shore and Northern Beaches areas.

Christel Lagier will remain living in London with her husband Andy and son Calvin. We hope she is able to have some time to rest and relax, before the birth of her second child which is due in November. She is also keen to be involved in horticultural projects related to conservation, education and sustainability.

Guy Moore will be taking up employment with the 'Kew Gardener', where he will be responsible for maintaining gardens in and around the Kew and Richmond area. He is also looking at leading botanical tours of the Mediterranean and alpine regions – which would enable him to follow his passion for botanising.

Anne Rostek is looking to take up employment as a gardener or assistant head gardener and in the long terms hopes to work as a garden and landscape designer.

For **Alex Summers**, he will very soon bid farewell to the shores of the UK having been awarded the RHS/Garden Club of America Interchange Fellowship at Longwood Gardens, Pennsylvania, for one year.

And last but not least **Craig Williams**. Craig is keen to continue to work in botanical horticulture. The recent arrival of his baby daughter Tsuki just one month ago, means he will be broadening his search to include garden and estate management.

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 46. 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 Alex George is on the platform today. The Guild is an association of past and present Kew staff students and volunteers, which gives 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 all who have given grants to support our students and Kew staff this year. I must also thank the Kew Foundation for their gift of a year's membership of the Friends of Kew to each of our graduating students.

I would now like to invite our Guest of Honour, Sir David Attenborough, to make the presentations:

Alison Alexander

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

The Students' Union Prize – for services rendered as joint President over the past year; Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Emma Allen

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize – awarded by the City of London Livery Company (and we are delighted to have the Company Master with us in the audience today), awarded to the person attaining the highest marks in their final year Practical Management Project;

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

Kelly Baker

The Students' Union Prize – for services rendered as joint President over the past year; Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Neil Bancroft

The Alitex Glasshouse award – sponsored by the glasshouse manufacturing company (and we are delighted to have Tom Hall the Director with us in the audience today), this prize is awarded to the student who has demonstrated the best practical performance during their work placement under glass;

The Freda Howson Award – bequeathed by Reginald Charles Howson in memory of his wife. This prize is awarded for excellence in Ecology and Conservation; Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Richard Greaves

The F Nigel Hepper Cup – presented by the Kew botanist in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments;

The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize – for the person attaining the highest marks in their Systematic Botany Project;

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;

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

Stephen Haines

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

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

The George Brown Prize – donated by the Kew Guild, in memory of a former Assistant Curator, to the top student in the Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section. The Head of this Section – Tony Kirkham has also kindly donated a signed copy of his latest book 'The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers', the original version being written by George Brown – with this latest version available in all good bookshops!

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Nimai Hedemark

The Proudlock Prize – donated by the Kew Guild, to the student attaining the highest mark in their plant propagation essay.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Christel Lagier

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize – (and we are delighted to have two of the Rotarians with us today) awarded to the student who has made the biggest contribution to the voluntary or charity sector during their course. This year's recipient has donated her time and experience to a number of worthy causes. Together with other Diploma students and graduates (and her husband and young son!) she volunteered with preparations for a fundraising concert for the Treborth Botanical Garden which raised in excess of £5,500;

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Guy Moore

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

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Anne Rostek

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize – (and I am delighted to have two of the managers here with us in the audience today) donated by Squire's garden centres for the best overall performance in landscape studies;

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

Alexander Summers

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

Kew Diploma Honours grade

Craig Williams

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

Kew Diploma Honours 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 (and I am delighted to have the president, Sue Minter, with us in the audience today) sponsored by the Institute is awarded to the person gaining the best overall performance in the first year. She is **Beccy Middleton**.

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 **Georgie Darroch**.

The Metcalfe Cup donated by the late Dr Metcalfe, a former Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory, to the student attaining the highest second-year examination marks. Unfortunately this year’s recipient is unable to be with us today, but he is **Rob Alcock**.

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 **Saul Walker**. Unfortunately he is currently on his Travel Scholarship to Australia and can’t be with us today.

The Kew Mutual Improvement Society’s Prize is presented to the student who has done the most to organise the lectures – this is awarded jointly to **Rebecca Hilgenhof** and **Steve O’Brien**.

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 Cacti this is awarded to **Andrew Gdaniec**.

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.

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 she travelled to French Guiana in search of *Passiflora* species – **Rebecca Hilgenhof**

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 Kenya to learn about the conservation of the alpine flora of Mount Kenya. He is currently on leave in Australia and unable to be with us today – **Pete Feilen**

Our next recipient travelled to Hawai'i to study the endemic flora and gain practical experience in the propagation, cultivation and conservation techniques used – **Tim Hickey**

Our next recipient visited botanic gardens the length and breadth of the UK, looking at the role they play in conserving the UK native flora – **Alice Lumb**

Another second-year student travelled to the eastern United States, looking at how native American woodland species are incorporated and cultivated in public and private gardens – **Phil Ostley**

Our next recipient travelled to South West Madagascar to join the Millennium Seedbank Project Madagascar team. While in Madagascar she accompanied the Drylands Project Officer, collecting seed and monitoring *Aloe* species and also visited a project to conserve endangered *Dioscorea* spp. – **Lindsay Schuman**

Our final second year recipient is currently away undertaking his travel scholarship to Australia where he is studying *Orchidaceae* and the associated flora. He is therefore unable to be with us today – **Saul Walker**

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 himself a Kew Diploma graduate and is now a member of Kew's Horticultural team working in the Tropical Nursery. For his scholarship he travelled to Sumatra in Indonesia to study *Nepenthes* in habitat – **James Beattie**

Our next winner is a member of staff in Kew's Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section, where she is responsible for Japanese Gateway. In just over a weeks' time she will be travelling to Japan, to learn about Japanese gardens and to broaden her knowledge and understanding of this unique forum of gardening – **Fran Culverhouse**

Our next recipient works at Wakehurst Place. For her scholarship, she will be travelling to the Northeast of the United States to gain practical experience working at the US Botanic Garden in Washington DC, followed by the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx – **Carol Hart**

Our next recipient also works at Wakehurst. For his scholarship he travelled to Brazil looking at a conservation project in Rio de Janeiro State, working to conserve a stretch of Atlantic Rainforest in the region – **Chris Jenkins**

Our final recipient is a Horticultural Apprentice and is currently working in the Hardy Display Section at Kew. For her scholarship, she will be travelling to the South East USA looking at *Sarracenia* cultivation and conservation – **Silke Roche**

That concludes the awards of Diplomas and Prizes.'

Emma then invited Sir David Attenborough to give his address. In his speech he said he had grown up in Leicestershire and thought that he knew about fossils and animals. He studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge and now knows enough about botany to know of Kew's great place in the world. As a zoologist, he said he can be put in his place by botanists. Botanists are special type of people with special talents – they have a special type of serenity and are a valuable section of society today.

Marcus Agius thanked Sir David and the School of Horticulture staff on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Steve Haines then gave the Vote of Thanks on behalf of Course 46:

'Your Worship, Sir David, Ladies and Gentlemen. You are the light at the end of the tunnel and we are honoured to have you here to share this moment. I think it's fair to say that it's been a long and difficult three years for us all on Course 46 but with your help we've survived and hopefully done you proud!

We have literally shed blood, sweat and tears to get here. Been tested, challenged, prodded and poked, made to perform and learn from our mistakes. Sometimes we even learnt about plants.

Yes, it's been hard work but we do know how incredibly lucky we are to have spent three years at one of the world's, if not *the* world's, foremost botanic garden. Kew is amazing and full of extraordinary plants and people. It was perhaps the plants that pulled us here in the first place but I fear it will be the people that we will miss most.

Naturally, it will be with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to my fellow C46's. As Chris Hopper, the Director's wife, said to me only yesterday, "They are a remarkable bunch of people".

Right from the beginning I liked and admired 'Kelly Curry' who, upon arrival at Gumley, the student accommodation, referred excitedly to the lovely canal just the other side of Kew Green. This of course is in fact the majestic river Thames but as a fellow 'Brummie' I'm with you **Kelly**, I shall call it the 'Thames Canal' from now on.

Alex 'golden boy' Summers has excelled in his class but showed particular interest in 'botamy'. On a number of seemingly random occasions Alex has felt compelled to strip and reveal his 'Golden Delicious' to the world. His impromptu streak through the pretty town of Constance in Germany whilst shouting, "Yee-ha, don't mention the war", was particularly memorable.

Craig 'who's the daddy' Williams is one the most thoughtful and creative souls I have ever met and has enough style to make you sick! He suffers from the same affliction as myself – 'Last-Minute-itis' – but unlike me he always walked off with honours! Craig you are magnificent and we all know you are going to make an incredible dad.

Guy 'it's going to rain tomorrow' Moore also known as 'Guy-ophyte' has a particularly bad affliction with bulbs and all things alpine. This is an on-going battle for Guy but one I know he will master. The many symptoms of this illness seem to make him fall to the ground and grovel in the dirt wherever he goes. We should not pity him though as although he is one of the grumpiest men I know, he is also one of the happiest this side of the Caucasus.

Emma 'OCD' Allen is another freak of nature. To be honest I'm amazed she is here today as quite frankly with the rate at which she finishes her work, she could have graduated last year. Emma, thank you for being here and not showing the rest of us up.

Neil 'techno-wizard' Bancroft, all round 'Kew pin-up' and outright social socialist, has charmed the pants of every man, woman and beast in Kew over the past three years. Neil, as you won't return my calls, please can I have mine back?

Richard 'sieve for brains' Greaves made it all look so easy! Richard, your brain should be donated to the Science Museum after you have gone. Perhaps they could plug you in and have you compute ways to save future generations from themselves. If not, I know Delia Smith would kill to have you as a resource on edible flora.

Alison 'journo-gossip' Alexander, fighting the good fight in the face of Foxy principles and dancing her booty on many a botanists table, has kept us up to date with all of the latest grape vine news. Without her we wouldn't know that Kath in Hardy Display is soon to leave Kew to become a pole dancer at Spearmint Rhino.

Anne 'sex-kitten' Rostek has churned out design work over the past three years that would make Michelangelo jealous. She has style and grace oozing (should that be perspiring?) from every orifice.

Nimai 'big-boy' Hedemark gets passionate about a lot of things. In one of the many

presentations we gave during the diploma he got electrifyingly excited about ‘water lily thingies’ and took me and the rest of the class every inch of the way! Nimai, you are a beautiful communicator and your kids are lucky to have you to show them the world.

Sara ‘chilled-out mountain mama’ Miller unfortunately left C46 at the beginning of this year. She gave the poor excuse of giving birth and frankly I’m amazed that Principle Fox let her off. Surely she could have finished that management report while giving one last push? We wish you well Sara for when you join C47 next year and feel sure that with your amazing, analytical and talented brain you will soon knock them into shape.

Finally, **Christel** ‘naughty-but-nice’ Largier is another of our course with last minute brilliance. She joined us in our second year as a ‘bubbly, super-mom extraordinaire’ who juggles life with exceptional finesse. Christel we love you, especially as you make even Greg Redwood smile.

Course 46 has had the great fortune to learn from many talented people at Kew. We have rotated around all the sections of the garden over the past three years and tested the nerves of many staff. They generously answered our nagging questions and put up with our catalogue of errors.

As I mentioned earlier, we have been assessed day in day out as part of the course but we have also been watching YOU!

I am delighted to announce that we have three further prize-winners in the auditorium today. The horticulturalists at Kew who have coached us over the past three years are perhaps its un-sung heroes. Course 46 wishes to thank all of them and has chosen one person from each section to be honoured.

Lara Jewitt in the Princess of Wales Conservatory is simply an inspirational manager. She knows how to motivate, delegate and get a job done. She is a staunch supporter of the students at Kew, especially when help is needed propping up the bar. For this reason we are delighted to award her the ‘Carling Cup’.

Fran Culverhouse in the Arboretum is one of Kew’s troopers. She is the first one out in the morning and usually the last one back. She gets her head down, bites the bullet and gets on with it. Fran, you are an inspiration to us all and we salute you. Please accept the ‘Bombardier Prize’ for courage in the face of adversity.

Joanne Everson, the Rock Garden Team Leader, is one of Kew’s saints. Her area looks so good that surely she has received divine inspiration. Joanne, for your organisational skills, fairness and love of plants we award you the ‘Heineken Grail’.

Naturally, none of C46’s successes would have been possible without the commitment and sheer hard work of the staff in the School of Horticulture. Judy, Pam and Kevin, we owe you a debt of gratitude and would like to offer these small gifts to show our appreciation.

C46 has written extensive diaries throughout its time here which has ‘delighted’ us. To

be honest, we can in fact think of only one thing worse than writing them, and we wish to thank poor Martin for crossing our t's and dotting our i's.

We should also thank Greg, the Head of the Great Glass Houses and Training, for his ongoing commitment, and our departing Curator Nigel Taylor who out-drunk us most nights on the field trip to Spain.

Principal Fox has been called many things during the past three years, but at the end of a somewhat bumpy road we look back to see that she was only trying to keep us on the straight and narrow. Emma, we sincerely thank you for your support and guidance and know that you work extremely hard to deliver a 'gold standard' in horticultural education. We have a little something for you and wish you continuing success.

We have had an extraordinary three years at Kew and loved nearly every minute but to have Sir David Attenborough here to present our 'gongs' is the icing on the cake. Sir David, we are exceedingly grateful that you have done us this honour. However we have to admit that you are very difficult to choose a gift for. What do you get a man who probably has everything and, as we all know, has been everywhere?

I'm sure you are aware that student life can be financially challenging and although we are lucky to earn a meagre wage at Kew it only buys so much gruel. However, over the past three years we have learnt to eke out our existence from the land at Kew and know the best places to forage. As a small token of our appreciation we would like to share our larder and offer it to you with many thanks.

Thank you Sir David.'

COURSE 49

Matt Brewer
4886

Martin Deasy
4887

Ashley Edwards
4883

Tom Freeth
4884



Corin Golding
4891

Hans-Wilhelm Mackrodt
4881

Tom McCarter
4892

Amy Moffett
4833



Susan O'Brien
4890

Colm O'Driscoll
4889

Suzanne Patman
4888

Katriina Rautala
4882



Susan Urpeth
4835

Course 49

NB Colm O'Driscoll left the course recently to take up a job in Ireland.

STUDENT REPORT

By Adele Dyer

Times may change but some traditions carry on regardless and so we welcomed Course 49 in time-honoured style by plying them with drink on the first night. Then as soon as they had got over that, we made them run the length of the Broadwalk in clogs and aprons. This year's race was as competitive as ever, but Tom Freeth set off at a fearsome pace and did not let up, coming in the clear winner. Susan O'Brien, fresh over from Dublin, was the fastest lady.



Course 49 and Emma Fox (standing, centre) at the start of their clog and apron race

There was yet more racing a few weeks later as several students took part in the round the gardens race in October. The big event, though, was the Kew / Wisley race, which this year was from Kew to Wisley – 21 miles in total. Seven runners took part, mostly students, each running between two and five miles, but sadly Wisley beat us roundly.

Over the summer Course 48 made great use of the student veg plots, kindly paid for by the Kew Guild, growing a huge amount of produce. We used the opportunity to raise some money for our third year ecology field trip by selling our produce to staff and any passing visitors every Friday lunchtime, building up a pretty loyal clientele by the end of the summer.

We turned it into a bit of a cottage industry as we took a stall for the Kew Fair on the Green and went over to Ham House for their two summer fairs with left over produce, plants we grew for the events, Sheila's mum's excellent cakes and anything else we could beg, borrow or scrounge. Once the tomatoes started to get blight and any salvageable green tomatoes went into chutney and that was taken to the fairs too.

By the time you read this Course 49 will already be up and running with their plots

and no doubt enjoying sneaking out of lecture block to take a welcome break with a bit of allotmenting.

All the years have been making the most of their field trips. Course 47 went botanising in Bangor and later headed off to Southern Spain for two weeks, looking at a whole range of plant communities. Meanwhile Course 48 had great fun out on the Chilterns and in the Thames Valley taking samples for a soil classification project, even if it was a bit of a struggle at times (see photo right). Still, we had plenty of time to recover on our excellent trip to Mainau. You can read our report on the Kew Guild website.

Some students have found time for extracurricular trips as well. Andrew Gdaniec, aka Professor Cactus, spent two weeks at the beautiful Jardin Exotique de Monaco working with their succulent collection, mainly in the propagation unit. Steve O'Brien went to Kerdalo near Tredavzec in Brittany, a fantastic garden with a wide range of interesting plants and then to Sintra in Portugal to visit ex-diploma student and Kew Guild member Tim Stretton. Tim showed him the various gardens he manages there, including the Parque de Sintra, La Quinta Plena, the Moorish Castle and the Convent. Meanwhile Rob Alcock spent a week at Wisley, learning the theory of fruit pruning as well as getting plenty of hands on experience in their fruit section.

You can see photos of Steve and Andrew's trips on the website, along with photos of many of the events I have mentioned here. You should definitely log on to see some stunning photos taken by Tom Freeth from the top of the Temperate House.

Finally two members of staff have left the school this year: Emma Fox, the school principal; and Kevin Dowding, our horticultural technician, who was lured away to be Deputy Head Gardener at Alnick Castle. We will miss them both.



Kevin Dowding and Kate Dixon
struggle with an auger

KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, 10TH JUNE by Miranda Kimberley

This year's Kew Guild Annual Dinner had a distinctly Australian flavour.

Guest speaker Nigel Rigby discussed the exploits of one Joseph Banks, whose name graces one of Australia's most recognisable plants. As Head of Research at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, Rigby is a specialist in eighteenth century

exploration. He spoke about the difficulties of transporting plant specimens, as well as the more thorny issue of personality clashes at sea.

Guild President Alex George had flown in especially from Australia, and celebrated the fact that the Kew Guild can boast members from over 20 countries. He encouraged us all to “not be takers, to try and give back.” He explained his role this year has been to give something back to Kew, after spending two enjoyable stints here as the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer.

The second year students raised a healthy £400 towards their botanising trip to Southern Spain, by holding a raffle and auctioning pieces including an original willow sculpture by Tom Hare.

The evening began with Prosecco and canapés on the Orangery Terrace, followed by a two-course dinner and coffee, with excellent service from Kew’s new caterers Peyton & Byrne.

Alex George thanked Alexandra and Richard Ward for their tremendous efforts producing the 2011 Journal, Jennifer Alsop and Paul Sadler for helping to organise the Dinner and Paul Sadler for his valiant work as Master of Ceremonies.

OLYMPIC PARK TOUR, 17TH JUNE

by Miranda Kimberley

This summer a group of Kew Guild members were given a behind-the-scenes look at how the Olympic Park in East London is shaping up.

Given a bus tour by landscape architect Phil Askew, who is the Olympic Delivery Authority’s Project Sponsor for Parklands & Public Realm, the group were treated to views of the Olympic stadium, the impressive Velodrome and the early stages of the £19 million red steel sculpture created by Anish Kapoor, which when finished will stand at 115m high.

Much of the soft landscaping in the Park runs down the sides of the waterways which cut through the site. Already well on the way to being established is The Wetland Bowl, which on completion will include 300,000 wetland plants, all produced at a Norfolk nursery, from cuttings taken in the Lea Valley. James Hitchmough of Sheffield University is also planting up areas to increase biodiversity, which Askew believes to be the ‘the largest installation of perennials meadows ever attempted’.

The 2012 World Gardens area was also taking shape, through the drizzle, and is due to include thousands of plant species and native woodland trees from four geographical zones: Europe and the Mediterranean, the Americas, Asia, and the southern hemisphere. This 800m herbaceous border has been designed by Sarah Price, who will oversee the planting under the overall direction of LDA Design in partnership with Hargreaves Associates.

Askew described the challenges the ODA had faced in decontaminating the site, which involved removing 40 football pitches worth of Japanese knotweed, which he said had

been “buried in very deep holes, which they hoped never appeared again”.

Great things have been achieved by bringing contaminated land back into use, cleaning up canals, keeping 90 per cent of materials on site, but the Kew Guild group were somewhat surprised that only 2000 trees will be planted across the site for the Games, and 2000 after. We saw only London Planes planted in small squares across the open concourse, and it just seems a shame when taking into account that the Park covers 2.5 square kilometres.



The 2012 Herbaceous Gardens have been designed in a mixed prairie style by Sarah Price using unusual plants grown by Palmstead Nurseries in Kent

Much of the site is still very much a hard landscaper’s paradise but it is clear that the Olympic Park will change greatly in the period after the Games, which is known as ‘The Legacy’. Buildings for the purpose of housing athletes and journalists will become homes, and the open areas awaiting thousands of visitors will be developed. Very positively, Askew said there is already a detailed maintenance plan in place for the landscaped areas.

KEW GUILD AGM WEEKEND, 10TH SEPTEMBER by Miranda Kimberley

The Kew Guild 2011 AGM took place on Saturday 10th September at Wakehurst Place and included guided walks to different parts of the gardens, the evening get-together, as well as the visit to the gardens of Borde Hill and High Beeches on the following day.

The Guild said a sad goodbye to retiring President Alex George, who has worked tirelessly from Australia, visiting Kew three times during his tenure. New President Stewart Henchie thanked him for his tremendous efforts, remarking that he was a special man: “Not many people know that during his last time at Kew, as well as working in the Herbarium, Alex also volunteered for the hardy display section on Saturdays and Sundays!”

Stewart also gave a big thank you to retiring Honorary Secretary Kenwyn Pearson who has held the committee together in recent times with his excellent organisation and



Alex George (retiring President) left, Kenwyn Pearson (retiring Secretary) centre, Stewart Henchie (incoming President) right

had been deftly organised by David Hardman. A group began early on Saturday morning walking down into the Loder Valley, led by reserve warden Steve Robinson. Among the treats served up most memorable was seeing the hazel dormouse, which was subjected to a paparazzi-like assault due to its cuteness, but also of note were the ancient woodland, filmy ferns and wildflower meadow areas.

In the late afternoon, following the AGM, we were able to tour the Wakehurst Nursery and the Gardens. A torrential downpour threatened both but it could not dampen the enthusiasm of the Wakehurst staff who showed us the propagation greenhouse, new



Ann Boscawen (centre) showing members around the grounds

regular communication.

David Hardman handed the baton for managing the website to Jonathan Rickards and Bob Ivison. David Pottinger of Somcom attended the meeting to illustrate the changes which will now be made to the website in its next stage of development. Attendees were impressed with the new layout, especially the inclusion of many more images.

The weekend was held at Wakehurst Place and a full programme of tours

educational vegetable garden, Asian Heath Garden and Water Gardens. The Guild then spent the evening at Ardingly Inn, enjoying an excellent buffet dinner.

Visits to other 'Great Gardens of Sussex', Borde Hill and High Beeches, took place on the Sunday. The Guild group were led round Borde Hill by head gardener Andy Stevens. He showed us around some of the 17 acres of formal garden, which sit

within 200 acres of parkland and woodland. Developed by Colonel Stephenson Robert Clarke from the 1890s it includes many trees and plants brought back by famous plant collectors including Wilson, Forrest and Kingdon-Ward.

Of particular interest was the Chinese tree *Emmenopterys henryi* in flower. Planted in 1928 from seed collected by George Forrest it flowered for the first time last year, as did Wakehurst's specimen. Stevens showed us how it had flowered again this year, and better than before.

At High Beeches we were honoured to be given the tour by the Bray/Boscawen family, who have owned the garden for 50 years, following Colonel Giles Loder. The 27 acres are home to a fantastic collection of wild provenance trees and plants, arranged throughout rolling slopes and woodland. There are many excellent magnolias and rhododendrons, including *Loderi* hybrids, and a National Collection of *Stewartia*.

The Guild group were struck by a beautiful blue haze upon entering the garden, which turned out to be masses of cornflower blue Devil's Bit Scabious, which finds ideal conditions in the meadows here. Later we were treated to banks covered in naturalised gentians.

A special thanks to David Hardman for arranging such an inspiring set of visits over the weekend.

KEW GUILD VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE BOTANIC GARDENS **29TH OCTOBER** by Jonathan Rickards

A group of 20 Kew Guild members were delighted to be welcomed by Tim Upson, Curator of the Cambridge Botanic Gardens, at the Trumpington Road garden gate on Saturday 29th October with temperatures well above normal for the time of year and the sun breaking through. It was an ideal time of year to be visiting to see some autumn colour, for late flowering salvias and grasses as well as to hear of the new developments at the garden.

Notes on the Gardens

Cambridge Botanic Garden comprises 40 acres as part of the teaching facility of the University of Cambridge, Department of Botany. Founded in 1846, it follows the abandonment of a physic garden which existed in the centre of the city from 1762, contemporaneous with the Chelsea Physic Garden and Oxford Botanic Gardens.

Key to its development was Professor John Stephen Henslow, Professor of Botany (1825-61), whose interest in trees led to more space being required than that afforded by a physic garden. His collection of trees amongst which the pines are notable (and much appreciated on the day) were selected for the variation they showed within species and make a fine feature. He was already beginning the move to consider what Darwin was to demonstrate much later that species were not immutable, and it is significant that he had mentored Darwin and wrote the letter of recommendation which enabled Charles Darwin to join HMS Beagle in 1831.



Order beds according to de Candolle

The gardens were designed and developed to display strong taxonomic links and, formed as they are as a plan of four quarters, today succinctly accommodate lake, rockgarden, two sets of glasshouses, the systematic beds and the arboretum. The systematic beds follow the traditional system established by the Swiss botanist de Candolle rather than the APG system (Angiosperm Phylogeny Group) in current use.

The gardens are worked and managed by a total of 20, including six teams of three to look after different areas of the garden, plus six paid trainee gardeners who receive an accredited award following the one-year course. Funding for the garden is 1/3rd from the University (probably going down), 1/3rd from the Reginald Cory fund (stable) and 1/3rd from public admissions and visitors whose numbers have now reached 200,000 a year (potentially going up!).

From 1950, more land became available from allotments, and due to the endowment of Reginald Cory there was an opportunity to increase the area of the garden in which to develop the woody plant collection and replant many of species in the original garden. Bounded by the town's residential building programme of flats and houses today, this area provides a suitable complement to them but with almost none being visible from the gardens itself due to the planting. One building which is visible is the brand new iconic Sainsbury Plant Sciences Laboratory (architects Stanton Williams) endowed by David Sainsbury and opened in April this year, which we were privileged to visit. A strong but restrained design in warm Caen stone and glass, with a courtyard of olives,

and a well-planted and diverse landscape by Brita von Schoenaich, it completes a composition which includes a restaurant for the public and the old director's house, Cory Lodge, now absorbed as part of the gardens.

Plant Notes

At the Trumpington Road Gate, the first immediate view is of a large group of *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*. Once two single trees planted either side of the existing small lake feeder stream, they are now a multi-stemmed mass of trunks which have formed as suckers from the original trees. The high water table has favoured their success, although their current size is a difficulty to maintain. Opposite this group a large specimen in the same family, *Juglans nigra*, was displaying a clear autumn yellow characteristic of the tree. Trees form the backbone of the garden and the warmer climatic conditions experienced seem to be helping many trees. *Quercus velutina* and *Q shumardii* are two from the warmer parts of Eastern N America which have done well and are showing autumn colour. Showing no colour at all but eagerly producing fruit (for demonstration purposes?) was a seedling tree from Newton's original apple tree growing nearby.

The garden generally emphasizes less separation than previously between amenity, botanical resources and education and over the course of time the traditional bedding plants in front of the glasshouse range have been replaced by herbaceous perennials and supplemented with beehives (right).



Salvias, (in particular *Salvia elegans*, both the tangerine and pineapple forms; *S leucantha* and *S involucrata Bethellii*), are very much in evidence in the area between the greenhouse wings behind the hives where a sheltered microclimate exists.

A distant look at the Oleaceae collection identified copious amounts of mistletoe on the limes. 30 years ago, this was the most northerly occurrence of mistletoe (now it is found as far as Nottinghamshire) but its abundance here is a mystery. Spread by birds, most noted in the Cambridge gardens by mistle thrushes and blackcaps, the explosion of mistletoe has also been found at EA Bowles garden (Myddelton House, Enfield). Although only about ten species of trees are colonised by mistletoe, its spread is thought to be caused by the protection of a limited number of bird species which are known distribute it, and the proximity, safety and reliability of suitable habitats for them.

Parrotia persica had, unusually, not coloured this year, but had redeemed itself by producing seed and was also notable in the Cambridge specimen for the cross-grafting between branches. Seedlings and invasive species go together and Tim had noted more

Broussonetia papyrifera progeny than usual. *Hamamelis virginiana* is one of the first to flower despite not losing its leaves in our climate. This is a disadvantage since the flowers become invisible. *Quercus warburgii*, the Cambridge oak, is a garden hybrid between the Mexican oak and common oak (*Q. rugosa* x *Q. robur*). As a huge tree it may have been favoured by the warmer climate we have experienced, but it is famous for the bright red foliage it produces in early spring. Now infected with ganoderma, its decline is being managed and it is treated as a veteran tree with the dead wood left in place.

A magnificent wide-spreading brown-orange Zelkova (*Zelkova serrata*) planted in 1960 contrasted with its green relative *Z. carpinifolia* and showed it to be the more attractive tree. Enjoying wide-spreading trees such as the Zelkova and Pterocarya is becoming an increasingly rare experience, especially in towns.

Autumn colour was most notably represented by *Liquidambar styraciflua* 'Worplesdon' (with *Liquidambar orientalis* still green and yet to show). *Malus trilobata* was an unusual inclusion being of almost Middle Eastern origin, and in particular *Pistacia chinensis*, from central China, a vivid yellow-orange. One further tree, in fruit rather than colour, was Platycarya (*Platycarya strobilacea*) an Asian relative of Juglans which uniquely showed its winged (and airbourne) fruits, suggesting a lineage predating animals which characterise its relatives in Juglandaceae. Platycarya fruits have been found laid down in the London clays. *Malus transitoria* (a NW Chinese species: See under *M. toringoides* in Bean) made a significant impact in clear yellow, adjacent Cory Lodge.

Besides the usual colour subjects of *Cotinus* and *Euonymus* which featured towards the Station Road gate, *Prunus verecunda* 'Autumn Glory' was significant. This is now a new area in which to demonstrate the species of new plant research and showcase them.

The walk through the gardens concluded with a visit to the Sainsbury Laboratory (right) in which we were treated to an inside view of the main building. Fantastic laboratories with rest and discussion areas (complete with white boards!) surrounded two side of a courtyard of olives (*Olea europea*). A further plant



growing centre and amenity facility for the garden made up the complex. An integral public restaurant has also been included, with a patio enhanced by *Tilia henryana* flat-trained as 'roofs' to provide future shade. (This species, along with *T. x euchora* and *T. petiolaris*, have the advantage of discouraging aphids by their hairy leaves). Flat 'tables' of yew laid out in a formal manner divide areas of herbaceous perennials and grasses which will give all year interest. The frontage of the building is formed as a

grove of *Ginkgo biloba* surrounded by cut yorkstone paving. Whether these are male or female has yet to be seen.

SIR JOSEPH HOOKER CENTENARY CELEBRATION **9TH DECEMBER**

by David Cutler

The Kew Guild was one of the sponsors of the Joseph Hooker Centenary Celebration meeting that was held on 9th December, 2011. This was a great success with 160 participants, informative and inspiring talks, behind-the-scenes tours in the herbarium and library and a lively reception at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery. There was an excellent feedback from the participants. Places were quickly taken and it was a shame that there was not enough room for all those who wished to come.

The speakers were Anne Secord (Darwin Correspondence Project, University of Cambridge) ‘One soweth, another reapeth’: William Jackson Hooker and nineteenth-century botany; Peter Donaldson (Jupe Productions Australia) ‘In the footsteps of Hooker – what can we learn from retracing his expeditions in the Himalayas and elsewhere?’; Paul White (Darwin Correspondence Project, University of Cambridge) ‘Hooker, Darwin, and the circle of friendship’; Steve Hopper (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) ‘Towards solving Hooker’s conundrum – the anomalous plant richness and high endemism of the flat landscapes of southwest Australia’ and Phillip Cribb (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew) ‘Joseph Hooker’s legacy to Kew – a case study in orchids’. Jim Endersby (University of Sussex) made concluding remarks.

The behind-the-scenes sessions in the Herbarium and Library were led by Mark Nesbitt, Caroline Cornish, Chris Mills, Kiri Ross-Jones, Marilyn Ward, Tim Utteridge and Bill Baker.

At the close of the meeting we were taken by the Kew Explorer to the Reception in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art and enjoyed a private viewing of the exhibition ‘Joseph Hooker – naturalist, traveller and more’.

Bill Baker, on behalf of the Organising Committee, wrote thanking the Kew Guild for its contribution, and our warm thanks are due to him and his colleagues Jim Endersby, Lauren Gardiner, Chris Mills, Mark Nesbitt, Kiri Ross-Jones and Tim Utteridge who arranged this outstanding meeting.

The other sponsors were the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, The Linnean Society of London, Annals of Botany Company and the University of Sussex.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME

by David Barnes

The Awards Scheme continues to be a very valuable asset to the members as you will see by the many reports in this Journal. This year there were 13 successful applications for funding to the tune of almost £10,000 being given to support the proposals. The numbers of applications is slightly down on the previous year but the value of the

funds sought has remained static as costs have increased. As always 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 the good works.

The Awards Scheme Committee was very pleased to award the George Brown Memorial Award for 2011 to James Mitchell, 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.

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 (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).

AWARD SCHEME REPORTS

A Forest Gardening Course

by Robert Alcock

I travelled to stay overnight in Totnes on Friday 29th July, and the following morning arrived at Dartington Church Hall, just five minutes walk from the 2.1 acre Forest Garden of the Agroforestry Research Trust (ART).

The course, led by Martin Crawford, Director of the ART, took the form of informal lectures, discussions and group design exercises at the church hall interspersed with visits to the Forest Garden to demonstrate points and experience it firsthand. Thankfully the weather was kind to us, and it stayed fine throughout the weekend, allowing ample time to explore the Forest Garden!

Martin began the course by defining a forest garden (although the term woodland garden is probably more accurate) as a designed, multi-layered environment modelled on woodland as the climax community most temperate regions, utilising useful plants. These uses can be direct, such as the provision of fruit, fungi or (usually perennial) vegetables, herbs, plant supports (such as bamboo), or indirect, such as nitrogen fixing trees, windbreaks, nutrient accumulators (e.g. comfrey) and plants to attract beneficial insects. Many plants can serve multiple uses: *Elaeagnus umbellata*, used extensively in the Forest Garden, is a nitrogen fixer, an attractive windbreak and a source of surprisingly palatable berries.

The course continued to discuss elements of setting up and designing a forest garden, such as desired outputs, obtaining land, site, soils, aspect, climate and windbreaks, inputs and maintenance, plant selection and placement.

Most interesting and valuable to me about this course was learning how productive horticulture can be practised with very low levels of input. Now established, the Forest Garden at Dartington requires no fertilizers as nitrogen fixers provide all the necessary nitrogen, and all other nutrients are cycled through the system. Martin spends about two days a week in



Martin Crawford and several course participants in the nursery area adjoining the Forest Garden

the garden in late summer, and this time is almost exclusively spent in harvesting. Pest and disease problems are largely non-existent due largely to the highly mixed polyculture and the encouragement of wildlife to foster an equilibrium. The garden boasts a healthy population of bats that feed on insects. Very appealing to me, (and probably any horticulturist), was the complete absence of annual weeds; the vegetative ground cover being so complete. Brambles and creeping buttercup were something of a problem however, the former controlled effectively by hand: Martin grows only thornless raspberries in the garden, and so any *Rubus* shoots that appear carrying thorns are swiftly removed.

While the outputs of this style of productive gardening are akin to highly 'optimised foraging', the inputs (including labour) are exceptionally low, making it very productive and sustainable where enough land is available. I'm grateful to the Guild for the opportunity to attend this course, which introduced me to many interesting new species and afforded an experience of a different kind of horticulture than those I'm familiar with. While it didn't immediately inspire me to start a forest garden, it

demonstrated principles of effective ecological horticulture, and gave me plenty of food for thought.

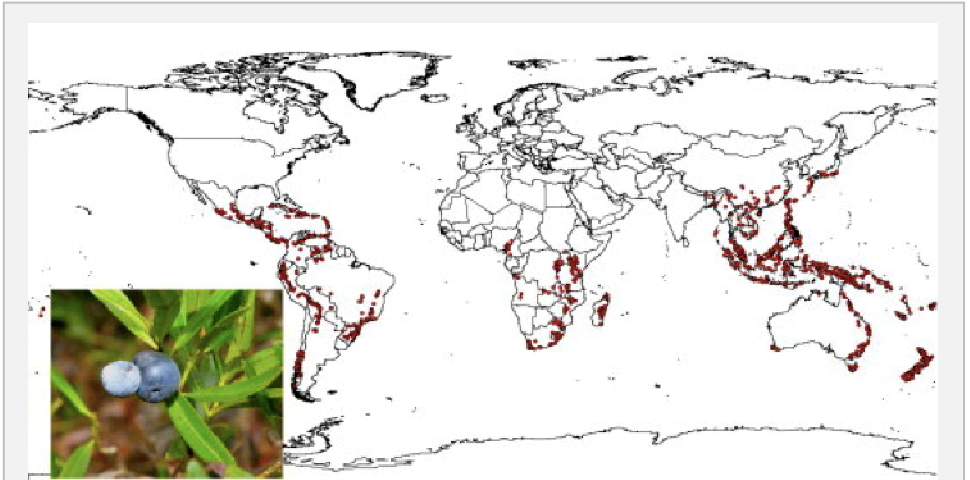
Visit to Leiden by Aljos Farjon

This summer I made a visit to the National Herbarium, Leiden Branch (L) now part of the biodiversity centre Naturalis, in the town of Leiden in the Netherlands. I worked there for two weeks in early September to obtain more data for the Atlas of the World's Conifers, on which I reported in *The Journal of the Kew Guild* Vol. 15, No. 115 (2010) under 'USA Trip' on pp. 512-513. The Leiden visit was again generously supported by the Kew Guild Awards Subcommittee, who I thank for this financial help with the Conifer Atlas project.

At the Harvard University Herbaria last year I gathered information from herbarium specimens mainly from eastern Asia and these have all been incorporated in the BRAHMS Conifer Database used for generating distribution maps of conifer species. It was slow work, as it requires looking through the specimens and noting the information from the labels. This time in Leiden I used a method that postpones the actual entry into the database until later. I used a small digital camera to capture images of the labels and stored these in folders on my laptop computer. In a notebook I made references to these pictures under the respective species. This method allowed me to gather more specimens per unit of time spent in the herbarium than previously, so while I only worked two weeks from Monday to Friday, I still got 887 records, nearly as many as in three weeks at Harvard. The big job came back home, in reviewing the images and entering the information in the database (done at the time of writing this, 1st November 2011) and, of course, geo-referencing the localities. The latter is the most time consuming part, even though it is nowadays speeded up by the availability of reasonably detailed and reliable geographical gazetteers on the Internet. Remember, I need geographical co-ordinates in degrees and minutes before I can transform the locality data into a dot on the map. If the locality information is very vague, e.g. 'between X and Y' where these are about 100 km apart, or if the place name is not recognised anymore, or grossly misspelled, there will be no dot on the map.

The Leiden Herbarium (L) is important for the region biogeographers call Malesia (it covers the area treated in *Flora Malesiana*), which is the huge archipelago stretching away in the Southeast Asian tropics from Peninsular Malaysia to the Bismarck Archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. It includes all of Indonesia, which was once the 'Dutch East Indies', Malaysia, the Philippines, and the big island of New Guinea and its satellite islands. This area is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, and it has a fair share of conifers. Borneo alone has more species of conifers than all of Europe!

Many herbarium collections were made in the decades 1920-1940 by the Netherlands Indies Forest Service and/or their collaborators; this activity came to an end with the outbreak of the Second World War. After this destructive episode and following Indonesian independence, it took a while before Dutch and other European plant collectors could resume collecting, while efforts made by Indonesian or local botanists have often not ended up in Leiden anymore, but in Bogor on Jawa. Despite this, many



Podocarpus elatus seed cone, and Distribution map of the genus *Podocarpus*
(Image: Aljos Farjon, RBG Kew)

An Atlas of the World's Conifers

Making use of what is without doubt the most comprehensive herbarium specimen database on conifers, compiled in the BRAHMS software (Univ. Oxford), mapping using specimen data points will produce an Atlas of the World's Conifers, the first ever produced using this kind of data.

The Atlas Project is still ongoing. Co-author is Denis Filer (BRAHMS) at the University of Oxford. The database currently holds 29,000 records of conifer herbarium collections, 90% of which are geo-referenced to degrees and minutes, producing dot maps for every species + infraspecific taxa. Publisher is likely to be Brill in Leiden, the same as for the Handbook of the World's Conifers.

gaps in the mapping of species have now been filled thanks to my visit to this rather beautiful old Dutch town.

The boxed text above is from a website in production on the Temperate Team in the Herbarium at RBG Kew showing the Conifer Atlas project. It also shows a working distribution map using herbarium specimen data of the genus *Podocarpus*. The specimen data for this genus of nearly 100 species are now nearly complete enough to produce reliable maps for each species. As is shown on the map, most species occur in the tropics or in the southern hemisphere. Many are on islands and consequently have more limited distributions. To show their distribution, fewer dots (and therefore herbarium collections) are needed than for widespread species on continents.

The future work for the Conifer Atlas project involves further data collecting for Europe, given a boost by a visit to the Munich Herbarium (M) in October 2011, and for China and some other parts of Asia. After that, we will check all species again for

completeness of geographical cover and the production of final maps for the Atlas of the World's Conifers can begin, hopefully sometime in early 2012.

A Travel Scholarship to Mt Kenya by Peter Feilen

I set off on my travel scholarship to Kenya on the Saturday 4th June 2011, which would be a two and a half week venture. Flying from London Heathrow to Nairobi, Kenya's capital city. For the first 5 days of the trip I stayed in Nairobi and spent my days at the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), doing some final study in the botanical library and Eastern African Herbarium before the fieldtrip ahead to Mt Kenya. Whilst at the NMK I also had a tour of the botanic gardens on site, had a meeting with the botanical gardens staff to discuss the day-to-day running and development of the gardens.

I also attended meetings with my travelling companion Emma Williams (a Millennium Seed Bank/Kew botanist) with various NMK members of staff regarding the future projects and collaborations between the Kew and the NMK, paying particular attention to the conservation of the Mt Kenya flora. I also had the opportunity to spend an afternoon in the Public Museum at the NMK, which covered a wide variety of subjects all things Kenyan to do with anthropology and natural history.

Also during the trip I visited the National Gene Bank of Kenya (NGBK), which is located 60km outside of Nairobi. The NGBK is a facility that stores seed of agricultural crops and Kenyan native plant seed, both for conservation purposes. The NGBK is also one of the MSB's oldest collaborators in the conservation of wild plants. Emma and I were given a tour of the facility by the gene bank's senior research scientist, Destario Nyamongo.



The expedition team on Mt. Kenya

On Friday the 11th of June, seed and herbarium specimen collecting team got together and left Nairobi for Nanyuki, one of the towns at the base of Mt Kenya. The team consisted of two botanists – Thomas Wedemi and Josephine from the NMK; a research scientist from the Kenya Wildlife Service – James Mathenge; along with a parks ranger from the KWS – Wanjohi; Emma and myself. On the first day of travelling to Nanyuki we stopped at the Nyeri KWS Headquarters where Mathenge gave us a tour of the facility and talked about the KWS's work on Mt Kenya and the Aberdares National Park for which this headquarters is responsible.

The next day we commenced the fieldwork starting with five days of camping and hiking up the Sirimon Route up to the base of the summit peaks. On the five days of trekking we did a round trip so as to increase our chances of encountering different plants and not covering too much of the same ground twice. The remaining three days we went up three different routes by car, botanising and collecting seed and herbarium specimens.

The 2nd last day of the trip was spent travelling back to Nairobi but along the way we stopped at the KWS Nyeri Headquarters and had a tour of the tree nursery that is used for forest rehabilitation on Mt Kenya and the Aberdares Mountains. When we got back to Nairobi we unpacked the Landrover and had a debriefing with Patrick Muthoka, a senior research scientist at the NMK. Emma, James Mathenge and I discussed the trip and deemed it to be a success on many levels.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Kew Guild for their support, which made this unforgettable trip possible. Thank you.

The XVIII International Botanical Congress in Melbourne by Peter Gasson

Every six years botanists from all over the world converge on the International Botanical Congress (IBC). In 2011, this was held in Melbourne from 23-30 July. Of the 2,200 delegates, around 30 were from Kew, and I was fortunate to be one of them thanks to a grant from the Kew Guild.

The IBC was a very large meeting, with ten Plenary lectures, ten Keynote Symposia (each with three lectures) and 177 General Symposia (each with up to six lectures), plus a large number of displayed posters and e-posters (most of the 1097 posters were e-posters, see www.ibc2011.com or <http://ibc2011.digitalposter.com.au>). A printed version of the abstracts is the size of a PhD thesis! With 19 or 20 concurrent sessions each afternoon, careful planning was needed. I attended 45 lectures in all including my own, concentrating on legumes and their phylogeny, evolutionary history of the angiosperms since Cretaceous times, biogeographical history of the Australian flora, climate change and adaptation, plant diversity and conservation.

The most important aspect of conferences is to discuss in person your research interests with people you normally don't meet face to face. I gave a lecture on the wood anatomy of Australian *Acacias* in relation to phylogeny and climate with Nigel Warwick (University of New England, Armidale, NSW), who began this work with me at Kew last year, and this prompted discussions with Joe Miller (CSIRO Canberra), an expert on the molecular phylogeny of the genus, and with Rod Griffin (University

of Tasmania), who offered to send me some wood samples from plantation *Acacias*.

Outside the conference, I visited the CSIRO wood collection in Melbourne's suburb Clayton with Jugo Ilic, who was the curator until his retirement five years ago. This was particularly interesting because over several years I compiled details on the world's institutional wood collections 'Index Xylariorum 4', and published them on the Kew website with Anna Lynch (www.kew.org/collections/wood-index/Index_Xylariorum4.htm). All the information on Australian collections was out of date, but soon won't be!

I also visited RBG Melbourne twice. Of particular interest to me were a small tree of *Sophora toromiro* (extinct in the wild on Easter Island, and once used for very distinctive wooden carvings, some of which we have examined at Kew as identification enquiries) and a much larger *Castanospermum australe* tree, little known in the UK, but whose timber was used for the Speakers chair in the House of Commons in London. *Acacias* were also plentiful. The Gardens were host to an eclectic variety of birds: Blackbirds from the UK, Australian Magpies, Rainbow Lorikeets incongruously feeding in oak trees, Kookaburras, Bell Miners ringing from nearly every tree and Wattlebirds visiting flowers for their nectar.

Before the conference, Nigel Warwick, Gerhard Prenner (Kew) and I spent a week exploring the State of Victoria, which is marginally smaller than the UK and has progressively drier conditions northwards inland from the coast. We drove west along the Great Ocean Road as far as Warrnambool, visiting the Great Otway NP, and then travelled north to Halls Gap, Little Desert NP, Wyperfeld NP and Murray Sunset NP near Mildura. We crossed briefly into New South Wales to the confluence of the Murray Darling rivers and a short distance north along the road towards Broken Hill before returning to Melbourne. The *Eucalyptus* forests were very diverse, with associated *Acacia*, *Callitris* and *Xanthorrhoea*. The supporting cast included *Banksia*, *Casuarina*, *Drosera*, *Aizoaceae* and *Chenopodiaceae*. Animals included Eastern Grey, Western Grey and Red Kangaroos, Swamp Wallabies, Koalas, a Southern Brown Bandicoot, Emus and many other birds, especially parrots and honeyeaters, which vied with the plants for our attention!

After the conference, we visited the Dandenong Ranges just east of Melbourne, and below the towering Mountain Ash trees (*Eucalyptus regnans*, the tallest angiosperm) we were entranced by Superb Lyrebirds singing and displaying. Australia truly is another world, and the opportunity to broaden my botanical knowledge in lectures and its varied habitats was an incomparable experience. I am very grateful to the Kew Guild for its support.

Field Work in the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands

by Paul Green

In the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) the pine forests (pine yards) are in decline due to infestation with insects, especially a non-native pine tortoise scale (*Toumeyella parvicornis*). In contrast, the pines in the Bahamas are comparatively free from insects, but suffer from other stresses such as water-shortage and increasing urbanisation. Differences in the chemistry between the healthy Bahaman pines and the unhealthy TCI-pines might help explain the different levels of insect damage. During this trip we

prepared solvent extracts of pines from the Bahamas and TCI and collected any insects that we found on the pines.

The first stop was in the Bahamas, on Abaco. North Abaco is relatively unspoilt, with large acreages of healthy pine forest and many trees in excess of 30 feet. We collected samples of pine from North Abaco (Little Abaco) and from the south of the island from healthy trees that had been exposed to recent fire. A conference room, kindly provided by the Friends of the Environment (FotE) was used as a makeshift laboratory for preparing extracts. From Abaco we flew to Nassau, on the island of New Providence. The pine yard here is surrounded by development on all sides and is close to the perimeter of Nassau airport. We found some pine scale on these trees and evidence of wood boring beetles. To process the samples we set up another impromptu laboratory, at the Bahamas National Trust (BNT) offices, outside on trestle tables, shaded by palm trees.

It was a short flight to Providenciales, then by car to our hotel on Richmond Hill. The following day we took a ferry to North Caicos and our residence in Kew, where the laboratory was set up on the bathroom floor. Experimental plots on North Caicos, Middle Caicos on one of the private islands (Pine Cay, pronounced 'key') are used to monitor the health of the pines that remain. A nursery on North Caicos, staffed by the Turks and Caicos Department of the Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR)



On the trail of the lonesome pine on Middle Caicos

rescues pine seedlings, keeps them pest free and grows them for re-introduction. The pines on North Caicos were heavily infested with scale insects and a sooty mould which grows on the insect waste. Sooty mould blackens the trees and prevents sunlight from reaching the needles. The next site in Conch Bar National Park (Middle Caicos) was an eerie sight as there were dead, branchless pines as far as the eye could see. It was pleasing to see that there were a lot

of seedlings and saplings in this area. However, these young trees are more likely to be killed by fire. On another day a ferry took us to Pine Cay. These trees here were the healthiest I had seen in TCI, possibly due to their relative isolation.

During two weeks we prepared over 80 extracts from six distinct pine yards on five islands: these extracts will be analysed in the coming months in the Jodrell Laboratory. The insect samples will be sent to FERA for identification. We trained staff of the BNT and DECR in collection and extraction of plant-material; and gave a presentation

on chemistry and insect identification to staff of the BNT on Abaco and New Providence. We also found time to clear fire breaks around healthy trees and experimental plots and to work the MSc students on aspects of their projects. An occasional dip in the sea after 8 hours in the blazing sun cooled us and soothed insect bites.

Thank you to FotE (Abaco); BNT (Nassau) and staff at the DECR (TCI) for their hospitality and help. I would also like to thank Alicky Davey and Sara Green (Imperial College) for data recording on TCI and Martin Hamilton and Marcella Corcoran (Kew) for sharing their botanical expertise and for being so organised. My final thanks are to the Kew Guild Award fund, whose financial support made this trip possible.

Computer Aided Design Course – Vector Works at Capel Manor College by Lucy Hart

The Kew Guild awarded me £500 to fully fund a place on the NOCN Level 2 Computer Aided Drawing course at Capel Manor College, Regents Park, London starting September 2011. The course is 10 weeks long and is an introduction to the industry standard software – Vector Works, where each student receives a copy of the software for 12 months and attends classes one evening a week. At the time of writing, I am half way through the course and have nearly finished my first assignment where we are drawing a garden design plan. Vector Works is a vast programme and although I may have just touched the tip of the iceberg with it, I understand its incredible potential and the extent of what you can achieve.

In July 2011 I graduated from a self funded P/T Certificate in Garden Design at Capel Manor to enhance my planting and design skills for my personal advancement and also to support my planning work at Kew. I learnt about design principles and process, including how to liaise with clients and contractors. We covered a year of plants and planting and the second year focused on garden design. During this course I was taught to hand draw, sketch, render drawings and submitted concept, elevation, master plan and 3d drawings as part of the course work. I was able to develop my design skills I had previously gained from my Horticultural degree and the Kew Diploma and I now feel confident in my design work having designed and planted a private garden in Chiswick this summer. I enjoyed the hand drawing part of the course but knew the next step was to learn how to adapt my designs and display them electronically, allowing me to use modern design techniques and to keep up with the general garden design industry.

The skills I am acquiring from the course are going to support my new role as Head Gardener, Fulham Palace and Bishops Park. I start this position on 21st November 2011 and am very excited about the opportunities the new post will bring. I have had eight fantastic years at Kew and enjoyed replanting the Director's Garden with plants that are linked to Kew's work. One of my main new projects at Fulham Palace will be to restore the existing walled garden back to a fully working kitchen garden and this will require much designing and planning. I hope to produce my designs on Vector Works making the plans available via email and the internet for other colleagues and the public to review. Vector Works is based on layers and classes and so adjustments can be tweaked more easily than if the plans are hand drawn. I think it is important to keep up with the current computer technology available and once you know how to,

the drawing process should be quicker.

I am very grateful for the Kew Guild supporting me in this venture and I know my new skills will be put to good use for the future.

Visit to Hawai'i

by Tim Hickey

I first visited the Hawaiian islands on a work placement with the Honolulu Botanical Gardens five years ago, and as a result became highly interested in tropical islands, and the plants and animals that have arisen as a result of their isolated condition.

Hawai'i is a fantastic example, 89% of its flora and fauna is endemic, but this is somewhat typical of any island large and/or isolated enough. I particularly love Hawai'i because of its different vegetation zones, elevations and plant adaptations, I'm sure some places rival their beauty but unsure any surpass it. This interest prompted me to attempt a trip back. I arrived at Waimea Valley Reserve, an 1800 acre preserve on the North Shore of Oah'u and in a dry forest region, in midsummer 2011 on my student travel scholarship with Kew.

Waimea Valley was founded as an 'ark for endangered species', as the plants collections manager, David Orr, puts it, in 1973. Its long history dates back 700 years



Argyroxiphium sandwicense subsp.
macrocephalum from Maui

or more, having been a sacred place for native Hawaiians. The high priests and master craftsmen (kahuna) lived and taught there, and a shrine to Lono, the god of agriculture, dates from 1490 BC. After a tumultuous few centuries, during which it was lumbered, flooded, and used as a cattle ranch, it came under the ownership of Charles Pietsch II, who founded the cultivated 150-acre botanical garden. It is now all under the ownership of the City and County of Honolulu and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and has been designated a significant cultural and historical feature because of its plant collections and archaeological sites.

I spent two weeks at Waimea working with Sarah Wilson, the nursery manager, and David Orr, propagating and rejuvenating the plant collections, and concentrating on the endemic species. I worked with many *Hibiscus* species, including mature *Hibiscus clayi*, *H. arnottianus* and its subspecies, *H. waimea* and its subspecies, *H. kokio*, and many hybridized varieties. I visited an endemic coastal plant community on Kaeuna Point, and a

highland endemic lobelioid nursery run by the U.S. Army. I spent much of my time taking cuttings and attempting grafts of over-mature, scarce or desired species, some of which are ridiculously difficult to root, others very easy. I learned propagation methods for endemic dryland *Schiedea* sp., *Scaevola coriacea* and *sericea*, the Hibiscus mentioned before, *Cesalpinia kauaiensis*, *Euphorbia celestoides* and *skottsbergii*, *Achyranthes splendens*, *Chenopodium oahuense* and even attempted to graft a *Kokia cookei*. Waimea is working to preserve these and many other rare plants but is understaffed and underfunded, suffering many of the same problems facing gardens everywhere, but hopefully things are changing for the better and I was able to provide some small assistance. After two weeks I left Waimea to spend a week observing plants on the younger islands of Maui and Hawai'i.

On both islands I went to see primarily subalpine and alpine plants, namely the cinder desert dweller *Argyroxiphium sandwicense* subsp. *macrocephalum* on Maui, and *Argyroxiphium kauense* on Hawai'i. Both of these large 'silverswords' were beautiful examples of evolution in isolation, and are now only thriving with the help of fencing, pig and goat hunting, and other conservation efforts that keep predators in check. I also saw rare plants from the mid elevation range, such as *Hibiscadelphus giffordianus*, and entire old growth forests of *Acacia koa* and *Metrosideros polymorpha*. The trip did wonders to broaden my knowledge of the ecology and growing habits of many Hawaiian plants Kew has in cultivation, as well as expose me to and educate me on many of the challenges faced in plant conservation today, so I thank the Kew Guild for their assistance.

Passionflowers of French Guiana and South Florida, USA by Rebecca Hilgenhof

Ever since I discovered the genus *Passiflora*, I have been completely hooked by those extraordinary and amazingly beautiful plants. For me a long-lived dream became true when I was awarded with the travel scholarship. The focus of my three-week trip was the studies of passionflowers, in both in-situ and ex-situ situation.

At the end of June 2011, I started my trip by visiting the greater Miami area. The main reason for the stop in Florida was, without a doubt, the visit to Butterfly World. The public attraction and centre for research and education for living butterflies hosts, by far, one of the best ex-situ collections of *Passiflora* worldwide. The reason being that many passionflowers are the main food source of the *Heliconius* butterfly larvae. To run a successful breeding programme, cultivation of their food source is essential. At Butterfly World, I meet up with founder Ron Boender and head-gardener Florez. They gave me a tour of the behind-the-scene collection and very kindly answered all my questions.

The highlight of my visit was to witness the mature, 5m tall, tree-like specimen of *Passiflora sphaerocarpa*, which is grown on display. This beautiful species belongs to subgenus *Astrophea* of which, very unusual for passionflowers, most species are weak pendulous shrubs or even metre tall trees. They are very rarely found in cultivation and to see this specimen flourishing was very exciting.

For the rest of my stay in Miami, I visited many of the local botanical gardens and institutions, such as The Kampong, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Montgomery

Botanical Center, and many others. These institutes grow passionflowers mainly for their ornamental purpose, but also for conservation. The three native species of *Passiflora* (*P. suberosa*, *P. pallens*, and *P. sexflora*) are widely used for the restoration of the pineland rockland habitat; a rare ecosystem of which only 2% are still in existence today.

Continuing the trip to French Guiana, South America, I accompanied John Vanderplank, together with other experts on *Passiflora*, on his NPC 2011 FG Expedition. The group comprised of John Vanderplank (National *Passiflora* Collection, UK), his daughter Sula Vanderplank (Botanist), Jorge Ochoa (*Passiflora* specialist), Rob McPhail (*Passiflora* Collection owner), Sara Edwards (Herbarium RBG, Kew), Aleksey Kirillov (Collection horticulturist Moscow Botanic Garden) and myself, Diploma student Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The seven of us spent most of the time exploring the prestigious tropical rainforest of northern French Guiana. These low, evergreen or semi-deciduous forests create habitats that are rich in biodiversity and hosting a great number of endemic species, including many *Passiflora*. Part of the day-to-day fieldwork were the studies of passionflowers in their natural habitat, taking records, images, and herbarium material.



Passiflora garckeii at Route de Bélizon

During the stay the group visited five different areas. The two most rewarding locations for us were the mountain range, Montagne de Kaw and the dirt track of Route de Bélizon. There we found a total number of 23 species, about 50% of

all naturally occurring passionflowers in the country. In disturbed areas such as roadside verges and forest edges plants were thriving and occasionally rewarded us with their spectacular bloom (e.g. *P. amoena*, *P. candida*, *P. cirrhiflora*, *P. garckeii*, *P. coccinea*, and *P. glandulosa*). Other highlights of the trip were the search for passion fruit (*P. nitida*, *P. quadrangularis*, and *P. edulis* f. *flavicarpa*) at the local fruit markets and studying the specimen sheets at the Herbarium Cayenne.

It was a truly amazing experience and personally very successful and educational, which without the funding of the Kew Guild would not have been possible, so thank you very much for the financial support.

Native Flora in UK Botanic Gardens Today

by Alice Lumb

During May and June 2011 I travelled within the UK to learn about the roles and relationships UK botanic gardens currently have with our native flora. To experience as much floral diversity as possible, I traversed England, Scotland and Wales.

The trip took me to eight botanic gardens: RBGE, Logan Botanic Garden, University of Dundee Botanic Garden, University of Durham Botanic Garden, University of Cambridge Botanic Garden, University of Bristol Botanic Garden, NBG Wales and Treborth Botanic Garden University of Bangor. Additionally, I went to two sites where botanic gardens have collaborated on recent conservation projects: the Great Orme, Llandudno and Wicken Fen, Cambridgeshire.

I meet with curators and their staff to discuss the history of native plants in the gardens and their first hand experience of developing and managing native collections today.

Historically, the university botanic gardens had a native focus originally developed to support the teaching of botany, driven by the systematic world of the British flora; then followed the subsequent awareness of conservation. Now movement is away from generalist 'native' displays of past eras, with emphasis on plants within an ecological context.

I saw engaging and creative displays, offering representations of local plant associations to be then visited in the natural environment. Examples include the Fen Display (Cambridge), Magnesian Limestone Flora (Durham), Local Heroes Garden (Logan) and the Plants Rare and Threatened to Bristol and the SW Peninsular (Bristol). I found plenty of informative and attractive interpretation to educate visitors about the importance of our native flora (focuses included rare and endangered species, safeguarding particular ecosystems and the wildlife value of plant communities).



Treborth Botanic Garden

In 2010 meadow clary (*Salvia pratensis*) was lost from its last site in Wales. Plantlife has taken seed from this last remaining plant, and seedlings are growing at Treborth. Once good management is secured for the site, it is planned that plants will be reintroduced and meadow clary will hopefully flower once more in Wales. Pictured are Friends of Treborth Judith and Ann with some of the seedlings, both of whom have been involved in developing and caring for this *ex-situ* collection.

Target 8 of the GSPC, co-ordinated by PlantNetwork, encourages botanic gardens to be responsible for their local flora, listed and threatened (in *ex-situ* collections). The Scottish Plant House on the nursery site at RBGE, for example, is home to species declining in their natural habitats in Scotland, with many of the plants forming off-site conservation collections for Target 8. Gardens were in agreement that *ex-situ* conservation collections should be local. Most do not currently have the capacity for leading on *in situ* conservation. At NBG Wales conservation is led with scientific under-

pinning; plant genetics informs their native work.

With the vice county recorder for the BSBI Caernarvonshire I looked at some rare and endangered species, such as *Hypochaeris maculata*, *Aster linosyris* and *Cotoneaster cambricus* on the Great Orme, visited a reintroduction site and learned of issues linked to alien species control as well as site monitoring and management. At Wicken Fen I saw flora and fauna specific to sedge beds, reed communities, fen meadows, dykes and pools, grassland and woodland habitats, and found *Cladium mariscus* and *Viola persicifolia*, the new wind pump and the herd of grazing Konik ponies, part of the new reserve conservation management programme.

This fantastic experience provided opportunity for developing my knowledge of plant communities, increased my awareness of some rare and endangered species and the threats they face, highlighted issues associated with the representation and management of native plants within a botanic garden and allowed comparison of native displays and interpretation. I have seen a range of institutions, of differing size and with varying budgets and focuses. All gardens visited have some involvement in native conservation projects outside (*in situ* or reintroduction). In some instances garden interpretation explains examples of this. Each stood as a resource, with skilled staff able to give advice and share knowledge and expertise. Some were closely linked; others had more affiliation to other organisations (Plantlife, Scottish Natural Heritage, English Nature, Forestry Commission, local Wildlife Trusts and environment bodies etc.)

In considering the rationale behind native collections at these botanic gardens, to varying extents they can all be seen to respond to 4 roles; those of conservation (safeguarding in cultivating plants or reintroduction), research (scientific investigation, DNA barcoding, records, growing protocols, surveying, monitoring etc.), education (horticultural students, practical plant conservation knowledge, public) and display (incl. amenity value of many species).

I would like to thank the champions of our native flora who I met on my travels, who encouraged and supported my interest, and I would like to thank the Kew Guild and the Stella Ross-Craig travel scholarship fund for providing the financial support which made my adventure possible.

EUNOPS Palm Conference 2010 and Riviera Garden Tour by Felix Merklinger

The European Network of Palm Scientists, or EUNOPS was established in 2001 to facilitate the collaboration between European palm specialists. A EUNOPS meeting has been held annually ever since, providing an opportunity for palm biologists to meet and reflect on current research. In 2010, the EUNOPS meeting was held in Montpellier, France. Wes Shaw, the curator of the Palm House at Kew, and myself, a Kew Diploma Student at the time, attended the conference hoping to form links to other horticulturists, scientists and enthusiasts.

The conference was preceded by a Riviera garden tour, which showcased magnificent gardens along the French-Italian Mediterranean Riviera, some of which are not usually open to the public. Many of the gardens here house significant palm collections, both

in historical terms as well as in species richness as it was here that many palms were first introduced to Europe and trialled in the local climate by horticulturists such as Ludwig Winter.

We undertook daily trips from our base in San Remo. San Remo is the home of Villa Nobel and Garden, with some magnificent specimens of *Phoenix* and *Washingtonia* palms. Bordighera, a nearby town holds the residence of the famous architect Charles Garnier who accrued a large collection of *Phoenix*, *Jubaea*, *Washingtonia* and *Chamaerops*. Bordighera is also home to Ludwig Winter's garden, which houses an eccentric collection of exotic species. Ludwig Winter was a German botanist, nurseryman and garden designer who not only introduced many new species to Europe, but also designed the gardens of Villa Hanbury in Ventimiglia, a botanical garden operated by the University of Genoa.

Our tour guide, Claudio Littardi, (Superintendent of the green parks on the Italian Riviera), had free access to this site to monitor the increasing threat of the red palm weevil, which has spread from Asia to the southern parts of Europe where it is threatening the existence of its iconic palms. The weevil's larvae develop in the petiole base of the leaves and eat through to the apical meristem. The infection is usually noticed when it is too late and the palms are dying. This threat was also a major focus of talks at the conference in Montpellier. Opposite Garnier's collection lies a historic palm grove, planted in the middle ages. Its *Phoenix* garden is now being used by scientists to study physiological and disease control experiments. A number of other gardens were also visited including Giardini Hanbury, Villa Rothschild and the Jardin du Val Rameh.

A particular point of interest was the Jardin de Cedres at Cap Ferrat, a private 14-hectare estate owned by the Grand Marnier family and housing one of the largest collections of plants in France. Unfortunately many of the glasshouses are in disrepair due to the limited staff but nevertheless a highlight of this tour.

The conference in Montpellier included talks on DNA barcoding and KNOX and CUC genes, as well as more traditional talks on taxonomic concepts and flower anatomy by John Dransfield and Paula Rudall. The meeting was a success in terms of our initial aims to make contacts and exchange information on cultivation of palms. Our tour guide Claudio, with whom I am still in touch, is a great source of knowledge and experience when growing temperate palms. Another participant and established palm specialist, Donald Hodel, has become a friend sending me literature and helping me with MSc course essays. Most importantly the meeting has helped me to firm links to Paula Rudall and William Baker who are now supervisors of my MSc thesis, a comparative morphological study of the ant-ocrea in rattan palms. Thank you to the Kew Guild.

The Flora of Bali and the Conservation of its Traditional Dye Plants by Sam Phillips

When most people hear the name Bali, the first things that spring to mind are beaches, surfing and five-star hotels. In fact, when friends and colleagues first heard that I was applying for a scholarship to visit the Indonesian island, that was often their first reaction too! But my inspiration to visit Bali came when I learned of the work of an

organisation called Threads of Life.

Threads of Life is based in Ubud, a large town by Balinese standards in the upland centre of the island. They work with weaving communities across Indonesia, supporting Indonesia's traditional crafts of textile weaving and natural dyeing that are in danger of disappearing. The organisation visits communities in the field, learning about and recording their weaving and dyeing techniques and commissioning works for sale through their gallery in Ubud. The proceeds of these sales go towards helping the communities form independent cooperatives, and to preserve the weaving tradition.

The organisation is also involved in plant and habitat conservation in Indonesia, and has a particular interest in plants used in the cotton dyeing process. Indonesia is experiencing one of the highest rates of tropical forest loss in the world, and since 1996 deforestation appears to have increased to an average of 2 million ha per year. One of the myriad consequences of this level of deforestation is a marked shortage of plants essential to the textile dyeing process. This is one of the major threats to the tradition of textile weaving.

The dyeing process involved in traditional Indonesian weaving is extremely complex, and varies between different communities. Each island has its own dye 'recipe', if not several recipes. There are also over 700 living languages in Indonesia, so simply



identifying the plants that are used by each community is a big task. Learning about these processes, which have been handed down for generations, was an absolutely fascinating experience for me.

I got the chance to try out the dyeing process with Threads of Life. The recipe I followed was one of the most simple, but still made use of over ten plants at various stages, including the seeds of *Aleurites moluccana*, *Sterculia foetida*, *Hodgsonia macrocarpa* and *Schleichera oleosa*, the bark and root of *Morinda citrifolia*, and the leaves of *Indigophora strobilifera*.

I spent the first two weeks of my trip working with Threads of Life, learning about their organisation, the plants used by their cooperatives and the programmes they have to protect the forest and natural resources in Indonesia. I worked in their plant nursery, helping to cultivate some of the dye plants used by their weavers, and visited their community gardens where they are attempting to cultivate dye plants specifically for their use as dyes.

In the final week of my trip I had the opportunity to explore more of the island. I visited the Balinese National Park, Taman Nasional Bali Barat, which gave me the chance to botanize and enjoy the native flora in its natural habitat, including a magnificent mangrove forest. I also explored Bali's famous rice terraces, one of the iconic features of the island, and learned about the ancient system of irrigation that is still in use today. And I also found time to visit both of Bali's botanic gardens, Eka Karya and Ubud Botanic Garden.

I would like to say how grateful I am to the Kew Guild for their generous financial support for this trip, without which I would not have been able to discover this amazing island.

Succulent South Africa

by Paul Rees

Thanks to the Kew Guild for part-funding my trip to South Africa studying succulents in cultivation and their natural habitat.

In August 2011 I flew out from Heathrow to Cape Town, spending my first three days at Kirstenbosch Botanical Garden. Adam Harrower kindly met me and showed me around the garden. Although I went to look at succulents it is hard to ignore the Fynbos, bulbs and all the other South African flora around you. The Garden is situated on the side of Table Mountain giving the most amazing backdrop. I was fortunate to



Knersvlakte 50km north of Vanrhynsdorp

work with the succulent collection at Kirstenbosch, in order to understand how they grow these species. I then met Peter Bryuns from the University of Cape Town who showed me his *Euphorbia* and *Asclepiadaceae* collection and shared his experiences of growing these plants.

My trip then took me up the west coast stopping at Ramskop Flower Garden and Nature Reserve. The garden contains over 350 plant species of the west coast. Then on to the Kokkerboom nursery to meet up with Buys Wiese and Brink van der Merwe.

The nursery is the largest succulent nursery in the country, with an impressive collection. I was shown the collection and shown how they grow the species, what mediums they use and how they process plants and seeds for the export market.

Next stop was northwards into the Knersvlakte, which is dominated by quartz gravel.

Within the gravel one finds *Argyroderma* species and *Oophytum*. The gravel proves important for the survival of the plants, acting as sun protection, retaining soil moisture and more importantly acting as a soil stabiliser against the strong winds which the area experiences. Area where the gravel is not present is dominated by shrubby species such as *Ruschia* which tend to collect soil at the base resulting in small mounds.

I then took a trip up the escarpment to see the *Aloe dichotoma* forest 25 km out of Nieuwoudtville. The forest is situated on the north-facing slope of a hill with an estimated 7000 specimens some of which are over 250 years old. From there I headed towards the West Coast National Park in the Namaqualand to see the spring flowers. The area becomes a painted carpet of flowers as far as the eye can see.

Karoo Botanic Garden was next with an impressive collection of succulent flora. My trip then took me inland to Johannesburg and across to the Lowveld where coming down from the escarpment the landscape becomes mountainous with the slopes scattered with species such as *Euphorbia ingens*, *Euphorbia cooperi* and *Aloe ferox*.

My next point of call was the Walter Sisulu botanical garden. The garden is situated in a gorge with an impressive waterfall. The cliff is home to a pair of breeding black eagles that ride the thermal draughts near the falls. The garden has a large succulent collection with species from all over the country.

My last visit was to Gariiep-Plants succulent nursery in Pretoria. Kotie Retief kindly showed me around the propagation units giving an insight to how they cultivate their succulents.

On the Road with RBG Kew Madagascar by Lindsay Schuman

With a large backpack and great expectation, I set off in June this year for Madagascar. I had been given the amazing opportunity to join up with a field trip organised by Kew Madagascar, to assist with their collections of seeds and herbarium voucher specimens. I was to be assisting particularly with the collection of DNA samples of Malagasy *Aloe* spp., which were needed for scientific research in the Jodrell Laboratory.

I flew into the capital, Antananarivo (or Tanà, as it's known locally) and was immediately struck by this old, colourful, vibrant city on a hill, teeming with people, not to mention the heat, dust and chickens all over the road!

From the Kew house I joined up with the Kew Madagascar Team (as well as a couple of climbers from SNGF – Silo National des Graines Forestieres – our partner organisation in Madagascar). We set out to cover 3000 kms in the Landrover, in a journey spanning from the capital, over to the West Coast of the island and back again to the capital. Taking two and a half weeks, this itinerary covered the dry side of the island and it was fascinating to watch the landscape changing as the altitude dropped from the elevation of Tanà (roughly 1500m above sea level) right down towards the sea itself on the west coast (Mozambique Channel). In addition to all the other seeds and specimens which were obtained on this trip, 26 species of *Aloe* were collected en

route in silica gel, complete with pressed voucher specimens. These came from a wide variety of locations. At each location I took photographs, documented the Lux rating, temperature and humidity as well as attempting to document the surrounding species and general growing conditions to feedback to the glasshouses here at Kew. (We have a collection of Malagasy *Aloe* spp. in the Living Collection).

It was a privilege to be working alongside this group of professional botanists and I learned a huge amount, not just about plants, but also about the Malagasy culture and



people. We worked together, sang together and ate rice three times a day, together!

One of the highlights of this trip was definitely seeing baobabs, both up close and from afar. Seemingly strategically placed in the landscape, they are both majestic and breathtaking. There is something magical about these trees. Another highlight was the part of our journey which took us into the spiny forest and seeing acres of ferocious *Didierea madagascariensis* throwing their spiny 'tentacles' up into the air alongside equally unforgiving *Euphorbia stenoclada*.

Both of these species are endemic to the island and merely the very tip of the iceberg in terms of species unique to Madagascar. I had anticipated high levels of endemism (certainly a reason for wanting to go), but was

still unprepared for the enormity of what I would find. Bewildered, amazed, intrigued, delighted; Madagascar worked its magic on me. I thank the Kew Guild for this opportunity.

Expedition to Bukit Raya, Kalimantan, Borneo

by Nicky Sharp

I was fortunate, in February, 2011, to join an expedition to a remote mountain, Bukit Raya (2278m) situated within the Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park, covering an area of 1810km², which spans the border of the provinces of West and Central Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo.

The primary aim was to obtain living collections of two previously uncultivated, known endemics of Bukit Raya, *Rhododendron fortunans* J.J. Sm. and *R. mogleanum* Argent. As well as other species in *Ericaceae*, target families included *Zingiberaceae* (Gingers), *Gesneriaceae* and *Begoniaceae*. With a research interest in South East Asian *Zingiberaceae*, my personal aim was to study this group in the wild and gain valuable collecting experience.

After arriving in Jakarta it was two and a half weeks before any collecting could be carried out due to a combination of the complex bureaucracy gaining collection permits and the arduous journey to the centre of Borneo by air, road and riverboat. However, we were able to make use of the waiting time by visiting Bogor and Cibodas Botanic Gardens, where we met staff and gave presentations, and spending time at the herbarium in Cibinong.

The expedition party included Dr George Argent and Tony Conlon from R.B.G.E., Pak Wiguna Rahman our counterpart from Cibodas Botanic Garden, Pak Rustim our National Parks ranger and seven guides and porters from Rantau Malam, the last village on the route to Bukit Raya. Once past the timber concessions the guides led us along old hunting trails, through pristine *Dipterocarpaceae*-dominated lower montane forest, towards the summit.

Time limits dictated by the location of each camp and food supplies meant that collecting would have to be squeezed in along the way or at the camps. So we fell into a pattern of walking from camp to camp, the pace increasing and the slopes getting steeper and collecting any interesting plants along the way and at the camps. The pockets of light created due to previous multiple use at the camps meant a diverse range of species compared to that under the forest canopy. To my delight this included numerous gingers, always a different range of species at each camp. This was also true of the other target families, *Gesneriaceae* and *Begoniaceae*. We passed through the lower montane forest into sub-montane forest with large numbers of *Lithocarpus*.

The sub-montane forest gradually became low and mossy and we started to find Ericaceous epiphytes such as *Rhododendrons* and *Diplycosia*. After an extremely steep climb we walked through low, dense, mossy forest with many terrestrial and epiphytic Ericaceous shrubs, tree ferns and scrambling Nepenthes. It wasn't long before we found both target species, *Rhododendron fortunans* and *R. mogleanum*.

After a cold night near the summit we set off back to the village. Keen to get our living collections back quickly we managed to cover the distance that took us four days uphill in three days down. Back at the village we were all able to celebrate a rewarding and successful expedition. As well as the target species and many other *Ericaceae* species, we had numerous collections from our target families. In the *Zingiberaceae* this included specimens of *Globba*, *Boesenbergia*, *Etlingera*, *Amomum*, *Hornstedtia* and *Hedychium* as well as many, as yet unknown, living collections.

This was a fantastic trip giving me the opportunity to gain extremely valuable experience of the process of collecting plants in Indonesia and especially the techniques of collecting *Zingiberaceae* specimens and living material. I would like to thank the Kew Guild for helping to make this trip possible.

Orchids in Australia

by Saul Walker

For my Kew Diploma Travel Scholarship I was really set on at last, after 10 years of growing them, seeing orchids in their natural habitat. I decided to choose an area of the Pacific Rim and after much deliberation, reams of email and scouring of atlases, I set upon Queensland, Australia as my place of study. The year of organising my trip almost crumbled to nothing in the new year when Cyclone Yasi hit the west coast of Queensland and devastated all the forest that I would be studying in. Luckily, just over a month before I was due to travel, my partners in Australia said that although there was still a lot of damage, there would still be loads for me to see.

At the end of August I made the 30-hour trip (three separate flights) to finally land in Townsville where I was met by Dr Joe Holtum, the head of Botany at James Cook University. His hospitality in my first week in Australia was the making of my whole



trip, and his knowledge on the flora of the areas I visited, especially his beloved CAM plants, was inspirational. My time in Townsville was spent in the dry, seasonal *Melaleuca* forests to the north around the area of Cardwell. We were here primarily to survey the epiphytic flora in the trees for some PhD studies looking into the effects of both

bushfire activity and the cyclone on the flowering and fundicity. I was thrilled to finally see my first orchid in the wild, *Dendrobium canaliculatum*, here flowering very freely (see photo above) even though we were in the middle of a dry season that hadn't seen rain in a couple of months, the orchids were in full sun and battered by the wind which was no doubt laden with salt from the mangrove that bordered the forests here.

While in Townsville I also paid a visit to Magnetic Island, a short ferry hop from the city docks. This island is 80% protected National Park, and is a great mix of coastal rainforest, dry scrub forest and mangrove. I decided to take all the major walks across the island hoping to take in as much as I could, and was delighted within 10 minutes of walking to see masses of *Dendrobium discolor*, flowering freely in the canopy. I also saw great swathes of *Xanthorrhoea johnsonii* some as much as three metres in height and most about to flower with their long spear-like inflorescences. Apart from the individual plants, the landscape of forest growing above blue, pacific water with

massive outcrops of rock was such a memorable sight.

After Townsville I spent my last two weeks in Cairns further north in the wetter part of Queensland, home to the majority of the Australian Rainforest. Here I meet up with Ashleigh Field, a former PhD student of Joe's and now working at the Australian Tropical Herbarium. His botanical knowledge bordered on unbelievable, having many living collections himself, including a worldwide important collection of Tassel Ferns. For the week I spent some time in the Herbarium helping Ashleigh working with some of the collections, as well as visiting some of the local orchid private collections. One of the highlights though was visiting the Curtain Fig, a *Ficus microcarpa*, which was enormous and such an amazing sight.

My last week in Queensland was spent in the company of the Flecker Botanic Garden, one of the finest fully tropical Botanic gardens in the world. It was amazing to see the range of plants they grew in the gardens, not solely Australian natives but fine examples of a lot of the world's most notable tropical trees, herbaceous plants, and plenty of epiphytes. It was amazing to see their orchid collection, grown fully outside with only shading offering any protection, as well as the orchids growing in the garden itself which inspired me to use more in future displays at Kew such as the Palm House. It was also a privilege to spend most of the week with Steven 'Jacko' Jackson, one of their head propagators who had a personal love of *Amorphophallus*, and had the honour of being one of the few gardens where *A. titanum* could be flowered outside for all to see.

I will always remember Australia as being a country after my own heart: stress-free, welcoming, great food and fond of a beer or two! But over all this it has such a beautiful natural environment, with some of the most amazing flora I am ever likely to see. Although I only saw a few orchids in the wild, I will for my entire life remember seeing that first *D. canaliculatum*, my first wild flowering orchid, and fondly remember the people and the country that made that possible, so I thank the Kew Guild for helping to make this possible.

***Corybas ridleyanus* in the Mossy Forest on Gunung Brinchang**
by Craig Williams

My journey began in the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia. The constant cool temperatures of this Equatorial range make it lucrative to grow temperate plants. In recent decades the colonial tea plantations have been joined by polytunnels full of the likes of strawberries.

Representatives of Research Environmental Awareness Cameron Highlands, a local volunteer group, explained the effects of unsustainable agricultural practices on the area and showed me their book on the orchids of the Highlands, published to spotlight some of the treasures at risk.

Roads flanked by the stately tree fern *Cyathea contaminans* ascend Gunung Brinchang, at 2300m the Highlands' highest peak, topped by the aptly named Mossy Forest.

Satyia, my guide, showed me an area illegally cleared for farming where REACH

volunteers have begun reforestation. The importance of organic matter and of plant roots in binding together the thin sandy soil was evident. Lush re-growth where the farmer had buried what he felled towered over almost bare degraded granite, streaked by eroded gullies. A trail cut by the local Orang Asli tribe led into the forest where a dense lattice of exposed roots formed an elastic floor.

The path rose and fell past wonders such as the parasitic *Balanophora papuana* and the beautiful *Labisia pumila*, a local medicinal herb. In deep shade we found the heart shaped leaves of *Corybas* orchids, their tiny tubers nestled within cushions of moss. A single *Corybas ridleyanus* was in bloom (photo, below), its bizarre flower appearing as much to be transmitting into space as appealing to its fungus gnat pollinators!

The night train took me to Singapore where I attended the Orchidaceae sessions of the Flora Malaysiana Symposium and looked at orchids in cultivation in the National Orchid Garden and Woon Leng Nursery.



Corybas ridleyanus in the Mossy Forest on Gunung Brinchang

soil in a horizontal tree, its pillar-box red flowers swaying in the spray. This species was abundant at the sides of the park's sunny gorges, usually in crevices but occasionally as a lithophytes, its tubers and roots exposed on the rock surface.

The final leg of my trip was in Thailand with Queen Sirikit Botanic Gardens' Dr.Santi Wathana.

His tireless work includes projects involving communities in the propagation of orchids such as *Vanda coerulea* that have traditionally been harvested from the wild.

Every day brought more surprises including a massive *Vanilla griffithii* vine disappearing into the treetops, the ghostly myco-heterotrophic *Aphyllorchis montana* and the extraordinary *Habenaria limprichtii* on Doi Inthannon, Thailand's highest mountain.

In Lampang's Chae Son National Park we were guided through bamboo forest by Forest Rangers, who sliced open overgrown paths with machetes to a breathtaking waterfall. Here *Habenaria rhodocheila* grew in pockets of

The next day brought the highlight of the trip, the sight of the Great Mormon butterfly *Papilio memnon* feeding on the orchid's nectar, its head festooned with pollinia!

The trip was an incredible inspirational experience and I was able to collect a lot of data that may help in future cultivation of the species I saw. I am eternally grateful to the Kew Guild, Stella Ross-Craig, the RHS and to everyone who helped me along the way.

THE KEW GUILD HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

by Allan Hart

This is the sixth 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 in horticulture and the botanical sciences.

The 2011 nomination of Adil Güner is welcomed by the Kew Guild. He is very much a hands-on botanist and conservationist, undertaking many expeditions in Turkey to record and collect new and endangered species. His particular interest is in the *Juno Iris*.

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

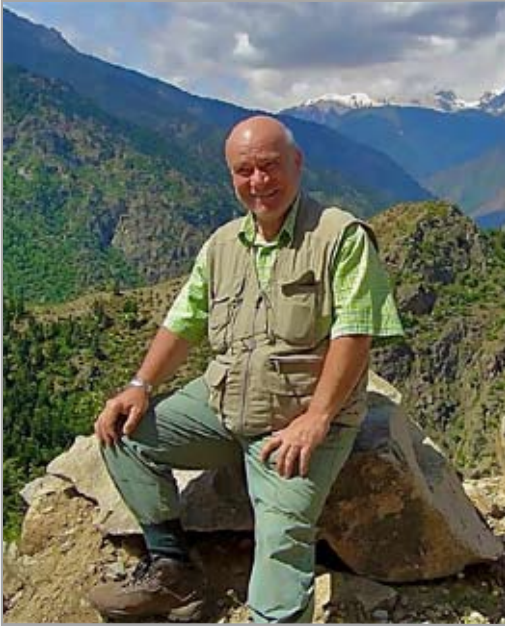
Elected 2009 – Richard Bisgrove, Niall Kirkwood

Elected 2010 – Shirley Sherwood

Professor Adil Güner

Adil Güner gained an MSc. at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey in 1973, followed by a Ph.D. at the same university in 1979. During the period 1973 to 1993 Adil was employed by the Hacettepe University, progressing from a Research Assistant to Assistant Professor. From 1994 to 2002 he was appointed Professor of Botany at Abant İzzet Baysal University Biology Department at Bolu, Turkey where he was also Director of The Graduate School of Sciences. His interests in plant systematics focus mainly on irises, but he also has an extensive knowledge of the Turkish Flora about which he has an extensive list of publications and also includes translating into Turkish the Dorling Kindersley Visual Dictionary of Plants (2004). From 1991 to 2006 he was editor of the Turkish Journal of Botany, and principal editor of the second supplement to the Flora of Turkey, Volume 11, published in 2000. Currently Adil is working on a Checklist of the Flora of Turkey with a view to producing a new Illustrated Flora of Turkey in the future. Adil is a member of OPTIMA, IAPT, IUCN-SSC, the Systemics Association, the Turkish Society of Biologists and is a founding member of the Turkish Flora Research Society.

With Nihat Gökyiğit, Adil was instrumental in establishing the Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden (NGBB) named after Mr. Gökyiğit's late wife, Nezahat and becoming its first Director in 2002. Unusually, the privately funded Botanic Garden is situated at the intersection of two busy motor way junctions with slip roads dividing the 32



hectare site into ‘islands’ which are interconnected by series of tunnels and two bridges. Developing this unpromising site in a densely populated residential area of Istanbul into an attractive and diverse Botanic Garden has been a challenge. A three year Darwin initiative project with Edinburgh Botanic Garden has played an important role in establishing the infra structure of the Garden and in developing Practical Horticulture training courses. Several Kew staff have visited the Garden in Turkey and two NGBB staff have attended the Education in Botanic Garden Courses at Kew.

The main aim of this unusually situated Botanic Garden is to disseminate information about Turkey's native flora, (over 10,000 taxa, a third of which is endemic),

to the Turkish people, thereby establishing an improved environmental future and to highlight its diversity and importance for future generations. Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden seeks to develop science, conservation and education through demonstration, education and training programmes and provides a good model in Turkey for the development of other Botanic Gardens.

The election of Adil as an Honorary Member will extend the influence of the Kew Guild into an as yet unrepresented region of the world and we warmly welcome him into the Fellowship of the Guild.

NEWS OF HONORARY FELLOWS

Compiled by Allan Hart

Richard Bisgrove

‘I had my usual few days lecturing at Kew in January then in mid-February my wife and I flew to Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) for the second part of our son’s wedding. Much of our time was occupied by family matters, of course, but we did manage a visit to the Botanic Garden – a very sad place with smart new entrance but no sign at all of anyone working in the garden.

In May we had a mid-week break in Barcelona. Barcelona is one of those places where landscape people have to go and I was pleased to have ticked off another must-do. The Gaudi buildings and his Parc Guell were literally fantastic (or weird?). The cathedral was more beautiful than I had anticipated but I thought a lot of Gaudi architecture looked as if the moulds had been removed before the concrete had quite set. We also visited the almost brand new (1999) Botanic Garden, a complete contrast to Kolkata in

every respect. Designed by architects, a landscape architect, a horticulturist and a botanist and set high on a hill above the Olympic stadium on a former landfill site, the garden was about 50% zigzag concrete paths and 50% plant collections – very accessible and very well maintained. The most exciting part of our visit, though, was a series of ground-shaking explosions outside our hotel one evening – Barcelona had beaten Real Madrid at football so the natives went wild with fireworks all night.

In June we organised our biennial ‘Tokers Green Toddle’, half-a-dozen gardens in the village opening for the Air Ambulance. It was a slightly iffy day but cleared up nicely and we made over £2,500 for the charity. That evening I set off by train to Cambridge to join Reading’s MSc Horticulture students on their field course, a very nice ‘holiday’ for me with no responsibilities other than to stand up and spout from time to time when we left the lettuce fields and tomato houses to head into real landscape.

July 7th was Graduation Day at the University, very special for me because my one remaining PhD student finally completed her thesis and graduated so I felt properly retired at last. Most of the rest of July I commuted to Oxford to teach a 3-week course on Arts and Crafts Gardens for the Oxford / Berkeley Summer School. I had a very good bunch of students ranging in age from mid-50s to low-80s, all of whom survived mammoth tours of the M25 (William Morris’ house in Kent and Gertrude Jekyll’s in Surrey) and the M4 to Hestercombe in Somerset.

In September my wife and I drove to Düsseldorf, Reading’s twin town, where my wife sang with the Reading Festival Chorus and Düsseldorf’s St John’s Choir, a return match following their visit to Reading in June. We visited several parks and palaces around Düsseldorf then headed north to see the regional park at Duisburg Nord (a weird but must-see-for-landscapers park with nature reclaiming a vast abandoned steelworks) then south to Bonn where we met up with the Head of the Bonn Botanic Garden (ex-Wisley and Kew) and his Japanese wife (ex-Wisley, Kew and Reading). The Bonn Botanic Garden is small but very charming and packed with interesting features including representations on a miniscule scale of the ecosystems of the region.

In October I had my few days at Kew, again, lecturing in Amenity Horticulture to the students on Course 47, to whom I had lectured on Garden History in January.

In between I have given various one-off lectures to garden clubs and I continue to advise on gardens, and even to work in my own garden, trying to bring some semblance of order (or planned disorder) after years of neglect as the University took priority.’

John Brookes MBE

John wrote that it had been a pretty dull year work wise in Britain – but things were looking better abroad, thank goodness! In March he had lectured and held a seminar at the Spring Show in Moscow and then gone on to do the same again in St. Petersburg, (which he much preferred). April took him to Iran for a 14-day tour for ‘Gardens Illustrated’. John used to work in Iran and has written a book on Islamic Gardens. May found him in Chicago to see private clients and in August he was in Dublin judging a landscape competition.

Back to St. Petersburg in October for a four day workshop where he saw some

interesting restoration work on Peter the Great's Summer Garden (all very French and linear) and visited Pavlovsk – a beautiful 18th century layout.

Finally he went to Argentina in November where he has a garden design school, to mark papers at the end of their academic year. From Buenos Aires he went on to Uruguay to see the site for what he hopes will be an exciting housing development and some new landscape work.

December brought a well-deserved rest from travelling and time to sort out his own garden!

Derek Edwards

Derek reports that, in spite of having Parkinson's Disease for ten years now, he is still active with his band, playing bass guitar and key board. Derek's company 'Inturf', as part of the Guardian newspaper-led campaign, had reduced its CO₂ emissions by 18% in 2010. It is also producing a 100% organic worm compost for construction and top dressing of lawns and sports pitches, and a new product – Carbon Capture Turf – which it is claimed absorbs more greenhouse gases than conventional turf – the Co₂ is locked up in the soil and in the grass roots.

Niall Kirkwood

Niall has again been making many visits to Asia during 2011, completing several lecture tours and trips to South Korea, where he has collaborated for some years with Professor Woo-Kyung Sim – a leading landscape architect of traditional Korean landscape gardens and author of the standard book on the subject. (I had the privilege of taking Professor Sim on a tour of RBG when he was carrying out research into roses for the design and implementation of a major new rose garden in Seoul. His knowledge of design and plants is outstanding). Niall gave presentations to Government and Universities on landscape architecture and using vegetation in cities. He also visited Hong Kong as a member of the Administrative Board, to review the teaching of Landscape Architecture at the University of Hong Kong.

Roy Lancaster

'After several years absence I paid a visit to Tresco Abbey gardens in March this year as guest of the Garden's manager Mike Nelhams. With my wife and friends we toured the familiar terraces renowned for their exotic displays of Mediterranean and warm-temperate plants. South African Silver trees *Leucodendron argenteum* were in flower plus many of the Garden's other signature plants such as Proteas, Banksias, Acacias and Aloes, this despite temperatures of -5 C having been recorded in the past winter. Some damage had been recorded but the majority of plantings had emerged unharmed and judging by the rich variety of reserve plants in the nursery, filling any gaps would not be a problem. A day's ramble around the island's coastline provided a bonus in the form of Sea spleenwort *Asplenium marinum*. Several healthy clumps of this native fern adorned the ruined stone walls of both Cromwell and Charles' castles.

Cornwall is famed for its gardens and plant collections and rarely a year goes by without at least one visit. This year it was four, starting in March with Caerhays Castle, one of the greatest collections of Asiatic woody plants in the western world, rich in camellias, rhododendrons, magnolias and oaks. Several of the most impressive large magnolia hybrids here are named for members of the Williams family 'Delia

Williams' and 'F.J. Williams' or Caerhays staff 'Philip Tregunna' ex Head Gardener who sadly died in September aged 80. The main reason for my visit was to help celebrate the launch of a book 'Caerhays Castle' by Charles Williams and others. Its well illustrated 259 pages offers a fascinating introduction to the history, owners and gardeners of the estate, house and garden and is a timely reminder of the important contribution made by Caerhays to the introduction and conservation of plants of wild and garden origin.

In early April, at the far eastern corner of England in Kent I visited the National Pinetum, Bedgebury with fellow members of the Arboretum Advisory panel. Those who imagine this to be a collection of conifers, conifers and yet more conifers are in for a surprise for there are many lovely displays of deciduous broadleaved trees and shrubs too as well as other evergreens. Being the nation's premier conifer collection however, one should not be surprised at the numbers and variety of these plants which have found a home from home here. All the major temperate conifer genera are represented including the so-called 'living fossils' *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* and *Ginkgo biloba* to which have been added in recent years *Cathaya argyrophylla*, once described to me as 'the panda of the plant world' by a Chinese botanist in Beijing, *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis* and the much publicised Wollemi pine *Wollemia nobilis*. All three have been planted outside and are growing well. I look forward to following their progress in the coming years.

Those Kewites who have never visited Bedgebury should make an effort to do so. They might also bear in mind that until 1965 the Pinetum was run by Kew in partnership with the Forestry Commission. Planting began in 1925 and its early management was originally undertaken by its first Curator, Kew's own William Dallimore.

In September, a chance meeting with Chris Brickell and his wife Jeanette at Gatwick Airport on our way to judge at the Lucca Flower Show in Italy led to my wife Sue and I joining them afterwards on a car trip south in search of naked ladies (*Colchicum* species) in the mountains of Lombardi. In the event we found three species *S. alpinum*, *C. neapolitanum* and the well known *C. autumnale*. The most impressive experience however, was walking through magnificent native beech woodland on the steep slopes of the Val di Ranco in the Monte Cucco. Known locally as 'the mother of all beeches' this is a wonderful natural feature much enjoyed and appreciated by keen hikers and family groups alike.

Dennis McGlade

Dennis worked on various projects during 2011, including the following:

New work:

University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) Western Institute of Nanoelectronics on Green Engineering and Metrology (WIN GEM) Building: Los Angeles, California. OLIN began work on this project – now in the Construction Documentation phase – in early 2011 as a sub-consultant to Moore Ruble Yudell Architects of Los Angeles. The project site is located at the north end of Westwood Plaza, a critical gateway to the campus of University of California at Los Angeles. While plans for a new engineering building are being developed, OLIN designed a temporary landscape. This involved a renovation of the Portola steps and the design of new plantings and pavement patterns.

A temporary landscape south of the building will consist of native planting, rain gardens, a play lawn, and moped/motorcycle parking.

Washington University in St. Louis Olin School of Business: St. Louis, Missouri – OLIN is teamed with architects Moore Ruble Yudell on this project to construct a new home for Washington University in St. Louis' Olin School of Business. The Olin School is currently housed in two different buildings separated by the campus' main quadrangle; the new facility will reunite the school's operations and provide updated and expanded classroom, auditorium and office spaces. Site work includes development of new walks, terraces, walls, stairs and service areas into and around the new building. A related site work project includes demolition of a portion of an existing parking deck and development of the site as a publicly accessible green roof. This effort is currently in the Design Development phase.

Finished work:

Blithewold Estate and Arboretum Master Plan: Bristol, Rhode Island. OLIN recently completed a master plan for the historic Blithewold estate, a major regional attraction set in a 33-acre park on the Narragansett Bay, which was once a private residence before opening to the public in 1980. OLIN teamed with Ann Beha Architects to develop a master plan that provides a phased strategy for re-developing and interpreting the house and gardens.

The plan Dennis developed recommends new garden experiences, improvements to accommodate growing visitation, increases to operating revenues, and identification of scenarios for staffing and operations. The master plan creates a sustainable vision for the stewardship of Blithewold, in keeping with the heritage and beauty of this remarkable property.

Continuing work:

Grace Farms: New Canaan, Connecticut. OLIN has teamed with the architecture firm SANAA of Tokyo, Japan, to create this innovative non-profit facility dedicated to serving both the local community of New Canaan and the congregation of the Grace Community Church. This 75-acre former horse farm is being transformed into an open park composed of woodlands, meadows and ponds surrounding new Church buildings as well as separate community facilities for art, social outreach and recreation. The property's post-agrarian landscape has a unique cultural and historical narrative; however, it is presently a biological desert of mowed lawns and scattered trees, edged by a narrow band of woodland mostly comprised of invasive non-native tree species. The proposed plan encourages ecological diversity and a sustainable design direction.

Anna Pavord

Anna writes that this year, in addition to working on the development of her garden at Sunnyside Farm, her itinerary took her to literary festivals in Pitlochry and Bath, before visiting Philadelphia, New York and Chicago in April, where she lectured on the gardens made by British expatriates in Florence at the turn of the 20th Century. May was the time of the Hay Literary Festival, followed by the Dartington Literary Festival in July, with further festivals at Thame and Wells in October. Anna continued with her weekly gardening column in the Independent newspaper and still found time to write book reviews in *World of Interiors* and profiles of Brian Mathew and Andrew Lawson for *Gardens Illustrated*.

Shirley Sherwood

'I did an immense amount of travelling in 2011, and was out of England for over six months, with visits to the USA for two board meetings of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington and to judge the New York Botanical Garden's opening of an excellent botanical art exhibition.

I spent some time in South Africa at Kirstenbosch preparing the exhibition 'Plants in Peril' for the Shirley Sherwood Gallery. I wanted the exhibition to explain the grades of endangerment while not detracting from the beauty of the plant paintings. I think we succeeded as we had over 100,000 people visit the gallery in 2011, up 25% on the previous year and some very appreciative comments in the visitors' book.

I went to the Black Sea and saw Yalta and Odessa for the first time and I re-visited South America and Mexico, meeting artists from Brazil and acquiring paintings from both countries.

I also went to Germany and Pisa, Italy where I hope there will be exhibitions of my collection. I have not shown in Germany before.

Before Christmas I started selecting works for two exhibitions in April 2012, one of lively fungi paintings and the other a display of leaves showing their wide range of colours, shapes and sizes.

2011 finished with the unexpected and exciting news that I had been awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honours List for service to botanical art.'

The Kew Guild wishes to congratulate Dr Shirley Sherwood on her OBE.

Tim Smit

Tim Smit has been appointed an Honorary Knight by Her Majesty the Queen in the 2010 New Year's Honours list (centre of photo). The Dutch-born co-founder and Chief Executive of Eden, who is also renowned for the restoration of the Lost Gardens of Heligan, is being given the honour in recognition of his services to public engagement with science.

Tim, who was previously awarded an honorary CBE in 2002, is a noted speaker and author. His account of the establishment of the project, entitled *Eden*, was recently acclaimed the best-selling environmental book of the past decade.



News of the honour – full title Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE) – was confirmed by the Foreign and

Commonwealth Office. As the news became public on 20 January, Tim said: ‘I’m hugely honoured. In the true spirit of ‘going Dutch’ I would like to share the honour with all the fabulous friends and colleagues who have helped make the adventures of the Lost Gardens of Heligan and the Eden Project a reality’. The Award was presented to Tim at Eden by Lady Mary Holborow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall (now retired).

Tim has also been involved with The Big Jubilee Lunch. The Big Lunch is a very simple idea from the Eden Project. The aim is to get as many people as possible across the whole of the UK to have lunch with their neighbours in a simple act of community, friendship and fun.

Last year on Sunday 5th June the best part of two million people took part. In 2012 The Big Lunch falls on the same weekend as The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations on Sunday 3rd June and as announced by Buckingham Palace The Big Jubilee Lunch will be a part of the main programme of events over the central weekend of the Diamond Jubilee. A record number of people are expected to take part.

A Big Lunch can be anything from a few neighbours getting together in the garden or on the street, to a full-blown street party with food, music and decoration that quite literally stops the traffic.

Since starting in 2009, thousands of Big Lunches have taken place in all kinds of communities across the UK and the best part of a million people get involved each year. See link for further details: <http://www.thebiglunch.com/join-in/jubilee-2012.php>

The Kew Guild offers their congratulations to Tim Smit on his honour.

Ed Wolf

Ed reports that 2011 was a year full of challenges, highs and lows. Indoor Garden Design’s main thrust was in the installation and management of plants in corporate offices. Many of the clients recognise the value that plants bring to the internal environment, but others talk ‘green’ but do not necessarily act ‘green’!

Indoor Garden Design won a Bronze Medal for a display of green wall technology and a Silver Medal for the Bermuda Garden at the 2011 Chelsea Flower Show.

A fun project was the design and installation of a two-metre diameter floral globe representing the planet Venus (right), for the ‘White Tie and Tiara Ball’ held to raise funds for Elton John’s AIDS Foundation. A most unusual request was for the complete replanting of ‘The World’, the largest privately owned cruise liner, which has 150 apartments.



© Indoor Garden Design

THE YEAR AT KEW 2011

by Miranda Kimberley
Photos © RBG Kew

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.

Kew entered a garden in the **Chelsea Flower Show** this year in partnership with The Times – the first Chelsea show garden that Kew had been involved with since 1976. The garden was designed by Chelsea gold medallist Marcus Barnett. The central feature was a pavilion with latticed walls, which connected to horizontal paths and pools – an effect echoing the pattern of leaf veins and cell structure (right).

The plant species chosen had medicinal, commercial and industrial uses, to underline the fact that plants are invaluable to our everyday lives – producing our food, clothing and the air that we breathe. Plants were planted in swathes to give a naturalistic feel – they included *Salvia* 'Caradonna' and 'Oliver Klose', *Paeonia* 'White Wings', Iris 'Frost & Flame', rosemary, opium poppies, foxgloves and silver birches. The show garden was relocated to an area opposite Victoria Gate later in the year.



Another exciting production being created this year was a **3D TV series**, focusing on Kew's plant collections and the botanic garden's role in global conservation. It was filmed at both Kew Gardens and the Millennium Seed Bank, featuring everyone's favourite naturalist David Attenborough. I, for one, am extraordinarily jealous of the staff who got to hang out with him behind the scenes. The three episodes are divided into life in the wet, dry and cool zones. The narrative refers to how we can create the right environments for plants and conservation efforts to save endangered species. There will be examples of behind the scenes work and the people who make this happen.

The director of the Atlantic Productions film crew, Martin Williams, said about the series: 'We are trying something totally new. To try to combine time lapse filming with 3D. Things you've never seen with the naked eye before'. They used two cameras to capture the 3D images, in combination with macro photography. The films are due to be shown on the new Sky 3D channel.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced in May that an award would be awarded to Kew to help **restore the Temperate House** and its surrounding landscape. The Temperate House is the largest surviving Victorian glass house structure in the world, having been originally opened in 1863, but it has been deteriorating badly in recent years.

Development funding of £890,900 was awarded to help progress plans for the £28 million project. Initial support from HLF means that Kew can now progress plans further in order to secure a full HLF grant of £15 million.

Kew needs to raise an additional £13 million for the Temperate House scheme alongside the £15 million funding from HLF. Defra has committed to underwrite a substantial portion of this – in addition to the £21.6 million in funding it will provide Kew over the next year. Leading philanthropists Eddie and Sue Davies have also agreed to provide support.

Subject to confirmed funding, the £28 million restoration project will take up to eight years. Plans include restoration of the Temperate House and its surrounding landscape and converting the adjoining Evolution House into an engagement centre; restructuring the horticultural displays as well as rejuvenating the existing historic botanical collection; setting up a community outreach programme with an accompanying apprenticeship scheme and volunteer programme; and creating a new arm to Kew's schools education programme.



Also, this year Kew continued their five-year partnership with the **British Museum** by creating an **Australian landscape** in the forecourt of the Museum (left). Three Australian habitats were represented: the coastal vegetation of Eastern Australia; the country's red centre (the arid desert covering the southern third of the Northern Territory and the North

East corner of South Australia); and a Western Australian granite outcrop showcasing unique and highly threatened flora.

12 'star' plants were highlighted in the Landscape, making connections between the habitat and the British Museum's collection, as well as highlighting Kew's work in Australia. They included tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*), coast banksia (*Banksia integrifolia*) and Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). Swathes of strongly coloured *Brachycome iberidifolia* (Swan River daisies) and *Rhodanthe manglesii* (Mangle's everlasting) added colour to the landscape.

In March, Kate Adie officially launched the reopening of the restored **Marianne North Gallery**. Guests included members of the North family, painting sponsors and several ambassadors from the countries North visited during her travels.

Kew held a festival in May called ‘**Travel the World at Kew Gardens**’ during which visitors were treated to music and dance from different regions. The music or performance matched the location in the garden, with drumming taking place in the Japanese Gateway; a didgeridoo player accompanied by percussion in the Temperate House, and aerialists mimicking tropical birds by performing suspended from the Palm House canopy. Other spectacles on offer included stilt walkers, a carnival procession, flamenco dancers and a tea ceremony in the Minka house.

In September Kew opened its new, purpose-built **Quarantine House** (below). Funded by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), the Plant Reception and Quarantine Unit means that Kew can keep its precious collection of rare and interesting plants safe from pests and diseases and work with Defra to protect the UK natural environment.



Initially the Plant Reception and Quarantine Unit will be used for plants entering and leaving Kew Gardens but in time a quarantine service will be provided to a wide range of organisations. The facility was designed and built by Unigro, a leading provider of controlled environments to universities and other research institutes, after extensive consultation with Kew staff and other experts. The building is located behind the Lower Nursery.

This year also saw the completion of a three-year project to redesign the **Grass**

Garden. This was part of a wider project to harmonise the north-end zone with the rest of the Gardens. A new red brick serpentine path connects the Secluded Garden through to the Grass and Aquatic Gardens, providing improved disabled access.

Finally, the **Kew Palace flats** were given Grade 1 listing in May by English Heritage. They contain the most complete Georgian kitchen still in existence.

People

2011 saw some major changes among personnel at the top of Kew's management structure. Curator **Nigel Taylor** left his post in the summer for a role at the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Professor **David Mabberley** also left in the summer to take up the post of Executive Director of the New South Wales Royal Botanic Gardens Trust in Sydney.

Director **Steve Hopper** recently announced that he would be stepping down from the directorship in autumn 2012, after six years in the role. He will return to Australia to take up a new Chair in Biodiversity at The University of Western Australia in order to devote more time to research, writing and teaching in biodiversity conservation, plant science and evolutionary biology. He will explore options at UWA to further develop a significant international research programme, including ongoing collaborative links with Kew. The search for his successor will begin immediately.

Marcus Agius, Chairman of Trustees, said "Steve has been an inspiration to all who work for Kew, and the Trustees wish to put on record their appreciation for the leadership that he has given since 2006. In his time as Director, Kew's contribution to plant science, conservation and sustainable living has been of global importance and its reputation as a centre of excellence has been sustained."

Professor Hopper has led new developments in Kew's science, including a concerted focus on restoration ecology aimed at repairing and restoring wild biodiversity. His publication in 2009 of OCBIL Theory dealing with biodiversity on old, climatically-buffered, infertile landscapes has been a career highlight.

Steve Hopper said "I came to Kew from The University of Western Australia with a simple aim – to ensure the world, biodiversity and the organisation were in a better place by the time I left. Like all such aims, my time is marked by achievement in some quarters and much more left to do in others. Biodiversity has an enormous role to play in helping moderate the worst aspects of global warming and in enabling people to live healthy sustainable lives. The world is slowly realizing this, and Kew has a pivotal role to play in science-based plant and fungal conservation aimed at enhancing the quality of life."

"After six years at Kew, it will be an appropriate time to hand on the reins to inject fresh momentum and innovative solutions to pressing global problems we all face. I will leave Kew with sadness but also pleasure knowing that it is in safe hands. Kew has exceptionally dedicated and talented staff, students, volunteers and Trustees and I pay tribute to all who have supported Kew over the years, past and present, locally, nationally and internationally including, in particular, colleagues and ministers at Defra."

The William Aiton Medal was awarded to three people this year for Exceptional Service to Kew: **Jane James** – Supervisor in Supporter Relations, Kew Foundation; **Dave Cooke** – Temperate House Manager; and Dr **Nigel Taylor** – Kew’s Curator until summer 2011 and now Director of Singapore Botanic Gardens. The presentations were made by Lord Taylor of Holbeach, Defra Minister with responsibility for Kew, alongside Professor Stephen Hopper, Marcus Agius, Chairman of Kew Trustees, and Jennifer Ullman, Kew Trustee and Chair of The William Aiton Medal Committee.

The Institute of Horticulture and David Colegrave Foundation appointed their first joint Intern this year, **Matthew Stevenson**. Stevenson is a Kew Horticultural Volunteer and Capel Manor College National Diploma student. The joint internship programme aims to give budding horticulturists opportunities to meet those established in the industry, to find out more about different spheres of horticulture and to get an insight into the workings of both organisations.

Sue Minter, President of the Institute, said ‘We’re delighted to be working with the David Colegrave Foundation to promote opportunities in horticulture for young people and we welcome Matthew to his new role. I’m sure his enthusiasm and commitment to the industry will help make the internship a great success’.

Matthew will carry out an ambassadorial role for both IoH and DCF in addition to organising student visits to commercial operations, of particular interest to DCF. He will also help to co-ordinate an elite group of past participants of the Institute’s Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition.

Jeff Colegrave, DCF Trustee and son of David Colegrave said “We are keen to get the message out to the industry that we have scholarships and funds available to support those students who are working hard to learn about the opportunities that exist within our sector. We look forward to Matthew being able to help us spread that message”.

Matthew said “I am very grateful and extremely excited to be the first IoH/DCF Intern. I am looking forward to promoting two special organisations that I believe in, as well as horticulture which I feel so passionately about”.

Orchid expert **Joyce Stewart** MBE VMH sadly passed away in January. She was widely respected in the botanical field for extensive work including books, such as *Orchids of Tropical Africa*, a post on the RHS Orchid Committee and a 10-year stint at Kew as the Sainsbury Orchid Fellow. In 1995, as she approached her retirement from Kew, Joyce was head-hunted by the RHS and became its Director of Horticulture and Science based at Wisley. She successfully occupied this position for almost ten years until her retirement in 2007. Following her retirement from the RHS she was awarded an MBE and became one of the 61 holders of the Victoria Medal of Honour, the RHS’s premier award.

Phil Cribb said: “Joyce will be sorely missed in orchid circles. She was well known to many orchid lovers for her lectures on various aspects of the orchid world. She was also the focus and dynamo for many organisations and groups, ranging from local orchid societies to world events, and an energetic and very well-connected driving force wherever she worked”.

This year RHS awards were made to **Giles Coode-Adams** of the Victoria Medal of Honour and to **Chris Bailes** of the Veitch Memorial Medal. Both are old Kewites. Congratulations to both of them for this well deserved recognition.

On 30th November, **Kew magazine** and **Kew Publishing** received several accolades from the Garden Media Guild. The **Garden Media Guild Awards** celebrate the best in garden writing and are the garden media ‘Oscars’. *Kew* magazine won the ‘Plants and Well Being’ award, for Gail Vines’ article *Growing Your Own*, about the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership’s MGU Useful Plants Project. This project helps communities in Africa and Mexico to grow the plants they want in community gardens.

The judges said: “The winner clearly met all of the criteria of this category, particularly the ability of gardening and plants to improve the quality of life. It brought to life a subject that could have been technically challenging to explain with inspiring writing, and it had true flair that inspires the reader.”

Kew magazine also received a finalist place in the same category for Stephen Anderton’s article, *Flower Power at Chelsea*, on Kew’s involvement in The Times Eureka Garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, and in the Environmental category for Andy Jackson’s *Little things mean a lot* about the Francis Rose reserve and the conservation of cryptograms at Wakehurst.

Kew Publishing was a finalist in two categories: for Reference Book of the Year with *Aloes*, the Definitive Guide by S Carter, JJ Lavranos, LE Newton and CC Walker, and in Inspirational Book of the Year for *The Smallest Kingdom* by Mike and Liz Fraser. Many thanks to all those who have helped in these award-winning communications about Kew’s work.

And finally, Dr **Shirley Sherwood**, after whom Kew’s gallery of botanical art is named, was awarded an OBE in the New Year’s honours for services to botanical art.

WAKEHURST – CONSOLIDATING SUCCESS BUILDING OUR FUTURE IN A TIME OF RECESSION

A review of 2011 by David Hardman, Head of Horticulture
and Estates Management at Wakehurst

So much was achieved in a year full of contrasts, the weather as ever seemed to be a major talking point from so many aspects and visitors to Wakehurst saw new features constantly being introduced. As I write, the two major projects conserving our water features and irrigation supply are in full swing. Interest in plants flowering earlier than normal or even holding on to their flowers longer due to the mild winter so far has brought a great deal of interest from the media. As always we managed to provide good stories about the excellent collections held at Wakehurst leading to good visitor numbers being realised despite a difficult year financially for the British economy.

Consistency remained within the Horticultural team and saw few staff changes. Through excellent performance by the team we were able to deliver a large range of exciting attractions across the site in addition to our core workloads. It would be unfair

to single out any one member of staff in this report because this year everyone at Wakehurst has achieved and delivered a truly magnificent team effort.

There were some changes and on 10th January we saw the arrival of the facilities management company, Norlands, which has taken over the role played for many years by the Estates Department, to manage the building and maintenance role across Kew and Wakehurst – this has meant a different approach to getting things done and new procedures to follow.

Landscape Masterplan and Mansion Conservation Management Plan

Trustees endorsed the Wakehurst Landscape Master Plan at their meeting on 16th June. This plan provides a 30-year vision for the garden and wider estate. The redevelopment of the Nursery was acknowledged as the highest priority project it is within Kew's top five priorities for capital projects and is also within the capital programme for the Millennium Seed Bank.

The Landscape Conservation Plan nears its completion having raised several interesting findings, when published the plan will have important impacts on all future developments across the whole estate. It will provide the detail evidence to support the vision of the Landscape Master Plan.

Essential garden work

The important core work has been completed successfully in the garden and these tasks are not always appreciated as they are completed day after day to ensure a quality horticultural visit. The following details have been included here to record points of interest from the collections and managed landscape. We had good coverage of the first flowering of *Banksia brownii* by BBC South East, The Argus and other local papers. A Common spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza fuchsii* close to the Stables restaurant was confirmed as the tallest ever recorded in Britain – it stood a mighty 96cm tall, around three times the normal size.

Rhododendron ponticum removal above Westwood Lake has been completed. This contributed to the SSSI restoration programme and it has restored views over Westwood Lake.

Low post and rail fences have been installed (see photo right) to create new paths through the Acer Bed and Humped Bed in the Southern Hemisphere Garden. This gives visitors



better access to the collections and allows us to plant smaller species in the centres of these large beds. They are already proving popular with visitors, and in time will hold interpretation about Southern Hemisphere plants.

A new Gravograph IM3 label engraver was successfully installed – the old one arrived in September 1974 and was still working until spring this year, so these machines certainly give good value for money!

New Projects

‘Adventurous Journeys’ is the title of a major project trail using a range of interactive natural play features being developed across Wakehurst that will take several years to complete. The trail will be recognised at each play space by a ‘seed treasure capsule’ which is a bronze disc for children to find and then draw into their trail passport. These are tactile and 3 dimensional discs so not great for brass-rubbings but good for texture and form. We intend linking these with the Millennium Seed Bank to design a small hands-on display to find out if the seeds have been banked there. To complete the picture each natural play feature is interpreted on oak boards set close by.

Achievement requires contributions from all the teams at Wakehurst as each new feature is rolled out. The Gardens team were first with ‘Tunnels & Tents’, a woven willow feature, positioned in the Oaks and built in 2010 along with ‘Scents of Direction’ in the Carriage Ring which both proved very popular with younger visitors.

‘Scents of Direction’ is a small maze built using a series of planters holding a range of scented foliage plants which can be moved when events in the Carriage Ring are planned. This year new additional planters have been added and the entire maze rearranged to retain an even appearance. An entrance of pyramidal clipped box, two planters of curry plants and a central planter with spiral clipped box have been added; the central planter also holds the bronze disc for this feature. It looks fabulous with the huge range of shapes, colours, textures and scents.

New features this year include ‘Unexpected Endings’ located in the Sarrups (old Pinetum) this is a brick labyrinth designed to replicate a cross section of a pine cone. Initial inputs were made by the Logistics and Gardens teams to excavate the site ready for the design to be laid out and bricklaying to commence. The designer set out the centre and initial spiral on 17 February with the points matching perfectly with our set-out grid. Then, once the site was prepared, the realisation of what this feature entailed and its size came home to everyone. This led to a fantastic concerted effort over many weeks from many people across the site who all assisted pointing mortar in between all the bricks. Finally turf was laid between the paths to differentiate the route, some 600 metres from the outer starting point to the centre where the brass disc is fitted. It has been a great hit with families of all ages since it opened and continues to achieve its objective. Children and adults can be seen all dutifully going in different directions fixated on where the path leads!

The Logistics team was required to install the acoustic chair and first talking totem in Horsebridge Wood that required extremely careful use of the JCB to position both items perfectly. ‘Talking Totems’ is a selection of wooden carved sculptures produced by a local artist including an acoustic chair, leaping salmon and a musical totem. Each totem depicts a different story about the relationship and uses of the trees and timber by people. St Peters School, Ardingly, was the first school to use the Talking Totems for storytelling. It was a wonderful success; the leaping salmon was described by two 9-year-old pupils as “the salmon leaping out of the water representing the struggle that Wakehurst has with protecting the environment”. The acoustic chair sees visitors

sitting and listening whilst the musical totem is used to produce a range of tones. A Trustee was very impressed with ‘Talking Totems’, describing them as the best examples of this artwork / play that she had seen. She was also very impressed by the scale and quality of work on ‘Unexpected Endings’.

‘Root Route’ was installed in Coates Wood by the Woodland and Logistics team. This play space depicts the outline of tree roots and is a selection of timber balance beams where visitors can walk along them.

Finally ‘Time Travel’ (see photo, right) is a miniature version of the ‘Unexpected Endings’ brick labyrinth and copies its design as a pattern routed into the oak stump above the Iris dell. It took a great deal of time by the Gardens and Woodland teams to prepare the stump followed by patience, initiative and skill to produce the end product which enables visitors, using their finger, to trace the way to the centre of the labyrinth.



New nursery feature

The Memorial garden gate was opened to allow public access into the upper walled Nursery for the first time on 4th July until early October and showcased a range of work undertaken by the Nursery team. This included the School Garden, Black Poplar conservation and Heritage seeds display and the temporary seed beds forming the first stage of the UK Native Seed Hub project (UKNSH). The opening produced excellent media coverage from television and national newspapers and created much interest and requests for information from the public.

One of the aims of the UKNSH project is to produce seed from species found in the High Weald which are generally unavailable commercially for various reasons. Working with partners, the seed collected will be made available as foundation stock for commercial growers to bulk up and then make available commercially.

Chris Blandford Associates were appointed as the Business Analysts for the UK Native Seed Hub 10-year business plan. This analysis was commissioned in order to develop a long-term sustainable business for the Seed Hub.

New Defra funded Capital Projects

Despite a tight timetable, HEM managers submitted a combined bid via Estates to Defra for restoration of Westwood Lake and installation of a new irrigation main to feed lake water to South Drive Pond, from where it will be distributed initially through the existing irrigation system. This is the first phase of upgrades and repair to our ageing water infrastructure. The Wakehurst submissions to Defra were commended by the Director as an exemplar bid that should be the model for others from Kew and both proved successful. In addition Natural England awarded a grant of £78,000 towards the restoration of Westwood Lake.

Before starting the project many trees surrounding the lake were pruned or removed by the Woodland team to prepare for improvements after the dredging project. After the careful capture by an electro-fishing technique and reposition of Brook Lamprey, a protected species and the removal of other fish to Ardingly reservoir, the lake was drained. About 6,000 cubic metres of silt will be pumped from the lake into a series of earth work lagoons constructed at Forest Ridge; work could only start after obtaining a general permitted development order for these constructions.

The irrigation project requires a trench being excavated from the School's entrance to Westwood Lake which is over 1600metres long. Both projects needed considerable paperwork to be completed by the managers and approved before any work could start on site. More will be reported next year.

Oak framed buildings

A series of new oak framed buildings have been erected this year, four hides in the Loder Valley Nature Reserve (LVR) include the Kingfisher and Badger observation hides which are 80% funded by Natural England under our Environmental Stewardship Agreement.

New coloured stem bamboos have been planted in the Pollination Garden to act as a screen/windbreak, and the permanent gate to the apiary was installed along with two active hives in this area. Flooring and cladding to the walls of a fifth oak frame building has been completed by the Garden team with guidance from the Woodlands team. Completing the roof with shingles, installation of interpretation and addition of further pollen sculptures will follow next year. The pollination displays through the Slips and Water Garden have been greatly enhanced with the installation of the pollen and beetle sculptures and associated interpretation.

ISO 14001 and recycling initiatives

Planning permission for a 100KW array of Solar Panels on the roof above the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) reception wing was granted by Mid Sussex District Council. The contractor was Solar Technologies (wholly owned by British Gas). BG is covering the capital costs of installation and maintenance for 25 years after which the photo voltaic (PVs) panels become the property of Kew. However, due to changes in the subsidies for the Feed in Tariff announced on 1st November 2011 the scheme was reduced. The 49.5 kW array should deliver 48,500 kWh of electricity saving the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership approximately £3,400 in energy costs and reducing pollution by 25 tonnes of Carbon dioxide per year. The electricity was connected to the MSB PV's final panels by 12th December 2011.

Wakehurst retained its ISO14001 accreditation earlier in the year and then our Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification following a successful group scheme audit in December. There were no major or minor non-compliances and the auditor was impressed with both the woodland operations and also supporting record keeping and environmental monitoring. A high level FSC audit is to be carried out by the Soil Association on Friday 18th January 2012.

The first load of cardboard was bailed in December into our new bailer which appears to be working very well and produced a half ton bail of cardboard which is valued at about £25.

Events programme

Once again a full programme of events was delivered throughout the year including an Easter trail which went really well and was the first year that we did not have snow, sleet or hail on at least one of the days! This was followed in May by the Spring Colour festival which again included minibuses rides around the garden for reduced mobility visitors. We gave tours to around 10% of our visitors. Our numbers may not have been huge but the appreciation of those being taken around the garden was worth it.

The Director's Summer Garden Party on 21st May commenced with Arboretum tours and reflected the United Nations International Year of Forests theme – 'forests for people' – encouraging sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forest. Francis Maude our local MP and member of the Cabinet Office spoke about the importance of Wakehurst in his constituency, and the vital roles it plays: "Wakehurst is one of the most visited gardens in the UK attracting visitors to the region. This helps to create a vibrant local economy and to sustain local businesses including food producers. It helps to generate approximately £10 million each year to the local tourism sector and enhances the quality of life to the local urban and rural communities". He expressed his great personal pleasure that additional government capital funding had been made available to the Millennium Seed Bank over the next four years. "The UK government views Kew's Millennium Seed Bank as a cornerstone in its commitment to the conservation of biodiversity locally, nationally and internationally". Other guests at the Garden Party gave a great deal of positive comment on the beautiful and well maintained standard of the estate.

The Inquire Conference held in the Millennium Seed Bank was a great success and the delegates from many countries across Europe were very impressed with the MSB, the gardens and the work of Schools and Families.

The working horse demonstration in Bloomers Valley attracted a steady flow of visitors again in August. The horse's chain harrowed the southern end of the meadow to remove thatch from the sward to improve seed germination.

In September, Kew Guild members could be seen in attendance at the AGM. They praised the team about the appearance and pleasure they had during the day visiting the LVR, Nursery and gardens. Over the following weekend a new event was instigated, the 'Seed Swap' included over 30 stalls, cooking demonstrations and many speakers, the children's workshops and nursery tours were also very popular.

December is always a busy month and we had successful Christmas weekends, with Story Telling with over 100 children visiting Santa. The 'Big Switch On' evening was over-subscribed with attendance exceeding expectation. In parallel with this event a Patrons Evening was held in the Mansion. Wreath making led by the Nursery was also another great success. Once again the Carols Evening went very well and completed another successful year at Wakehurst.

Underground Radio Station

Following the unexpected appearance of a large hole in the Pinetum an investigation was carried out to determine the cause. This showed that the wall of the access tower to the 'secret' Second World War underground radio station had collapsed and was in

serious danger of collapsing further. The National Trust surveyors arranged for a contractor to undertake work to rectify the problem. Upon completion of the construction work the building was buried leaving just a simple line of markers to delineate the area of the building and the entrance hatch. However, this has not proved wholly successful and after filling in the area a hole has reappeared and will need to be readdressed next year. Where the emergency exit passes beneath the pathway additional reinforcing work was undertaken.

News Snippets

Learning Programme

The Learning Programme at Wakehurst has achieved Department for Education Growing Schools Garden Accreditation. The award has been developed for gardens that provide advice and training for schools, and demonstrate how gardens can be used for active learning across the curriculum. The achievement of this award is due to the hard work that is provided by the Learning programme and the Horticulture team.

Visitor Centre

Seven years after the opening of the Visitor Centre, and 4 years after planning permission was received, refit work was completed in July to relocate the admissions desk to enable free entry to retail and the cafe. This should boost vital revenue that Wakehurst requires for a sustainable financial future.

Catering

Following the use of nettles as pesto and soup last year, a wider range of UK native plant species was added to the menu. This includes sow thistle, wild cabbage, hedge bedstraw, chervil and sloe. The concept is to increase the awareness and value of native species as food and thereby deliver our mission that 'plants matter'. It will also help to differentiate our restaurant from local competition and give us an opportunity for further PR and marketing. This is being led by a chef in *Co. of Cooks* who previously worked for River Cottage. The suppliers are a Kent based company.

The Family Dining area was completed in the Stables Restaurant. Labels were added to the large pictures on the wall to encourage families to find the Adventurous Journeys play spaces in the gardens.

Weather

From the attached table for 2011 it is interesting to note the low number of nights (25) with an air temperature below freezing compared to 75 in 2010. This is fascinating since December 2010 alone had 26 nights below freezing and January 2010 had 23. The overall rainfall of 721.2mm was the second lowest since 1999 and the high temperatures in April brought on early flowerings.

As I write the Ardingly reservoir is attracting attention due to it holding below 30% of its normal capacity at this time of year. Whether the reality of drought and water shortages in 2012 will unfold makes our plans to dredge Westwood Lake and improve our irrigation system all the more important to ensure the long term survival of the incredible collections at Wakehurst.

Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2011

2011	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals Calend yr
Month's total rainfall (mm)	131.5	67.4	19.2	4.3	14.8	90.9	51.3	76.6	47.4	30.1	68.4	119.3	721.2
Compared to													
2010	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
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	66.4	36.4	165.8	869.45
Rainiest day (mm)	10 th 23.8	10 th 17.8	30 th 6.6	23 rd 3.3	7 th 4.5	17 th 19.9	17 th 9.5	3 rd 15.5	6 th 12.2	17 th 6.5	3 rd 28.1	12 th 33.6	
Rainless days	4	0	18	24	21	11	15	18	16	18	4	4	153
Highest Max Temperature	11.3°C 16 th	16.7°C 24 th	22.3°C 25 th	32.1°C 23 rd	25.7°C 6 th	30.5°C 26 th	27.5°C 4 th	29.0°C 2 nd	29.6°C 30 th	31.6°C 1 st	19.4°C 13 th	12.6°C 22 nd	
Lowest Max Temperature	1.6°C 29 th	3.4°C 28 th	4.8°C 1 st	12°C 4 th	15°C 28 th	14.5°C 17 th	16.4°C 17 th	16°C 23 rd	15.4°C 6 th	12.8°C 18 th	9.3°C 14 th	3.9°C 16 th	
Highest Min Temperature	9.2°C 14 th	8.2°C 5 th	8.1°C 31 st	12°C 21 st	12.9°C 8 th	13.4°C 26 th	13.3°C 12 th &16 th	15.7°C 2 nd	16°C 10 th	14.5°C 10 th	11.2°C 3 rd	9.3°C 26 th	
Lowest Min Temperature	-2.2°C 22 nd	-2.7°C 1 st	-2.1°C 19 th	2.2°C 13 th	3.1°C 4 th	4.9°C 11 th	7.1°C 24 th	6.9°C 29 th	6°C 18 th	-0.1°C 20 th	0.3°C 28 th	-3.1°C 19 th	
Nights - air temp below freezing	9	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	25
Windiest day	12 th WSW 25mph	5 th &6 th SW 25mph	31 st W 20mph	6 th WSW 19mph	3 rd & 23 rd ESE & SW 20 mph	20 th NNW 20mph	7 th SSW 21mph	8 th NNW 17mph	7 th WN 23mph	6 th NW 20mph	27 th W 19mph	9 th SSW 29mph	

OF CHARACTERS AND DIGS

By Jim Emerton



I arrived at Kew on 6th October 1969. It was a quiet, introspective, country boy who walked self-consciously through the Kew gates for the very first time. With me came an obsessive interest in my subjects and the prospect of a stimulating and rewarding three years in the golden acres of Kew.

The first taste of digs would be at 83 Mortlake Road with none other than A. F. Tichmarsh. Our landlady was the homely and jovial Geordie soul called Mrs Stelling. Our room, an attic, overlooked a busy bus route. It was like Third World – a bare flex with light bulb hung from the ceiling. The damp and cold penetrated so much that you could shake the dew off the sheets in the morning.

A lone paraffin heater stood void of any fuel. Oh no, fuel was not on the agenda! After my many remonstrations, a little smelly paraffin was secured until it ran

out. Determined to do well I studied and studied with books and notes on my knees in bed. Alan, who was a confident, sanguine and engaging fellow, would listen to his radio opposite. Boy, did he chatter to Mrs Stelling over cornflakes and our tea, which was often boiled potatoes and faggot-like fare.

I have many anecdotes of my times with AFT at Kew. Once we bought fish and chips on Kew Green. The coley was black. I ate mine on principle, Alan rejected his. He would interweave botanical names into song in an appealing and original way. In early excursions into the use of words, he would sit and do 'how to increase your word power' in the Readers Digest. Alan had a creative, bright and inventive mind.

Eventually I helped him to relocate into his now famous digs in my 'C' reg black and white minivan. The sequel to the story is that I secured five honours in my subjects in the first year. Alan secured the best academic progress in the *second* year.

His personality has enlarged, and in truth I cannot malign his Kew personality. Really he was a jolly good egg!

My next encounter was with the delightfully posh and upper-middle class Mrs Dykes. One of her significant qualities was to bring me supper served on a silver service. Lord Emerton enjoyed that from his study. However she would enjoy half hitching some of my homemade marmalade and me her provisions from the kitchen. I always have had a cheeky, roguish element! The die was cast when she appeared from her beauty bath to find me on the phone in her bedroom. I had assumed too much.

I recall she had an early white Fiat 500. The last tango in Paris was when I allowed a street urchin addict a night's sleep in the back of my minivan. Mrs Dykes said "James, who is that horrible creature?" Soon afterwards the good lady indicated that perhaps I should leave. Good old Mrs Dykes!

At a later stage I encountered Tony Trafford from Preston. He was a tall, cool, good-looking lad with a soft voice and a penchant for good rock music and the occasional joint.

We liked each other, he calling me 'jungle', and moved into 27 East Sheen Avenue SW14 with the charming magnificent man Robin Bletsoe and the artistic Andy Mugford. I think we were the inspiration for both The Likely Lads and Men Behaving Badly. We held some rare and cosmopolitan parties, played hard and studied hard.

In my gullible innocence Trafford persuaded me to drive to Sweden in my minivan in 1971. This was achieved in the rattley old girl with flat out driving on German autobahns. Our objective was to seduce two gorgeous blonde sisters. I recall the beautiful Swedes in the nightclubs and cooking (self) on local beaches. Tony was a lovely chap. The collary is that Bletsoe secured a Kew Honours and his son Tom is media famous as a young politician.

I think most of the young Kewite neophytes have done well. As for myself I am now a poet and writer for Mensa (a high IQ society). Yes all that mind boggling study has paid off.

Before I leave this article I must mention Whitehead (Log), Phillips (Barry) and Trevan (Dave) who were the self proclaimed 'lads' at Kew. Log is a distinguished and noted botanical explorer, Phillips is an ex-Hilliers curator, Bermudan juniper saviour and hilarious, vulnerable and colourful character, Trevan is a noted academic on the Isle of Wight. You'll have to gauge and guess about me, because I am an enigma!

AQUILEGIA GALL MITE

by Allan Hart

This is the latest pest arrival which has the potential to be very destructive to the Aquilegia population. The midge was first reported in Britain in 2009 – infested plants had been found in Surrey and North Yorkshire, indicating that it may be widespread, having gone undetected for a number of years.

As a new pest in the UK little is known about its biology. However it seems specific to Aquilegias and does not affect any other plant. The larvae attack the unopened flower buds, feeding for a short period during May. The affected buds can harbour 6 to 10

bright orange grubs approximately 2mm long, which drop onto the soil to pupate before the new adults emerge in the following Spring. There is currently no control of this pest other than the removal of all infested flower buds. Members who grow and have an interest in Aquilegias should be on their guard!

THE BRITISH ROCK

by Graham Burgess

The British Rock mentioned in last year's journal is on its journey round Britain. It was selected by Kewite Graham Burgess and his partner Gillian from a Bluestone quarry in the Preseli Mountains. Colin Shearing of Bluestone Ltd donated the stone. So this symbol of what we build our gardens on, rock, is exposed. The invitation from The International Peace Garden on the 49th parallel was received on the day of the Royal Wedding last year when all the dates add up to 37, the temperature of all human beings worldwide. It spent its first full day at Singleton Botanical Gardens in Swansea on a date that has numbers all adding up to 37 and the maker of The International Peace Garden, ex-Kewite Henry Moore, himself a master at numerology and sacred geometry, must have smiled.

So also might have Daniel Bliss who left Kew in 1895 to set up what is still one of the most beautiful traditional botanic gardens in Britain, in Swansea. Those same footprints were consolidated and conserved under the management of another Kewite, Harry Parker, whose Obituary appeared not so long ago in our journal.

Bob Ivison, Kewite, met another kindred spirit at a meeting in London and that man, Martin Page, is applying sensitive skills to ensure the rock tunes into another underlying string, namely that of longitude and latitude. The rock will sit on or near the Greenwich Meridian at Waltham on Abbey before it leaves Britain for Canada. When Henry Moore positioned the International Peace Garden he tuned into what an ex Edinburgh University student created as the border line with the measure of 49, around 1758. It connects with Paris. The Parisians had their own meridian but the International Peace garden sits exactly on the longitude 100 degrees east of the Greenwich Meridian.

The importance of all this is simply the fact that one really needs to establish on firm foundations harmonically designed structures and for them to serve good human needs.

One of the most subtle things in life is human friendship and our aim is to allow this to be part of the journey above all other things.

The only other similar experience I have had in garden design is the positioning of any stone in a Japanese Garden. The Japanese say it is easier to change one's wife than to change the position of a stone in a Japanese Garden. The best positioning is achieved by a combination of logic but also tuning into something else that is difficult to define. A lot of time, effort and thought went into choosing and moving the stone but when one looks at the picture taken by Steve Hopkins in Singleton Botanic Gardens the resounding feeling is of some sort of perfection in the final placing as the three ladies touch the rock (next page).

The cost of doing all this is minimal and the potential benefits in respect of promoting



Singleton are enormous as bus stations and shopping centres now tell people how close they are to the rock.

In the heart of Britain another visionary arboretum, Alrewas, will provide a welcome for the rock.

Doug Hevenor and his team at The International Peace Garden have designed a perfect location for The British Rock applying the same sort of numerology and geometry applied to Kew Gardens by Decimus Burton and Paris.

Follow the journey on the website and if you want to share in Kew Guild fellowship arrange an outing to touch the rock.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2011

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Sandra Bell

'Since returning to Kew from maternity leave in April 2000 I have taken on and developed a new, part-time role with distinct but related areas of interest; wildlife recording and phenology.

Kew has an incredibly rich native flora and fauna which is all the more special as it is now surrounded by suburbs. The wildlife has been catalogued by generations of staff since the 1870s some of whom have published their findings while others may have left notebooks or collections. In addition visiting specialists of all kinds have recorded at Kew and continue to do so. An important feature of recent years is the move towards regular monitoring so that we develop an understanding of the ways in which managing the Gardens changes the diversity and health of their wildlife. During the 1990s a group of naturalists on the staff, of which I was one, under the leadership of Andy Jackson and John Lonsdale created a Wildlife Database with the intention of collecting all the records past and present together and making them accessible. This seemed a vital step in achieving the ultimate aim of promoting the conservation of both the native plants and animals of all kinds in the Gardens.

Recording wildlife, encouraging others to do so and databasing the current and historical records became part of my new role. Almost every plant or animal group surveyed has thrown up exciting rarities such as Giant Red Click Beetle, *Elater ferruginea* or the tiny lichen, *Cyphelium notarisii*. A smaller database of recent observations is accessible via the Kew website and enables anyone to find out what

has been recorded recently and to add their own sightings. Local conservation efforts have led quite naturally from recording and include the successful re-establishment of Meadow Clary, *Salvia verbenaca*, close to the Main Gate by seed from the only known population in the area which was consumed by the Herbarium Extension.

Phenology is the study of natural events such as the growth of plants or the migration of birds in relation to the weather and climate. Kew is immensely fortunate to have over 50 years of flowering records of plants in the Collections which were made by Nigel Hepper. My role has been to get these databased and to add to them in a systematic way. These records are an obvious place to look for signs of climate change and they do appear to demonstrate a marked trend towards earlier flowering since the 1980s. There is a lot of public interest in this and we are looking at ways of encouraging public participation in recording perhaps through the Kew App, which is accessible via most Smartphones.

A lot of the recording and much of the databasing is done by volunteers who vary widely in age and experience but all bring lots of commitment and enthusiasm to their tasks at Kew. I greatly enjoy working with them and am very grateful for all their help.

The only downside of my work is the impossibility of carrying out all our new ideas in the time available so if any locally-based members would like to get involved then please do get in touch.'

Alex George (2005)

'I look back on my year as President with much pleasure. I was uncertain how I would go from a long distance but, with emails, the occasional phone call and a very able deputy in Vice-President Mike Wilkinson who chaired Committee meetings on my behalf, all went well. Much of this is due, of course, to other members of the Committee, especially the office-bearers. The President can suggest directions but it is mostly these members who put them into effect. The report of the Annual General Meeting outlines our activities for the year. Being able to attend the Annual General Meetings at the start and end of my term, as well as the Annual Dinner, was special. I encourage members, wherever they are, to consider nominating for the Committee as it reinforces one's sense of the fellowship of the Guild and it is very satisfying to contribute to it. We really are a unique organisation of wonderful people.

In this 'Immediate Past' year my chief activity for the Guild has been compiling the index for numbers 111 to 115 of our Journal. Indexing can be a fascinating occupation. It's necessary to put oneself in the place of the user and try to think how they would look up topics. Names – personal, institutional and scientific – are relatively straightforward, although some offer little challenges. An obvious one for us is Kew – the Gardens. We all call it Kew Gardens (even though that is not its official name) or just Kew which, strictly, is the suburb. As a stickler for correct names and titles, I chose to have 'Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew' as the main entry (with a number of subheadings), but you will find a cross-reference to this from 'Kew Gardens'. Topics can be more challenging to the indexer. I hope it proves adequate but will welcome comments as it is possible that I'll also compile the index for numbers 116 to 120.

In line with my interest in proper names, I have begun to compile a list of all those associated with RBG Kew, both current and historical. I have extracted all such names

from the standard histories of the Gardens and am adding any others that I come across. The Gardens has an unofficial such list that I am checking against mine. Once any discrepancies are sorted out we will decide what to do with the master list, but I may offer it for inclusion in the Journal. It will be useful for those who wish to know whether any name is (or was) official or not, and what its correct form is.



© Joan Hart

Allan Hart, left, and Alex George in the Perth area of SW Australia

I have enjoyed seeing several Kewites in Perth. Allan and Joan Hart visited their son and his family during the spring and we had a day out to see the local flora. Just recently I spent a few hours with Jim and Val Mitchell while they were in transit at Perth Airport, en route from Sydney to Singapore.

I heard that the symposium commemorating Joseph Hooker's death went very well and am glad that the Guild was involved in supporting it.

Here in Perth, a group of us has just published the story of our suburb, Kardinya (it is an Aboriginal word meaning 'sunrise'). It's not

an in-depth study but is quite interesting in showing how a district has grown from what was bushland 150 years ago.'

Jenny Grundy writes: 'On the 26th May 1981 I married Peter Grundy, so I moved to Kew. We soon started to make a garden and joined NCCPG (National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens) and worked as volunteers at Myddleton House with Geoff Stebbing. This introduced us to conservation of plants.

When the Friends of Kew started we joined and went on a trip to Wakehurst Place, where we met Andy Jackson who told us of the Tree Sponsorship Scheme. We got our first two trees on our next visit there. I did some greeting cards in and of Kew and raised £5,800 for trees and threatened plants. We also started sponsoring Kew, i.e. filtration plant for the Orchid unit; restoration of the Bog Garden, Wakehurst; propagator in the Temperate Nursery; medical plant appeal; and the School Nursery, Wakehurst. Meanwhile, our trees grew. I now have 12 at Wakehurst, three at Kew, 15 at Hilliers Garden, seven at Wildlife Trust and two in Chile with Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI).

I am a donor member of BGCI and life member of the Orangutan Foundation.

Sadly I lost Peter in 2006, but I try to continue our plant work. I have become a Fellow of the Linnean Society and my current cards are for their lift appeal.

I have six dipping ponds at Hilliers, 3,500 Narcissus planted by the children with their education department. Pond dipping was included in the Bog Garden at Wakehurst. I feel it is essential to get the next generation involved.

A hundred of my sketchbooks are in the Herbarium at Prof Sir Peter Crane's request. My signed library of 397 books is willed to the student library at Kew. I am a volunteer there.'

David Hardman (Wakehurst Place Gardens) attended Plant Heritage's National AGM at Worthing over a weekend in May. He also attended the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace with Bob Ivison, David Barnes and Jennifer Alsop on Tuesday 19th July and they were presented to our Patron HRH Princess Alexandra. She was keen to learn about the Guild and the work we are doing. In September David arranged the Guild's AGM and soiree at Wakehurst, along with the weekend tours at Wakehurst, Borde Hill Garden and the High Beeches garden. He has now stepped down from the Guild posts as Archives Officer and the Web site Manager. In October he was elected Chairman of the Surrey Horticultural Training Group, this is a well established co-operative originating as the Surrey Nursery Training group many years ago.

Allan Hart (1958) reports that 2011 was an extremely busy and interesting year.

'A cottage garden in East Sheen was completed to a very high standard, with quality plants supplied by Tom Wood (1960) of Oakover Nurseries, Kent. A modernist garden at Harrow on the Hill is at the planning stage with the challenge of dealing with lots of poorly maintained Leylands Cypress hedges!

A Spring highlight was a visit to Cornish Gardens with Dennis McGlade – Honorary Fellow of the Guild – beginning with a weekend spent with John and Lyn Sales. They introduced us to several unknown (to us) gardens and estates in Gloucestershire – Guild members are such wonderful hosts! We visited fourteen gardens in ten days, the most memorable being the Eden Project where Mark Paterson (1997) found time, in his very busy schedule, to give us a tour of the back of house areas. Mark told us that *Gunnera manicata* had become naturalised on the chalk cliffs and is now regarded as an invasive species. The design and maintenance of floral and vegetable displays is superb and the pruning of tall trees in the Biome, by means of a hot air balloon was an eye-opener! The banks of the steep valleys in the Eden Project are planted with locally occurring species and naturalised Aquilegias which luckily to date have not been affected by the Gall Mite. Sadly, many of the gardens we visited are badly affected with *Phytophthora* – rhododendrons are particularly susceptible, and this will have a devastating effect on landscapes when they are removed.

The Barbara Hepworth sculpture garden at St. Ives was another memorable garden with an inspirational association of plants and constructed forms. Our last day was spent, after a fascinating helicopter flight, on Tresco Island at the Abbey Gardens, a sub-tropical paradise to which all plant lovers should make a pilgrimage.

We were back home in time for the Kew Guild Annual Dinner and hosted Allen Paterson (1957) for the weekend. Dennis then invited us to join a party of the American Society – Friends of Kew, for a tour of Kew Gardens conducted by the then Curator, Nigel Taylor, who regaled us with many insights into the history of the gardens. A very early start the following day saw us again with the American Society at the Chelsea Flower Show for a show preview, followed by breakfast in the company of Steven Hopper, Tony Kirkham, Michael Murphy and Nigel Taylor.

The Society is a very dynamic organisation and all the members that we met were both enthusiastic garden/plants people and very keen supporters of the aims of Kew.

The Australian Garden at Chelsea brought back memories of our 2008 visit to Cranbourne Botanic Garden in South East Australia with its design a microcosm of the red desert outback.

In June I volunteered to take a party of U3A students from Lancashire for a tour around the Gardens, some of whom disappeared on Kew electric scooters to have fun – but I managed to keep eight who were keen to see and hear about everything for over six hours!

Ed Wolf (an Honorary Fellow) and his wife Brita, invited us to visit Hill Gardens in Hampstead – one of London's most magical secret gardens which formerly belonged to Lord Leverhulme, who built a 340 metre long pergola to screen his house from walkers. This was recently restored and rises ten metres above the gardens, with Doric columns of Portland stone and oak beams, crowned with cupolas and arbours, lush plantings of wisteria, clematis, roses and jasmine completing the picture.

We were able to enjoy David Hardman's superbly organised Wakehurst weekend for the AGM before jetting off to Western Australia for a month's visit to our son and family in Perth. Highlights included Kings Park – a 400 hectare reserve of botanic gardens and bush land, awash with glorious displays of indigenous flowers, following a winter of high(ish) rainfall. There are also several well-designed, detailed and maintained children's playgrounds for different age-groups and magnificent views across the Swan River. We were taken down to the southwest to explore forests of Jarrah – *Eucalyptus marginata*, Karri – *E. diversicolor* and Tuart – *E. gomphocephala*, habitats where some of the trees reach 100 metres in height.

Alex George (2005), this year's President of the Guild, arranged to take us on a visit to discover wild flowers in bush locations in the Perth Hills to the north and an escarpment over 300 metres above the plain. We saw old and newly burned areas where Alex explained bush fires and their effect on vegetation in the short and long term. Early morning tea and a picnic lunch provided by Alex were real treats, as were all the indigenous plants and flowers we were shown. Alex spent some time removing clumps of 'weeds' – *Gladiolus caryophyllaceus*, an invasive alien from South Africa, where it is an endangered species. Alex is a modest man and it is good that his expertise has been recognised by his botanical peers. A Restio – *Alexgeorgea arenicola nitens* and an Orchid – *Caladenia georgei* – the Tuart Spider Orchid – have been named in his honour.

Our month went far too quickly and then it was back home to concentrate on our own

garden and to make the most of the mild autumn/winter and make plans for 2012.’

Nigel Hepper has transcribed his father’s WW1 diary which contains a lot of fascinating historical and personal information concerning the British Army in Somme battlefields, where he was with the 17th Battalion of the West Yorkshire Regiment. ‘It



Raymond Hepper, left, when a junior officer in 1915

seems surprising that nowadays, nearly a century after the events of the Great War, that there is renewed interest among the general public, and especially school children such as my own grandchildren, who are visiting the battlefields as never before. Nowadays, of course, the fields are green and productive where there was desolation and mud everywhere, but even now the farmers are digging up old shells, army buttons and more, so I wanted to get it published and made widely available.

My father was only 22 years old when he volunteered in December 1914. The Hepper family were business people in Leeds, so he trained in Ilkley before going to the trenches in January 1916 when he started to keep his diary almost daily. Numerous casualties had already occurred, with many more to come. Sadly, he saw his best friend and other colleagues struck down, yet he himself survived without injury.

and then getting too much all at once. In one entry he wrote after a severe battle: “It is useless putting into writing the sights I have seen today for they will ever be in my mind as a memento of July 30, 1916.” Yet, as an amateur naturalist, he was able to write about his visit to Hazebrouck: “The countryside is beautiful and we are nestled at the foot of a wood and at night the air is so full of a perpetual croaking of bull frogs – it is like a dozen corncrakes singing in competition.” And he remarked on the sky larks and wood anemones which I have drawn to illustrate the text, as he passed his love of natural history on to me. He also retained a sense of humour. For example, bathing was necessary to get rid of the mud whenever they could get a bath, so when his men found one in a brewery my father commented that “There should be a good beer later, plenty of body”. He also retained his admiration for splendid architecture of buildings

Much of a soldier’s time was taken up waiting for action –

sadly damaged by shelling. Trundling around the lines on his pony (his 'war horse'), finding billets for his men, patrols in no-man's-land, and avoiding the mines and barbed wire were his daily routine.

Thanks to help from the Imperial War Museum, where a microfilm of his hand-written diary, now sadly lost, is kept, this illustrated diary is available to historians and the general reader. ('Captain Hepper's Great War Diary 1916-1919' Hayloft Publishing, 2011; see www.Hayloft.eu.)

Jim Mitchell (1966) has written and reminded us that 1963 was a significant year in the history of Kew's training and education programmes, April 1963 was the last intake of horticultural students undertaking the two year Kew Certificate Course and the following October saw the commencement of the first Diploma Course. So next year, 2013, will be a year to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of these important dates and in fact the role Kew has played in horticultural education over a very long period. If anybody knows the contact details of any students from the 1963 intakes who are not members of the Guild he would like to hear from you.

The last intake of two-year Students (commenced 1st April, 1963):

Davenport, R. Improver, Kew
 Duncan, C. M. Glasgow Parks Department
 Fisher, J. N. Manchester Parks Department
 Fliegner, H. J. Munich Botanic Gardens
 Harris, D. S. Improver, Kew
 * Howard, B. F. Hampshire Farm Institute, Sparsholt
 Kilby, P. Wood Green Borough Council
 Overland, F. A. Manchester Parks Department
 Pearson, D. F. Middlesbrough Parks Department
 Roome, C. W. Derby Parks Department

First Students of three-year course (commenced 7th October, 1963):

Barber, A. V. H. Southport Parks Department
 Barnes, A. L. Poole Parks Department
 Brazier, P. J. Self-employed
 Bowen, R. D. Worthing Parks Department
 Edwards, R. K. Improver, Kew
 Endall, J. Improver, Kew
 Gordon, C. E. B. Plant Protection Fernhurst
 Hart, C. A. G. Sparks, Ltd., Chrysanthemum Nurseryman
 Harrington, M. D. Plant Protection, Fernhurst
 Hitchin, P. D. M. Middlesbrough Parks Department
 * Howard, B. F. Transferred from Two-year Course
 Ince, R. Wakefield Parks Department
 Jones, J. E. M. Folkestone Parks Department
 Lee, M. K. Improver, Kew
 Mitchell, J. Rochdale Parks Department
 O'Connor, J. Manchester Parks Department
 Robinson, K. Liverpool Parks Department
 Turner, A. P. Johannesburg Parks Department
 Waddell, D. Improver, Kew

Wilson, Miss M. C. Rothampstead Research Station
 Wilson, P. E. Cheltenham Parks Department
 * Transferred to Three-year Course

Mark Paterson

Mark was formerly employed at the Eden Project since it opened some twelve years ago. Firstly he acted as a guide and then, when he obtained a Degree in Education he became responsible for all aspects of the wide-ranging educational programmes promoted by the Eden Project.



Allan and Joan Hart with Mark Paterson (centre) at the Eden Project. Photo © Joan Hart

In December 2011 Mark was appointed as Curator of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden, Aberdeen, and he took up his new position on 1st January 2012. This Botanic garden of almost five hectares was founded in 1898 and forms part of the Kings College campus of Aberdeen University, founded in 1495.

The post of curator has been vacant for twenty-five years and the current Keeper and Head of Biology at the University now wishes to develop the garden to realise its full potential, both as a teaching resource for the university and the general public, whilst maintaining high horticultural standards.

Mark's wide experience of gardens and education both in Canada and the UK makes him an ideal candidate to tackle the not inconsiderable challenges facing him, and the Guild offers him congratulations on his appointment.

Errol and Jenny Scarr (1967)

'Our 20 day safari to Kalagadi National Park and Southern Namibia in June was our first foray into Namibia and it was truly awesome, travelling 3800 miles in those 20 days, with amazing dramatic scenery, outstanding animals and birds and some most unusual plants in very unpopulated and tranquil locations.

Namibia had experienced excellent rains for the six months prior to our visit so instead of desert-like conditions we were met with rolling hills of grassland and plenty of colour. The most unforgettable scenes were the red sand dunes of Sossusvlei with the 500 year old dead tree skeletons in Deadman's Vlei, the Wild (desert) Horses near Aus, the amazing grandeur of the Fish River Canyon and all the spectacular sunsets.

We haven't been there before as we lived in Natal for 33 years, which is on the opposite side of the continent, but we will definitely be back there this year but in our motorhome so that we can take it slower and get to Etosha and the Welwitschias near Swakopmund.



At the plant table during the Symposium with Patrick (left), Errol (centre) and Jenny

In August, the Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa (IBSA) held an international symposium just outside Cape Town to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Errol was the Chairman of the Organising Committee while Jenny, née Nau, was the Secretary of the Committee. We were delighted to host Patrick Hayes (2009) now working for the National Parks Board in Singapore and it was good to compare notes re Kew then and now.

The post congress tour was to the Tanqua Karoo area where we saw *Daubenya aurea*, both yellow and red forms, in full flower and thousands of *Romulea* of various species carpeting the ground.

After the Symposium Patrick left on a tour of Namaqualand with a small group and quickly learnt why that area is so world renowned for its diversity and richness of plants. He was lucky in that 2011 was one of the richest displays for many years as the earlier rains from Namibia southwards had been ideal for flower development and many species not seen for years were in flower.'

John Simmons

'Having seen the Arboretum Trust at Castle Howard established functionally and financially I was pleased last year to see key appointments filled allowing me to follow other interests as originally planned for retirement some 17 years ago! Happily Kew links still abound and last year brought reciprocal visits with Brian and Julie Humphrey (1961) from Suffolk following our shared interest in magnolias. Susyn Andrews and Brian Schrire cast their expert eyes over some of my taxonomically puzzling plants. Leo Pemberton, always a top fruit enthusiast, came in apple time (I grow several old Norfolk varieties) and many others have taken the time to write.

Frequent requests for advice, lectures and articles do divert me but I find referencing earlier notes and pictures happily evokes warm memories of Kew its people and plants. Recently I have also enjoyed meeting the more challenging tactile needs of blind and partially sighted gardener groups whilst visits from garden groups such as Plant Heritage, keep me active in my garden. I carry just over 600 taxa, which is challenge enough on my Norfolk wet hectare.

I still have commitments to other Horticultural Trusts but for a complete change

voluntary work for Diabetes UK also finds me fundraising at times or helping with training events.’

Advisory Editor **Richard Ward** (1963) continues to attend Guild Committee meetings where possible. During the year and working with Membership Secretary Judy Hancock and President Alex George he helped to compile a list of all known ‘lapsed’ Kew Guild members, numbering 134 in total. Alex sent 61 emails, Richard sent 45 ‘snailmail’ letters, all in the President’s name, urging ex-Kewites to re-join. 28 people were not contactable. Several people have rejoined.

John Woodhams (1995) and his wife Joan write that gleanings sent in by them failed to be included in the last Journal, so here is a compilation with this year’s additions:

We kept in touch with Peter (1964) and Lee Bridgeman meeting for a meal in Farnham in January 2011, celebrating Peter’s 70th! (30th December) – which incidentally is also my own exact age to the day! Also met up December 2011 for a celebratory afternoon tea at the new Waldorf Astoria Hotel built in the grounds of Syon Park.

Many will remember the ‘Penguin’ cafe where in the 60’s much good food was produced for us poor students and others of course in very cramped surroundings (part of what is now ‘The Botanist’). Lena Ferrari who owned the cafe telephoned at the end of 2010 to make contact and enquire about students she remembers. Lena still talks about Robin Bletsoe (1972) who visited her in Italy a few years back. Lena has eyesight problems now but seems very bright. Husband Andy who was chef at the Penguin is now 89! We learn from a card received 2011 that Andy has been forced to give up shooting wild boar due to health problems.

Also Ken Burras (1954) included a round robin in his and Mary’s Christmas 2010 posting. Ken is currently chairman of the Culham Horticultural Club and they both participate in and enjoy the club’s summer outings to notable gardens etc. Ken has virtually retired now from his teaching work for the English Gardening School but still enjoys giving illustrated talks to Hort. Groups etc. He likes fishing on the west coast of Scotland – salmon and sea trout being the sought-after prizes. As a footnote Ken Burras wrote recently that he and Mary make good use of their little bungalow in Ambleside, now completely renovated.

All is a far cry from Ken’s participation together with John Woodhams and expedition leader John Warrington (1981) in the Kew/Oxford Expedition to Mount Roraima (Guyana) back in 1978. Peter Edwards, now retired from Pteridology section (Kew Herbarium), was also a member of this expedition. It would be interesting to know if John Warrington ever retraced our route to camp 6 situated near the escarpment on the Guyanese section of the mountain?

John (Log) Whitehead (1972) and Bren continue on their travels from which we receive – as I am sure do others – interesting and varied post-cards usually depicting some aspect of local flora especially arboreal. During 2010 a card from Guadeloupe showing a beautifully photographed palm avenue ‘Allée Dumanoir’ with as always Log’s artwork enhancing the reverse! Through 2011 cards arrived from Iraq and Kurdistan, followed by another from the Balkans – all enhanced with John’s illustrations.

Now **John Whitehead** himself has also contributed the following for his 2011 travels:

'In early 2011, my arboreal adventures with Bren began in amazonia, exploring areas for gigantic Kapoks along the Rio Tapajos and giant waterlilies in lagoons on islands where the Tapajos river meets the Amazon. It was low water season and not suitable for a dugout canoe in the lagoons. My embarrassing story to tell was having to wade into the swamp and by briefly standing on a mud covered anaconda, I gained height for taking one ultimate picture shot of all the flowering stages of the giant lily with a bud, new white flower and an ageing pink flower, surrounded by giant lily pads. An attack of multiple leech bites resulted, half of them ballooning into blisters and eventually, back in Wales, my doctor cured the multicoloured wounds within three days with a treatment of iodine. In northern amazonas near the Kaieteur Falls, we had the unusual experience of walking under tall terrestrial bromeliad trees. Our local guide identified them as *Brocchinia gigantea*, probably the tallest plant (when not flowering) in the Bromeliaceae family. Mature specimens develop a trunk-like stem beneath a huge radiating crown of water tank holding foliage. I spotted one form with attractive long golden stripes along its leaves.



Bren and Log at Kaieteur Falls, Guyana

During May, I joined a small group of historians and news reporters in Iraq and Kurdistan, led by the legendary contemporary traveller in Central Asia and Mesopotamia, Geoff Hann of Hinterland Travel. We were on a war-torn, somewhat

dangerous journey, to see many historic sites including the ruin area of the Hanging gardens of Babylon, south of Baghdad. In the dry countryside landscape there was an absence of the iconic weeping willow along the Euphrates River but there were abundant groves of *Populus euphratica*, shedding snowdrifts of windblown white woolly seeds. In our diverse international group was an American, Stephen Newcomer who excitedly exclaimed that this visit to Iraq was his final completion of visiting all the world's 192 countries recognised by the United Nations and I remarked that I was only 10 countries behind him! Frank Willemsse, a Belgian news reporter, was intrigued by my lifetime of plant hunting peregrinations. His news articles later featured stories of our entire group visiting Iraq, in his weekly editions of a Belgian Newspaper. My news headline was 'IT ALL STARTED IN BLANKENBERGE'. Earlier, Frank had asked me, which was the first country that I'd visited. To his surprise, my reply was 'a youth club visit in 1964 to Blankenberge, Belgium.'

In September, we explored the Balkans, touring around the impressive forested mountainous countries and saw bleak remnants of war in Kosovo. Highlights included the natural habitats of the Serbian Spruce and visiting Lake Ohrid, an infamous reminder to arborists of the origin of the name *Cameraria ohridella*, the pestilent Horse chestnut leaf miner moth, now ravaging trees in the UK. In Albania we saw the moth-damaged foliage on Horse chestnut trees in the Botanic Garden in Tirane. The finale by train in November was viewing the fabulous golden autumn displays of mature ginkgo trees, which were original introductions in the historic and oldest botanical gardens in Italy.

During the winter we hide away in Pontllyfni, North Wales and save up for our next adventure by spotting supermarket bargains, buy one get two free.'

OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

ALAN VINCENT HEYS BARBER

11th June 1942 – 16th February 2011

Alan Barber, died, aged 68, on Wednesday, February 16th, following a long fight against cancer and kidney failure. He was born on June 11, 1942, Alan was brought up in Southport, Merseyside, where he went to the King George V grammar school and his father, Harold, served as mayor. After school he began an apprenticeship with Southport Parks Department. His father Harold Barber who was Southport's mayor at the time loathed his nine-to-five office job but loved growing chrysanthemums. This clearly had an influence on the young Alan who built his first greenhouse at the age of 14. At the age 21 he went to study at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew and in later life in 2010 was one of only two people to be awarded the Kew Guild medal. At Kew he was an active member of The Mutual Improvement Society being Honorary Secretary 1964. He then worked in the parks department at Bristol Council, becoming its director before leaving in 1992 to pursue a career as an independent consultant. Alan was responsible for Bristol parks and opens spaces for more than two decades but after he left the city council he went on to bigger and better things. A leading horticulturalist and a pioneer of Parks for the People. In an extensive interview with

the magazine *Horticulture Week* a few years ago he talked of his love of wide open spaces which was engendered by a childhood playing in the sandhills around Birkdale and Southport.



He was Britain's pre-eminent campaigner and advocate for public parks, a passionate believer in the positive effects of green spaces on society. Alan Barber believed childhood found its natural home in well-managed parks and public spaces but he was also a gifted strategic thinker and a firm believer in research, arguing that if just 1% of parks spending was allocated to research, it would enable the better expenditure of the other 99%. He was fond of saying that the only reliable statistic we had on park use was that "the Garden of Eden contained two people". He was also fervent in his wish to see a national agency dedicated to public parks, and through his tenacity, significant progress was made in both these areas.

In 2001 the newly created Urban Green Spaces taskforce commissioned the largest survey of park use ever undertaken, and in 2003 CABE Space (part of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) was established. Alan worked there as a commissioner until ill-health forced him to resign in 2008. Alan wrote the first working paper, *Law, Money and Management*, a model of policy analysis and prescription for *Park Life: Urban Parks and Social Renewal* (1995).

Yet there was one matter on which Alan was badly wrong. He knew the National Lottery was coming, but assumed that entrenched heritage interests would continue to favour country houses and old masters over municipal parks. In late 1995, however, Alan and colleagues were summoned by Lord Rothschild, chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, to London and asked to draft the guidelines for a dedicated parks lottery programme. Rothschild explained that he was looking for a project that would touch the lives of millions, and had read the 1993 report by Hazel Conway and David Lambert, *Public Prospects: Historic Urban Parks Under Threat*, as well as the *Park Life* study, which estimated that 8 million people in Britain used parks daily – a statistic that impressed him greatly.

The approach to the Winter Gardens in Mowbray Park, Sunderland, was one of the beneficiaries of the £525m awarded since 1996 to more than 500 such projects in the UK by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

By then a senior figure at the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management, Alan lobbied the Heritage Lottery Fund's buildings and land panel, and in January 1996 the fund's urban parks programme was established. Since then, £525m has been awarded to more than 500 park projects in the UK, a vindication of Alan's years of determined work. His growing reputation led him – along with Lambert – to advise the select

committee on town and country parks, in 1999, and he became a member of the government's Urban Green Spaces taskforce in 2001. On that committee he quickly swayed ministers and their advisers with the sheer depth of his knowledge. Forthright in his opinions, he could also charm the birds from the trees. On one occasion a team of Home Office civil servants gave evidence to the taskforce, setting out their vision of public space – ideally a domain in which children and young people were kept indoors. Alan sent them packing. He believed childhood to be a state of grace which found its natural home in well-managed parks, streets and public spaces. In his last years, friends were fed a regular supply of photographs of himself in a wheelchair, accompanied by various grandchildren visiting parks around the country.

Alongside his work in the corridors of power, from the early 1990s Alan had been teaching at the University of Sheffield, and then at Manchester, where he helped to set up a four-year masters degree in landscape planning and management.

The period between the publication of *Public Prospects* in 1993 and the taskforce report *Green Spaces, Better Places* in 2002, was a momentous time for public parks. The GMB union was campaigning against the loss of horticultural skills resulting from the introduction of compulsory competitive tendering, while a Pesticides Trust brainwave resulted in the setting up of the immensely successful Green Flag award, which recognises the best green spaces in the country. In addition, the national network Green Space was created to link up and promote such areas. Alan was involved in all of these initiatives. The result was a complete turnaround in the fortunes of Britain's parks, comparable to the achievement of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act.

Both endeavours were inspired by a belief that life was more democratic and more enjoyable outdoors, in spaces belonging to everybody. Alan became a special adviser to the House of Commons Inquiry into Town and Country Parks and was appointed to the Government's new Urban Green Spaces Taskforce in 2000. In later life Alan became Simon research fellow at Manchester University and was awarded an honorary doctorate by Writtle College, Essex University, in 2005. He was awarded an OBE by HM the Queen in 2008.

He was a devoted family man, marrying childhood sweetheart Jan Alton at St James C of E Church, Birkdale in November 1965 and becoming father to two daughters, Vanessa and Fiona. From 1971 the family lived at Nailsea, near Bristol.

Alan possessed an extensive hinterland, owning and repairing a succession of Ford Capri coupes, listening to the music of Stan Kenton, and avidly reading hard-boiled thrillers. The Alan Barber rose garden in Ashton Court Park, Bristol – which he helped design – was dedicated in 2008, and his memorial service was held there. He is survived by his wife, daughters and five grandchildren, Spen, Harry, Lottie, Bea and Damson.

ALAN BARBER 'A MATE TO ALL'

by Jim Mitchell

Alan's academic and professional achievements are so eloquently espoused above that I can add only a few personal notes on the 'mate' I knew at Kew. He contributed

immensely to the quality of the day-to-day lives of students on the Diploma Course One in 1963. I remember many long overnight coach trips together on the journey from Victoria Station to Liverpool which he undertook regularly so that he could spend the weekend with Jan, his childhood sweetheart.

His oratory skills and dedication to the Mutual Improvement Society were second to none. His repertoire and knowledge of the Goons with long rendition of the wit of Spike Milligan and Harry Secombe made the arduous tasks of re potting cycads in the Palm House so enjoyable. He successfully contributed to the memorable Beer Drinking competition held annually between Kew and Wisley and I certainly enjoyed the many hours spent 'in training' at the Coach and Horses Hotel with the judge and time keeper George Brown.

Alan introduced me to Jazz performed at a pub on Richmond Hill and I remember his visit to Australia when he presented a number of papers to professional bodies. I have been lucky in recent years to catch up with him on a number of occasions at his home at Nailsea and although on crutches he humbly served up a simple lunch and we reminisced about those happy days spent together at Kew. Alan's professional achievements will undoubtedly benefit future generations and you can rest assured that he will be up in the Garden of Eden confirming the 'reliable statistic' he often quoted was accurate and no doubt still making plans in readiness for his friends' arrival.

MARY GRIERSON

The Kew Guild received the sad news that botanical artist Mary Grierson passed away in 2012, aged 99 – a full Obituary will be printed in next year's Journal.

FRANK HEBDEN

4th September 1914 – 30th June 2011

Eulogy by daughter Christine U'Brien

Frank was born in the cathedral town of Ripon, North Yorkshire – James Herriot and now Downton Abbey country. He was an orphan by the age of 4, his father being killed in WW1 and his mother dying of a broken heart in the flu epidemic after that War. He was looked after firstly by his grandparents and later by an Aunt.

As his father was a war casualty he received at Government expense an excellent education at the Ripon Grammar School, which enabled him to study horticulture.

Frank must have obtained his love for gardening from his mother as I still have a medal showing she won a national competition for her sweet peas and also from the Aunt he lived with who was a great gardener. His first job was with the Backhouse Nursery in York which was founded in Victorian times by James Backhouse. The genus of a myrtaceous shrub was named Backhousia after him as he visited Australia as a Quaker doing social work but also botanising.

Frank next went to Cambridge Botanic Gardens as a student and afterwards entered The Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew on 15th November 1937. He then went on to gain a

National Diploma in Horticulture.

He met my mother Joan during his stay in Cambridge and was married there in 1939 on the day war broke out. Their first chore after the wedding was putting up the blackout curtains. My father as a student was not allowed to get married and so the church wedding party consisted only of four people and they did without the normal trimmings of a reception with cake and speeches. We made up for this for their 60th wedding anniversary with 12 guests to a special luncheon which included a cake and toasts. Frank died only two months short of their 72nd anniversary.



Unfortunately War was declared on the day of their marriage and in 1940 Frank was called up into the Army where he served with a radar unit behind the British lines and was based in turn in Egypt, Palestine and Italy.

After the War he obtained work with a nursery and then in the Parks Dept. of a local Council to earn money for his family, myself having been born during the War, and continued his studies at night-time. After obtaining his qualifications he joined the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in 1952. My mother joined him a year later. I spent 1953 in boarding school and received postcards from Frank posted in such places as Rhodesia, Iran and Iraq where he inspected cemeteries. After Egypt he was transferred to Cyprus for two years where he travelled to Gallipoli, and then on to Rome for another two years before returning to Cairo for four or five years. His last posting was in New Delhi in India where he visited such countries as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Burma and Malaysia.

Those days were not without adventure like the time of the Suez crisis when there was an expansion of British troops in Cyprus. One evening they were returning home from a social event by car when they were stopped by two tough looking British soldiers with Glaswegian accents. The two soldiers sat on the backseat and Frank and Joan, expecting a knife in the back at any moment, took them to their barracks which they entered through a hole in the fence.

On another occasion Frank was left behind on the side of the road in Mau Mau country in Kenya and was at risk of being caught by these terrorists. Fortunately for him there was a following car which picked him up.

While in Egypt one of his trips included travelling by car from Cairo to Alexandria and then along the coast road to El Alemain, Tobruk, Benghazi and Tripoli. On first coming to Australia Frank enquired about travel to Perth by car, thinking this was a two or three day trip. When I put them right about the distance they were horrified and ended up taking the plane.

Frank retired with Joan to the Isle of Wight in 1972 where they enjoyed walks along the coast and up into the downs with their two dogs. Unfortunately, I had by that time gone to Australia and so when the last of their dogs died after about 10 years, they

decided to come and join me in Sydney.

Upon arriving in Sydney they bought a house in Meeks Crescent in Faulconbridge and lived there until the move to Buckland Retirement Village in 1994.

Being a horticulturist Frank had a lot to learn about Australian botany which is quite different to that in other countries. He joined the Society for Growing Australian Plants and went on trips with them studying the flora. He was involved in the study of the plants in the Creek behind their house in Meeks Crescent, and later did a study of the plants in Buckland Village. In those early days in Australia I remember him returning from walks with small botanical specimens. He would study each specimen with a small eyeglass and consult his books to find out what it was. So he quickly became knowledgeable about the local plants.

A friend of mine once remarked that my parents knew how to enjoy themselves. My earliest memories are of them playing tennis. Once overseas swimming was included. In Cyprus my father won a cup for doubles in the Cyprus Tennis Championships. They also enjoyed ballroom dancing and had a won a medal or two for that. In Cairo they learnt horse riding and owned two horses while there. The stables were at the foot of the pyramids and they enjoyed riding into the desert from there. In New Delhi they played golf and in Sydney they went bushwalking.

Their house in Meeks Crescent included a swimming pool and they spent many afternoons in or around the pool playing with beach balls and relaxing on rubber rings. After enjoying the water, they relaxed by studying university entry level maths, having obtained two books on the subject. After they finished that course they studied the Bible and this led them back to the Church and they became part of the Christ Church congregation in Springwood.

In Buckland they played bridge with the Burnetts and Frank played table tennis at the Village until December 2010. Frank also regularly used a treadmill and exercise bike. Frank also, of course, was a great gardener and wherever he lived there was his garden, even if it consisted of just pot plants on a verandah.

They loved games. As an only child they played with me such games as Monopoly and snakes and ladders. In retirement years Frank loved reading and enjoyed cryptic crosswords. He also completed various tapestries. They also did a Bible study course with Moore College a few years ago.

Frank loved watching the test cricket and the main tennis championships on TV. When they first came to Australia, and before they obtained a videocassette recorder, they had many short nights as they sat up watching the Wimbledon tennis championships.

Frank was a lover of classical music. In Rome he took me to one or two concerts and also introduced me to Opera. In the last few years they fell in love with Andre Rieu and played his DVDs over and over again rather than watch TV programs.

Another facet of Frank's life is as a volunteer. He was a boy scout when young as evidenced by a photo. As an adult he joined Toc H, a Christian organisation in which members enjoyed social nights and undertaking voluntary work. I remember young

Frank and Joan taking a disabled lady for car rides and doing the shopping for an elderly blind lady.

The volunteering continued in Springwood where Frank, with Joan, started off taking local residents to medical appointments all over Sydney through the Springwood Neighbourhood Centre. This was followed by some years on the Safety House Committee and then with Meals on Wheels. In Buckland they helped with the Annual Fete and also helped to feed patients at lunchtime in the old nursing home. For his work with the War Graves Commission my father received an MBE in 1972 and proudly wore this with his war service medals on suitable occasions like Anzac Day celebrations.

My father had many good qualities and was both a good citizen and good Christian leading a very moral life. One description of him would be as a gentlemen, especially with his distinguished beard which he wore for 50 years until it was unfortunately shaved off prior to an operation earlier this year.

Once in Rome he was left behind at a tram stop after my mother and I boarded with about a dozen others. Frank, of course, had politely stood back to let others on first, only to find there was no room left!

In New Delhi he helped one of the office workers, Alope, then a man in his 20's, to migrate to England and shortly after Frank joined Joan in Nepean hospital. I took a call from Alope in their unit as he was worried that he had received no Christmas card from Frank. He was very concerned that Frank had gone into hospital and we exchanged email addresses, so I know he was upset when Frank died as he thought a lot of him and was very thankful for the help Frank had given him in the past.

Frank was a very independent man and when he and Joan were assessed for a move into a hostel last November, he resisted until just before Joan went into hospital at the end of January. By that time he was undertaking all the household chores. Any help I offered was always refused. He had been doing the cooking since they retired and it had become a hobby with him and he had a fine collection of cookbooks. He had also helped Joan with the housework and some years ago when Joan was in hospital I arrived at their house at about 8am one morning to help and he said 'but it's all done'. Unfortunately, soon after Joan had gone into hospital Frank followed her and after two months in hospital he was reassessed for the nursing home.

Frank also had a dry sense of humour. I remember my father telling tall tales to my childhood friends and they believing him.

With the passing of Frank I have lost a very good father and my mother a very good and devoted husband.

PETER KILBY

Peter entered Kew on April 1st 1963 after starting work for Wood Green Borough Council.

Of the students at Kew in that year, seventeen were from Parks Departments across the

UK, one was ex-Botanic garden, three were from Educational and Research organisations and one was self employed.

A picture of the gardens staff taken in front of the Aroid House (1964) shows him together with some of our most treasured Kewites, a young man then. It was a time when parks were still horticulturally rich and the parks departments were run by horticulturalists. Peter qualified and left in 1965.

Parks were his career and for a while he lived in Palmers Green. He spent his life nurturing parks and lived for many years in The Lodge at Goddington Park, Orpington in Kent.

ANDREW PIERCE

29th November 1935 – 17th September 2011

Andrew and his twin brother James were born in Canterbury, England and his father was a gardener. Andrew worked first of all in Canterbury Parks Department and his father must have been very proud when his son left there October 1958 to begin his studies at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

Many of us can imagine the quantum leap this represented in access to inspirational characters. One of the influences must have been D.J. Moore reporting from Bermuda so it is not surprising that after qualifying at Kew and gaining an NDH he took a step to Liverpool Parks Department and then after marrying Georgina (Gina) on 11th August 1962 left for Bermuda where he worked for thirteen years. Andrew was well established at The Coral Beach Club and Gina entertained all with her musical talents.

Next was a key step to Denver Botanical Gardens, Colorado where he worked as Propagator and Conservatory Attendant, Assistant Director and finally as Director.

The scale of his achievements are difficult to put into words but the gardens senior curator, Panayoti Kelaidis said, "He took a fledgling, naïve municipal park and made it one of the greatest botanic gardens in the world".



He kept in close contact with Kewites, this being one of the dynamics that empowered Kewites and our industry. On 11th April 1963 Kewites gathered in Bermuda and on 20th May 1992 he attended The Kew Guild Dinner at Imperial College, South Kensington.

He took early retirement from Denver Botanic Gardens in 1994 but that did not mean

he retired. Quite the opposite, he began work with Doug Rockne to design the Hudson Gardens in Littleton. A classic example of a skilled architect working synergetically with a skilled horticulturalist. He was Executive Director there until he retired, again, in 2004.

He was a long-time member of The Board of the Colorado Garden Show.

In December 2011 the Colorado Garden Show created The Andrew Pierce Memorial Grant to 'Memorialise his passion and commitment to this community'.

In addition to his wife Gina he is survived by sons Gordon and Michael, three grandchildren, his sister Nancy and his twin brother James.

In addition, also an amazing legacy – see website:
<http://www.botanicgardens.org/content/about-us>

ALAN SMITH

1943 – 2011

Alan was born and brought up in Leicester. He was an apprentice at Leicester University Botanic Garden studying horticulture on day release at Brooksby Hall Farm Institute.

He started at Kew as an 'improver gardener' in November 1963, and on 5th October 1964 started on the three year Kew Diploma Course. In 1967 he left Kew to undertake further training at the College of Park and Recreation Administration (The Grotto). He had a summer job in Cardiff Parks Department and worked for three months as a technical assistant in Leicester City Parks Department.

On 25th July 1968 he married Alison. On April 14th 1969 he joined Warley Corporation Parks Department as a horticultural assistant and remained in post as Warley became part of Sandwell.

In 1975 he moved into commerce and joined the builders George Wimpey as part of the landscape team based in the Birmingham office. In 1979 he transferred to the Manchester office and began to cover the northern region, not only designing schemes for housing estate show areas but advising on the stabilisation of the massive dry docks at Nigg Bay (for constructing oil rigs). He worked on the Wimpey contribution to the Home and Garden Feature of the 1984 Garden Festival in Liverpool. In 1988 he began working for Shepway District Council and retired in 1995. Subsequently he owned and ran his own business as a landscape consultant based in Kent. He is survived by his wife Alison and his two children Catherine and Phillip.

We thank Phillip for his contribution to this Obituary.

Dr MARGARET STANT

The Kew Guild is sorry to learn of the passing of Past President Margaret Stant on 23rd January 2012 and a full Obituary will be printed in next year's Journal.

KEITH WOOLLIAMS

17th July 1940 – 5th December 2011



Keith entered Kew in 1961 when the two-year course was still operational. From square one he got deeply involved in everything including The Kew Guild. On Dec 3rd he gave a Mutual Improvement lecture on Clematis Production so an early sign of commercial skills. In the same year he won The Grower Prize presented by the Director of The Grower for being the best practical gardener in the two-year course. He first took up a position at The Field Station, Ditchleys Green, Queen Mary's College.

He was one of Kew's great travellers. Soon after leaving Kew he went halfway round the world in 109 days. His aspirations to travel were enabled by plugging into the Kew network so visits to various places were facilitated by the presence of active Kewites in those regions – Zanzibar; India; Kashmir; Hong Kong; Japan; The Philippines; North Borneo; Singapore and Ceylon.

The Maharajah of Patialia welcomed him as did Kewites D.J Pringle (1956) in Nairobi and B.C. Perkins (1950); Mr Alphonso (1956) in Singapore.

He made real contact with Nature, as did our forebears, sometimes having dangerous fun catching pythons and once catching cholera in Japan.

All this was reported in the Kew Guild Journal and he long preserved and nourished his involvement. He sat on the committee from 1985-1989, then re-joined until he finally retired in 2002.

In 1986 he was Director of the Waimea Arboretum and Botanical Garden in Hawaii. If he could not attend Kew Guild meetings he always sent an apology and in June 1990 The Guild received a copy of a book he had written Notes from Waimea. In his words 'A labelled and documented collection of plants for aesthetic, educational and scientific purposes... a living gene pool for future generations'.

In that simple sentence a clear analysis of the priorities needed to set up large and effective institutions as most of the cash flow is induced by people liking what they see without having any need to be deeply educated in areas of plant science.

In 2009 reports celebrated his collecting in Nyasaland (Malawi) with Cyril Giles, orchids and Nepenthes being the focus then.

His caring attitude extended to regularly sending a Christmas card to Lena Ferarri who, as some of us remember, used to run the café on Kew Green before she went back to Italy.

As he was welcomed on his 109-day journey so he always welcomed Kewites such as Richard Ward and Peter Brooks and offered superb hospitality.

Keith's widow, Akiko, sent the following:

Keith passed away on Monday 5th December 2011 with his loving family by his side.

Keith was born in Chester, England, on July 17th 1940. He studied at Britain's Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, the world's oldest and most respected seat of botanical education. He worked in England, Bermuda, Papua New Guinea, and Kauai, Hawaii, and studied under several renowned botanists in Japan. This combination led him to consider himself a 'botanical horticulturist'.

'Conservation through Cultivation' became his professional philosophy and became the motto for the work of Waimea Arboretum and Botanical Garden on Oahu, Hawaii, which to this day is his living legacy. In his 20 years as Waimea's director, he built it into one of the most widely respected institutions for the conservation of rare and endangered native Hawaiian and tropical plants from around the world, work for which he became renowned and an inspiration to a younger generation of plant conservationists. His expertise and dedication to accurate, detailed documentation of Waimea's collection enabled others to have a trusted source for research. In time, he became a recognized expert on various tropical plants, particularly hibiscus species.

Most recently, he worked as the Director of Plant Collection for the Oregon Garden, in Silverton, OR, where he retired in 2002.

He is survived by Akiko, his loving wife of 42 years; Angela, his daughter who has travelled the world as her father did; and the family of his son, Frank – wife, Hannah, and grandchildren, Taryn and Kayla.

We would like to let our children and grandchildren know what kind of person he was in the future, so please share your memories of him at:

www.keithwoolliams.last-memories.com

THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2011	TOTAL 2010
	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income:					
Donations and legacies	2	750	1,000	1,750	750
Membership subscriptions		6,449		6,449	6,221
Investment income and deposit interest	3	13,653	6,735	20,388	23,339
Incoming resources from charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and other membership activities:					
Annual Dinner		2,600	50	2,650	3,102
AGM Soiree		390	50	440	380
Other events and income		-		-	25
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Awards and prizes:					
Donations and legacies	4	-	40	40	-
Total incoming resources		23,842	7,875	-	31,717
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Charitable activities					
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>					
Events and membership activities:					
Website project		8,149		8,149	2,145
Archiving project		-		-	-
Journal of The Kew Guild		5,872		5,872	4,874
Annual Dinner		3,150	50	3,200	3,944
AGM Soiree		358	50	408	329
Presidents' name bars		242		242	-
Presidents' medals		-		-	-
Other events and membership activities		-		-	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>					
Award making: Awards	5	370	9,760	10,130	11,410
Prizes	5	605	25	630	630
Student fellowship		474	-	474	100
Diploma Student Cup		-	-	-	-
Kew Guild Medal		-		-	377
Joseph Hooker Celebration Grant		1,000	1,000	2,000	-
Governance costs		4,321		4,321	1,015
Total resources expended	6	24,541	10,885	-	35,426
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses		(699)	(3,010)	-	(3,709)
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Unrealised gains on investment assets	8	(17,038)	(3,447)	(5,295)	(25,780)
Net movement in funds for the year		(17,737)	(6,457)	(5,295)	(29,489)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	371,762	69,391	92,097	533,250
Total funds carried forward	12	354,025	62,934	86,802	503,761

THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

		2011		2010	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		422,663		448,443
Current assets					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		2,513		2,513	
Debtors	9	7,000		7,427	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	79,756		77,676	
		89,269		87,616	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(8,171)		(2,809)	
Net current assets			81,098		84,807
Net assets			503,761		533,250
Funds and reserves as restated					
Unrestricted general fund	12		83,294		97,147
Unrestricted designated funds	12		270,731		274,615
Restricted funds	12		62,934		69,391
Endowment funds	12		86,802		92,097
Total funds			503,761		533,250

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 13 June 2012 following the completion of the independent examination. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the Guild's financial affairs. For further information the full Annual Report and Financial Statements, including the Auditor's Report, should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, Honorary Treasurer, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.

RBG STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD(as at 15th March 2012)

Alcock, Robert	Mackrodt, Hans-Wilhelm
Brewer, Matthew	McCarter, Thomas
Cook, Katherine E.	Middleton, Beccy
Darroch, Georgina	Moffett, Amy
Das, Sheila	O'Brien, Susan
Deasy, Martin	Olliffe, Wesley
Dixon, Kate	Oram, Lee
Dyer, Adele	Ostley, Phillip M.
Edwards, Ashley	Patman, Suzanne
Freeth, Thomas	Rees, Paul E. J.
Gdaniec, Andrzej	Ross, Maija
Golding, Corin	Rautala, Katriina
Harbott, Elizabeth A.	Sarginson, Jen
Hickey, Timothy P.	Schuman, Lindsey C.
Hilgenhof, Rebecca	Urpeth, Susan
Houston, Ben	Walker, Saul P.
Lumb, Alice	Western, Tsuyeko

JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD

Index to Volume 15, 2006–2010

Prepared on behalf of the Committee of The Kew Guild by Alex George, ‘Four Gables’, 18 Barclay Road, Kardinya, W.A. 6163, Australia; a.george@murdoch.edu.au

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