

# THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



**Founded in 1893**

*The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present*

## **Events of 2012**

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**Royal Botanic Gardens  
Kew**

Front cover: London 2012 Olympic Games tribute © Andrew McRobb, RGB Kew

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## THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

### The Kew Guild Committee 2012-2013

#### Officers:

President: Jim Mitchell  
 President Elect: Bob Ivison  
 Vice President: Tony Overland  
 Vice President: Jonathan Rickards  
 Past President: Stewart Henchie  
 Acting Secretary: Sara Arnold  
 Honorary Treasurer: Jennifer Alsop  
 Honorary Membership Secretary: Judy Hancock  
 Events Officer: Pamela Holt and Jean Griffin

#### Committee Members:

<i>Retire 2013</i>	<i>Retire 2014</i>	<i>Retire 2015</i>
Jean Griffin	Charles Funke	William Bessler
Tim Stretton	Jim Handley	Graham Burgess
Brendan Mowforth	Tony Overland	Terry Sunderland
Tim Upson	Alan Stuttard	Richard Ward

#### Ex Officio Members:

Head of School of Horticulture: Martin Staniforth

#### Student Committee Representatives:

Year 1: Aaron Marubbi      Year 2: Suzanne Patman      Year 3: Adele Dyer

#### Advisors:

Professor David F Cutler BSc PhD DIC PPLS  
 Professor Sir Ghillelan T Prance FRS MA DPhil FilDr FLS VMH  
 F Nigel Hepper BSc CBiol FIBiol FLS  
 Martin J S Sands BSc FIBiol FLS FRGS  
 John B E Simmons OBE MHort (RHS) FIHort CBiol FIBiol VMH  
 Richard Ward, Honorary Journal Adviser

#### Non-Committee Posts:

Editor: Alexandra Ward  
 Communications Secretary: Sara Arnold

## EDITORIAL

Dear fellow Guild members,

2012 was another important year for the Kew Guild and RBG Kew.

We all celebrated the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics coming to London – on this Journal's cover you can see Kew's magnificent floral installation to join in with the spirit of the Games, and past which the Olympic flame was carried on its way to the Stadium.

We also welcomed Course 50, the 50<sup>th</sup> intake of students on the Kew Diploma course. This has prompted our President Jim Mitchell to encourage extra celebration of Kew's contribution to world horticulture this Guild year.

Finally we are getting to grips with the Guild website and you are now able to gain access all our Journals way back to 1893. Look back into the history of the Guild, they will make you even prouder to be a Kewite! Additional facilities and information is being added to the website month by month and much Committee and individuals' time has gone into research and discussions. We hope that you will add to it.

This Journal has some fascinating articles from Guild members, with more to come in next year's edition. If you have any memories that you would like to share with us please do get in touch – every bit of your personal, family and career news is historically interesting. Do it now.

The Guild is urgently in need of volunteers to help with various Committee jobs, including Membership, Awards Scheme, Secretarial etc. You can find full job descriptions on the website, and please contact the Acting Secretary if you might be interested.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this Journal, as well as Nigel Hepper for (last-minute) proof-reading. I hope you enjoy reading about the news of 2012 from and about your fellow Guild members.

Floreat Kew!

Alexandra Ward      Editor  
Richard Ward        Advisory Editor

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# JIM MITCHELL

President 2012/2013



Jim was born in 1944 in the then rural village of Rainhill located only ten miles from Liverpool, in the centre of a vast North of England industrial area. It was not far from St. Helens, cluttered with glass waste heaps, Widnes famous for chemical production with associated pollution and Warrington for copper cables. However his primary school boundary walls, built from red sandstone, were shared with Lord Derby's Knowsley Park, allowing views of the reindeer wandering around the bluebells growing under the oak trees in spring. He recalls watching the cows being milked at the local farm and picking up fresh eggs from free range hens during his summer holidays. His childhood was therefore a time of contrast providing experiences of extreme landscapes from industrial blights to rural bliss which has undoubtedly impacted on his later life.

He caught poliomyelitis at the age of four which affected his right leg, somewhat slowing him down but early enough to allow personal adjustment and be taken in his stride, apart from a number of prolonged stays in the local hospital impacting on his desire to enter grammar school. He became a boy scout, then patrol leader and finally a troop leader providing useful organisational and leadership skills which made up for a lack of academic prowess.

His father was a keen gardener, growing vegetables and soft fruit in the back yard to supplement the family income. He enjoyed reading the Gardeners Chronicle and took Jim to the main local Flower shows including Shrewsbury and Southport. At the age of twelve Jim was given the opportunity to work part-time at a local cut flower nursery owned by florist Norman Welsby, who was also national President of Interflora. He recalls helping to select, arrange and then pack an exhibition bound for a major show in Cape Town South Africa and the grin on his boss's face when he returned with a gold medal in hand. Norman's son was attending the Lancashire Institute of Agriculture and came home for holidays with colourful stories, encouraging Jim to apply for a prospectus along with booklets on Careers in Horticulture which of course provided details of Kew. From that time his future dreams were set in concrete. Norman arranged an interview with the Manager of St. Helens Parks and Cemeteries Department and when asked "*what did he want to do when he grew up*" looked around at the comfortable office and spotting the car in the driveway he confidently replied "*your job looks pretty good!*".

Thanks to his enthusiasm for gardening two years later he entered Agricultural College at Hutton near Preston as a border studying commercial horticulture and obtained the RHS National Certificate of Horticulture. On completion he was appointed to a relatively senior position at Rochdale Council that he had spotted in the Gardeners Chronicle, and then successfully entered Kew in 1963 on the new Diploma Course. He still remembers travelling the 200 miles down to London for the interview with Mr Stenning and Mr King and providing details of his considerable experience although still only eighteen years of age.

Kew, located in the nation's capital was a memorable experience for a Merseyside boy in the early sixties and he enjoyed the social life to the full, really enjoying being part of the Beer Drinking competition team particularly the serious training sessions and beating Wisley three years running, organising dances at the Coach and Horses and being secretary of the hockey club with fixtures mainly against all female teams. Unfortunately in hindsight 'academia' was not on the priority list but Jim did well in the final year with the plant identification tests when cash prizes were offered by the



students' union. He met Valerie, a student nurse from Richmond Hospital, at one of the Socials he had helped organise and married whilst still at Kew.

Practical experience at Kew was gained in the various sections including the Decorative Pits under Assistant Curator Geoff Yates, Palm House and 'T' Range with Stan Rawlings, the Temperate House and the Australian House under the guidance of Jack Souster and later John Symonds. Leo Pemberton became the new Supervisor of Studies in 1964 and quickly set about putting his plans in place to make the Kew Diploma the leading qualification it has become. Jim completed his thesis '*Comparing the Flowering Times of Acacias between Kew and Australian Botanic Gardens*' in preparation for his planned life 'Down Under'.



**The other side of student life in the sixties: the 1965 Beer Drinking Team**

Back row left-right: Dave Coleman, Bob Ince, Errol Scarr  
Front row left-right: Jim Mitchell, John Jones, unknown

After a short spell in the London Borough of Hillingdon's Parks and Recreation Department, he emigrated to Australia, leaving on St Patrick's Day 1967, and sailing out of Southampton to start a new life in a far away land like so many previous Kewites over the past 200 years.

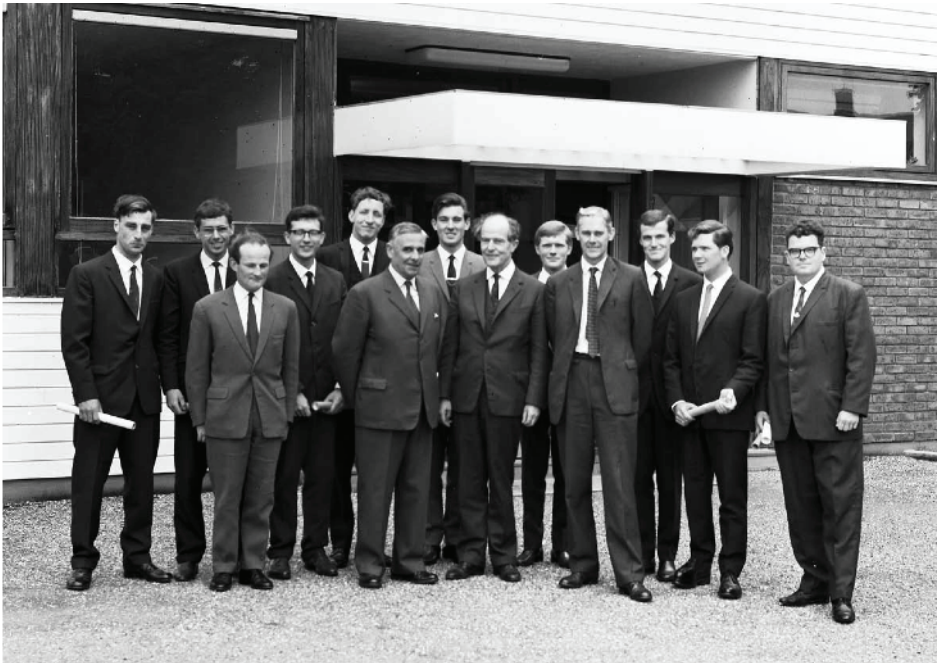
He reluctantly took a team leader job with Sydney City Council Parks and Recreation Department after visiting numerous other offices seeking a position in a more appropriate occupation, however for five months the experience was invaluable and memorable. Shortly afterwards he applied and was successful in gaining a position of Landscape Planner with the Electricity Commission of NSW, at a time

of considerable expansion by this major utility. It was marvellous local experience travelling to all parts of the State and at the time of new environmental awareness among the community. This resulted in new Government legislation and he subsequently worked on the first Environmental Impact Statement required by the Act. At this time he took a serious interest in the local flora and bushland and studied native plants at the local Ryde School of Horticulture.

Thanks to his Kew qualification he was able to enter the University of New South Wales, School of Architecture, in 1974 and completed a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Design. He later became a corporate member of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects serving as the NSW secretary and a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Parks and Recreation.

After six and a half years with the Electricity Commission he left to set up a landscape consultancy practice and completed numerous designs for public works, urban spaces, major parks and utilities located all along the east coast, over a period of fourteen years. The most satisfying project was the planning of seventy kilometres of walking tracks in Davidson Park for the National Parks and Wildlife Service, allowing the local community to enjoy the bushland. Probably the most notable project of his practice was being part of the design team for the Redevelopment of Darling Harbour for the Bicentenary, a brief he was awarded after starting a joint venture, Mitchell + Clouston, with UK-based landscape architect Brian Clouston.

In 1988 the opportunity came to return to local government and take up the position of City Landscape Architect at Wollongong City Council, on the South Coast of NSW, and he took up residence in the Botanic Gardens, 'home at last'. Jim had taken a keen interest in the International Garden Festival movement and visited Liverpool, Scotland and Wales in the UK, as well as those festivals in Japan, China, South Korea and Holland. When the possibility of an IGF in Australia came along he quickly put in a strong submission for one to be held at the derelict industrial area of Port Kembla but at



**Course 1: 1963 – 1966 graduation**

Left-right: Brian Howard, John Jones, John O'Connor, Peter Hitchin, Bob Ince, Sir George Taylor, Andy Barnes, Sir John Winnifrith, John Endall, Leo Pemberton, Clive Gordon, Jim Mitchell, Lionel Bowen  
Not shown: R.K.Edwards, C.A. Hart, D.Waddell, P.E. Wilson

the time the Government was committed to the 2000 Olympics and the country has still to hold its first IGF.

Later he returned to Sydney to a job he always wanted – Manager of Parks and Reserves with Manly Council, combining planning, design and maintenance but shortly afterwards was promoted to a much more senior position of Group Manager Infrastructure and Asset Management, responsible for engineering, property and utilities teams as well as parks and open spaces.

After three years in this beautiful harbour side municipality, Val and Jim followed their daughter to tropical Darwin to enjoy the birth of their first grandson and when the position of Manager, Parks and Reserves, which included Superintendent of Cemeteries, was advertised his ‘off the cuff’ comments made at his first interview nearly forty years earlier were finally achieved. In Darwin he developed a ten-hectare display garden including a Mango orchard and tropical cut flowers which was opened annually to the public for charity.

His community interests during his working life were many. Due to his love of the Australian Bush he was appointed as a Trustee of Elouera Natural Park by the NSW Government and took considerable interest in public involvement, wildlife surveys, planning a walking track system and working on the Plan of Management. This resulted in considerable park extension to become the Berowra Valley Regional Park and recently has been nominated as a National Park.

He was also an active member of Rotary International, President of Greening Australia NT and Director of Greening, Australia for many a year and President of Darwin Rural Garden Club and Executive Director of the local Tropical Garden Spectacular.

## **TONY OVERLAND**

Vice President 2012/2013

For a full biography please see the Events of 2011 ‘New Committee Members’ section.

## **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### **William ‘Bill’ Bessler**

Very much inspired by the landscape design lectures during the Kew Diploma course, Bill decided to pursue a career in landscape architecture.

Completing the landscape design post-graduate course at the University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, his first assignment was with Brian Clouston and Partners in London. Then, following a stint at the GLC and also a firm of architects, he accepted a daring post in Iran to prepare a master plan for the new botanical garden near Tehran. This post proved more challenging than expected. Off the drawing-board sketches had to be implemented immediately on site with an inexperienced crew and together with three other expats, much time was spent in the field training staff in basic horticultural skills.

On several occasions, Bill was able to accompany the botanists Dr Per Wendelbo and Professor Hans Runemark on field trips to collect plants for both the herbarium and the



living collections. They were also delighted to host a plant-collecting trip to the Caspian Forest with John Simmons and Hans Fleigner in 1977.

Alas, all this came to an abrupt end at the time of the revolution.

In 1980, armed with an Arabic dictionary, Bill's next assignment took him to Saudi Arabia to prepare landscape designs for the new airport being built in Jeddah. This was a two-year contract which lasted 17 years!



He is now retired and potters on his land in southern Spain and is restoring his ancient olive trees, some of which are over 1,500 years old.

### **Graham Burgess**

Graham was raised by a widowed mother in a council house in Manchester. University was denied to him as he had to earn money. Work started on a nursery owned by a Dutchman, an international expert forcing tulips for the winter-flower-market. It was commercially sound but not enough plants so Graham joined Manchester Parks where ex-Kew managers nurtured rich environments.

Then to Kew where there was access to more mentors. Graham was Secretary of the Students Union and a member of The Kew Guild. The Guild helped sponsor his Guyanan Expedition. Sir George Taylor (Director Kew and old friend of John Spedan Lewis) and Sir Bernard Miller (Chairman of John Lewis Partnership) interviewed him for a Directorship and for six years Graham was running large estates and gardens and landscaping shops, factories and warehouses, as well as running a hardy nursery stock nursery in a tight commercial manner. He was Chair of the Horticultural Trades Association for Britain's biggest branch.

He then went freelance running separate companies dealing internationally and nationally with Landscape Design, Aquatic Design, Commercial Nursery and Maze Design. He reinforced brand name at shows for Christian Aid and won the Premiere Prize for The Beatles Maze at our only International Garden Festival. Work at historic properties like Bramshill, Littlecote



Manor; Laverstoke Park, Longleat and Monet's garden at Giverny drew on skills of historical awareness.

In 1992 he led a team for Lord Bath to build a full sized Stonehenge. It did not happen but he is now on a new team to do that. The British Rock is another story celebrating aspects of Kew dynamics.

Graham has been the Kew Guild Obituary writer for many years and Vice President 1988-1990.

### **Terry Sunderland**

After graduating from Kew in 1991, I spent a year in Cameroon at the Limbe Botanic Garden with the support of a scholarship from Kew. I then completed a Masters degree in forestry at the University of Oxford, again with the support of a post-graduate award from Kew. As the course came to an end, Cameroon beckoned again and I was appointed as an advisor to the Limbe Botanic Garden on behalf of the British Government. In 1997, I began a PhD under the supervision of Dr John Dransfield on a study of the taxonomy, ecology and utilisation of the rattans of Africa in association with the University of London. Overall, I spent fifteen years in Cameroon working both there and in many surrounding countries in West and Central Africa. I met my wife, Jacqui, there and we brought up our daughter in Limbe whose Pidgin English had to be translated every time we came back to the UK.



In 2006, we moved to Indonesia where I work as a Principal Scientist for the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). There I lead the work we undertake on tropical landscape management, ecosystem services and rural livelihoods (including food security) that entails project management on three continents and thus much travel. In many ways it seems a mighty leap from spreading mulch in the South Arboretum, but the training and academic discipline instilled by the Kew Diploma remains unsurpassed, especially with the integration of both practical and academic activities. I often bore my colleagues and students with stories of how important it is to never ask someone to do what you would not do yourself. A lesson I learned early on in my Kew career.

I am delighted to continue to contribute to the Kew Guild and hope I can offer some insights, albeit from overseas, for young and aspiring horticulturists interested in tropical forest conservation.

### **Richard Ward**

Richard was elected to the Committee part way through the year. You can read more about him in the *News of Kewites* section.

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by Sara Arnold, Acting Secretary

## The Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 at the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, RBG Kew

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

### 01.12 Welcome by the President

The president opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming.

### 02.12 Apologies for Absence

There were numerous apologies for absence:

#### Committee:

David Hardman (Kew Gardens  
Representative)  
Paul Sadler (Events Officer)  
David Barnes (Award Scheme  
Chairman)  
Alexandra Ward (Editor)  
Alex George (Immediate Past  
President)

#### Members:

Susyn Andrews  
Mr Ashworth  
Chris Baylis  
William Bessler  
Mr Bisgrove  
Mrs Bonney  
Rebecca Bower  
Barbara Boyle  
Mr Brookes  
Ms Chapman  
Mr Coates  
Jill Cowley  
Miss Das  
Mrs Elstone  
Rev Hugh Flower  
Cyril Giles  
Mrs Gilmour  
Mr Hamilton  
Katrine Herian  
Mr Hoog

Michael Lycette  
Mr Menzies  
James Mitchelmore  
Gerald Morgan  
Mr Neighbour  
Hans Overeynder  
Mr Paterson  
Diana Polhill  
Udai Pradhan  
Sir Ghillean Prance  
Dr Scott-Brown  
Thomas Seager  
Chris Searle  
John Simmons  
Prof. Charles Stirton  
Pete Styles  
Dr Nigel Taylor  
Alan Titchmarsh  
Ms Ward  
Graham Watts  
Barry Wendon  
Ed Wolf  
Gerald Morgan  
John Sales  
Alexander Dixon  
Alan Paterson  
Cyril Gyles  
Dr Gibbons  
John Whitehead  
John Woodhams

### 03.12 Notice of Death of Members

The President asked members to stand to remember those friends that have passed during the year; Mary Grierson, Francis Hebden MBE and any others we may not be aware of.

**04.12 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011 printed in the Journal.**

The minutes of the meeting of the AGM were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

**05.12 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

There were no Matters Arising.

**06.12 The Acting Honorary Secretary's Report – Sara Arnold**

The Committee has met five times during the year in the Kew Guild room in the Herbarium.

I have been in the post of Acting Secretary for the past year and during the year a detailed job description for this post was drawn up. So far there have been no nominations for the post. According to the Guild rules, the post of Secretary must be a voluntary one. I am prepared to work with anyone who may need help with taking minutes and would welcome nominations.

JM asked how many hours per week the secretarial role encompasses. Sara replied about 5-6 per week. Stewart commented that Sara provides detailed journal entries for everything she does so full costings are available.

The committee and members thanked Sara for all her hard work during the year.

**07.12 Treasurer's report – Jennifer Alsop – Financial Statements printed in the Journal.**

The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2011:

There may be minor anomalies between what is printed here and what is printed in the Journal, this is because the figures printed in the Journal were reviewed after it was printed.

The restricted funds decreased by £6,457 and the unrestricted funds decreased by £17,736. Income in 2011 totalled £31,718 of which £6,450 was from subscriptions, £20,388 from our investments and £1,790 from donations. We extend our thanks to the Philip & Granville Trust, the Annals of Botany and all our other donors. The deposit interest has reduced significantly, in line with the general worldwide fall in interest rates.

Awards and prizes of £10,760 were made, £5,872 was spent on producing the Journal. Governance costs were £4,321 this year which includes £1,560 for secretarial costs. There were unrealised losses on the Guild's investments of £25,780. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units. £86,802 in the endowment funds, £62,934 in restricted funds, £270,731 in designated funds and £83,295 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2012.

I would ask you to approve these accounts. Jennifer Alsop proposed, Simon Owens seconded and motion carried.

The President thanked Jennifer for all her hard work during the year.

I would also ask that you approve the appointing of an Independent Examiner for the annual accounts of 2012. The meeting approved.

It is proposed that the subscription rates remain the same as 2011. Committee approved.

**08.12 Membership Secretary's report – Judy Hancock**  
Membership as at 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Membership category	Numbers
Staff	53
Students	38
Library	1
Standard	360
Life	11
Total	463

In order to carry out the Annual Dinner Survey via the internet the Guild had to clarify the e-mail addresses it holds for members. Judy worked closely with the President and Secretary to ensure the membership database is up to date and passed her thanks on for their help.

The Committee agreed in December 2011 to increase the cost of student membership from £8 to £15. Judy outlined why the Committee have come to this decision: to bring about consistency of subscriptions for students, apprentices and volunteers. When students leave, their Direct Debit for £8 is often left in place and not updated by the member to £15. Unless the full subscription is paid, membership is not granted. In some cases students have not left forwarding contact information and they continue to pay £8 for no benefit at all. There is nothing the Guild can do about this. Students would be granted three free months if they join in September.

Graham Burgess said students should have free membership to ensure that they carry on with the Guild. Allan Hart disagreed with this as less than a third of them are Guild members and he felt it would devalue the product if the student membership were free. Kew students are always approached before they leave the course to avoid this situation.

Judy Hancock proposed setting the student subscription rate to £15, seconded by Martin Staniforth and approved by the members. Motion carried.

The subscription remains at £15 for the ordinary member and this rate will be reviewed as necessary.

New Membership Proposals: None as at 4<sup>th</sup> September 2012.

**09.12 Events Officer's report – Paul Sadler.** Paul sent his apologies. 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011 Post AGM – A wonderful tour of Cambridge University Botanic Garden, led by Dr Tim Upson. An excellent write up which can be found on the Kew Guild website with a range of photos.

The Annual Dinner, attended by 69 Guild members and guests, was held at Cambridge Cottage and again brought out the sun on a pleasant evening. An excellent range of

speeches and awards were made. The ticket price for the Dinner was prohibitive and a survey of members has been carried out as to what direction the Dinner should move in. Stewart Henchie, our gracious President, will report back on this.

With a new President Jim Mitchell incoming, events are being planned, with regional celebrations and overseas trips. Jim I am sure will field any questions you may have about his coming 2012/13 Presidency.

As well as this, I would also request all current and ex-committee members keep putting efforts into other trip ideas, and now with a website and email distribution list, the Guild has a more effective and efficient way of making members aware of upcoming events.

Finally, thanks are given to Stewart Henchie and Sara Arnold for the arranging of this AGM and a variety of tours afterwards.

It is surprising how quickly a year comes around – my second full year as Events Officer. Whilst maybe not as successful as I would have wished, this year saw the Annual Dinner going off well – attended by over 60 people. This was my first year as Master of Ceremonies role – taking over from Richard Ward who had done the previous 31 years.

It has been noted how the cost of the Annual Dinner affects numbers attending and the committee bares this in mind and is exploring ways of trying to stage the annual dinner that matches members wishes and needs.

Martin Staniforth can take great credit for arranging the Olympic Park Tour in early June this year (a write up of which is up on the Guild website). Those attending received a very informative tour of the developing Olympic Park.

A proposed tour to South Devon didn't materialise though I learnt a few lessons from putting this together and the option to rearrange for summer 2013 is available.

Many thanks are given to David Hardman and his colleagues for arranging and providing the programme of tours and visits for this weekend as well as this evening's soiree.

One final item to report on and a date for your diary is the Cambridge Botanic Garden Autumn Colour Trip on 29<sup>th</sup> October which I hope will be the first of an exciting and interesting year of events.

**10.12 Editor's report – Alexandra Ward, read by Richard Ward.** Alexandra sent her apologies.

Alexandra has moved to Bedford but this will not affect the Journal.

The Events of 2011 Journal was published on time and at a budget of £5285, at 146 pages long. Thank you to everyone that helped with its production.

In October I will be sending individual email reminders to regular and required contributors for the Events of 2012 Journal, with full guidelines and instructions.



I also continue to accept copy throughout the year from any member wishing to submit articles, photos and news for the Events of 2012 Journal. The final deadline for all copy (except Financial Accounts and Membership List) is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013.

In the past I have required a signed hard copy Copyright Assignment Form along with every contribution. From now onwards I will just need an email (or letter) from the author stating that they own the copyright of the text and all illustrations. If their employer owns the copyright, the email or letter needs to state that they have obtained permission to publish the material in the Kew Guild Journal. This will make the process of procuring contributions much smoother – in the past we have had to exclude articles where the Copyright Form had not been forthcoming. Many thanks to David Cutler for this information.

The meeting agreed on what a great edition of the Journal has been produced this year and thanks were given to Alexandra and Richard for their hard work.

### **11.12 Web site report – Bob Ivison, Jonathan Rickards**

Jonathan joined the meeting a little late and his report was given under AOB, but is transcribed here:

2012 has been characterised by development issues related to the functioning of the website to the detriment of editing content, but, despite the lack of visual evidence on the screen, progress has been made, albeit far more slowly than we would have liked. This rate of progress has not been satisfactory and we are as yet unable to demonstrate the working site today, as we would have wished.

On the plus side, all the items on our ‘shopping list’ of last year have made significant progress as evidenced in the meetings I have had with David Pottinger at SomCom’s offices, and these include on-line membership, skills register, committee pages with email alerts, public-only and member-only pages, new passwords/log-ins arrangements, editing instruction manual, templates for varying news items, a knowledge exchange, and a ‘links’ page. To report that none of this is fully functioning at this time is a source of both regret, but also a stimulus to action. To this end, we intend to request contact with the directors of SomCom to find the reason why it is taking so long to complete. We then intend to re-programme the outstanding works with a shortened timescale and have the finished site demonstrated to the Guild committee at the earliest opportunity.

Once the site is complete, a number of the items will be self-explanatory regarding how to use them. On logging in, you will have a profile which you can edit (name, address etc.) and the opportunity to file your skills (if you so wish) under different headings which can then be filtered by those wishing to employ those skills. It is yet to be decided whether those participating would wish their skills to be available to members of the enquiring general public or members of the Guild only – something which can be decided at a later stage without affecting the site development.

Committee members, via the discrete committee pages, will be able to review minutes and documents submitted for approval within a committee section only viewable by them, and when their vote is required, a ‘system driven’ email will alert them to go to the website and take the necessary action.

The Home page on which you will have no doubt observed still has a large amount of un-editable content, an item over which we have had no control for the past 12 months. We have expressed our concern throughout the year that this unsatisfactory and is vitally important to correct, but understand that this requires specific web-editing instruction. It remains a serious outstanding item, but, as the last item to be corrected, we hope it will indicate the completeness of the site which is then open-for-business. The final job will be to issue new password/log-ins to all members.

A number of concerns have been raised from Guild members over the past year regarding the burden of future editing, and, with this in mind, we have reduced the mandatory options which will require up-dating to a minimum. It will therefore rest with the incumbent website editor as to whether more or less articles, news items etc. are included. Our home page will include Events as a highlighted item, the opportunity for News to be posted, and the Gallery for access to photographs etc. but News and Events is all that will require regular work input.

On the issue of content, I believe that we will amass a significant body of valuable technical work, experience and data over time to make available to Guild members. It also remains an aspect of the site through which we could seek to serve the public interest by making certain material available to them.

Lastly, on the issue of managing the site (as opposed to editing the content), there may be advantage in having this service provided by a local software specialist such that, in the event of any of the committee members not being available or having the time/skills to carry out this work (and it is unlikely that we can reasonably expect Guild Committee members to carry out this type of work), it will be covered by a contractual arrangement. This is something we shall look at, going forward.

### **Programme & Progress**

6 meetings were held with David Pottinger of SomCom over the past year 2011-2012, 5 of which were held at SomCom's offices in Chipping Norton to monitor progress and discuss requirements. Progress has been discussed above as below satisfactory, but the key to success is to redouble our efforts to secure the site we want.

Notwithstanding following up the delays with the management, I will therefore be progressing the work on next Monday 10<sup>th</sup> with David Pottinger at SomCom's offices.

### **Background**

The assembling of archives from the collected Journals was contracted to Somerset Computers (SomCom) who completed this work in 2010. Following on from their original work, the Guild indicated its intention to expand the website to provide an interactive site with news and events together with an opportunity for members to post their skills and exchange ideas and knowledge. Access to the site by the general public has also been an important consideration in maintaining our status as a charity and it was felt that this could be expanded.

### **Achievements**

Following SomCom's acceptance of the revised commission in 2011, a demonstration webpage was prepared and shown at the AGM last year. Subsequently, the Guild prepared a proforma/mock up of the Guild's requirements indicating what the subsequent pages should contain and look like and this was commented on by the committee in January 2012. In it, items which had been requested by members were



included, such as committee pages, membership on line, events and news, skills register, and the presented requirements proposed were accepted during 2011 for development by SomCom.

### **Outstanding**

- Journals Search: amendments to workability and search.
- Journals: ‘Search the Journals’ and ‘Search the Archive’: to be defined and qualified.
- News and Events: to appear in reverse order such that the latest is ‘on top’.
- News and Events: ‘snippet’ news to appear on home page with link to full report.
- News and Events: ‘Events’ dropdown to replace “Home” and “Home” to be placed on green bar.
- Skills database: to be released for comment prior to uploading.
- Knowledge Exchange: to be filterable and sorted on a subject basis.
- Membership: Convert Access information to Excel for uploading.
- Membership: instigate Paypal account (future) but include software.
- Membership: sign-up form to be uploaded into committee page for approval/decline decisions.
- Editing Instruction Manual: in preparation.
- Committee Pages: to be uploaded.

### **12.12 Award Scheme report – David Barnes.** David sent his apologies.

Firstly I would like to thank all the members of the Awards sub-committee for their time and energy. We meet only twice each year in order to review applications for funding but your committee does so with firm commitment to ensure that the Guild’s funds are wisely awarded. I will pay special thanks to Jennifer Alsop and Marcella Corcoran for their administration of both the accounts and the committee’s records. Without their due diligence I would be at a loss.

For the year 2012 we have made twelve awards totalling £7,304 to a good spread of the membership: students, staff and those who are no longer at Kew. The activities funded range from travel, educational courses and attendances at conferences and seminars, all of which you will be able to read about in the 2012 Journal.

Three applications for awards were unsuccessful due either to a lack of information or insufficient funds available to the committee at the time. All of these applicants have been contacted and given advice on how best to reapply where suitable.

All the awards made in 2011 have been reported in the 2011 Journal apart from one which took place after the publishing date. That report will appear in the 2012 Journal.

As a point of interest, the records show that since the year 2000, the Awards sub-committee have awarded over £80,000 on your behalf to nearly 170 fellow members of the Guild.

The President thanked David, Jennifer and Marcella for all their hard work on this.

### **13.12 Result of Prize Day**

Monty Don presented the prizes and said that the Diploma was only worth the paper it was written on if the students did not go out and use the training they had received at such a wonderful centre of horticultural excellence as RBG Kew.

The prizegiving was a wonderful day which the students will always remember but the reality will hit them on Monday! Also, that if they go further up the career ladder they must not forget their connection with the soil and get their hands dirty!

It was a happy occasion and the students at the end of the formal proceedings thanked the staff who had trained them. Three of the students gave the audience an ‘Olympic style’ rendition/results on each of their fellow student years strengths and weaknesses.

#### **14.12 Retiring Presidents Report – Stewart Henchie Kew Guild Medal**

The President was honoured to award the Kew Guild Medal to Noel McGough. The KG Medal Committee, chaired by David Cutler, is responsible for nominations and finding worthy recipients who are then put forward to the Kew Guild Committee for consideration.

#### **Results of the Survey Monkey Annual Dinner survey**

The President showed a presentation of the results of the survey.

The majority of the surveys were sent by e-mail or if a member did not have an e-mail address, this was done by letter. SH then manually uploaded their answers to join those electronic ones to give an accurate result. The only members who did not received a survey were overseas members without e-mail.

Stewart has never worked with electronic surveys before but managed to work it out. The closing date was set to 20<sup>th</sup> August but there were some late submissions. The results of the survey are now in and it is for the Committee will look at these during the next Committee meeting. Stewart briefly ran through the results and the conclusion was that members wanted a format similar to what we have at present but at a fraction of the cost.

The results of the survey were as follows:

1. 50.7% Reunion
2. 51.9% Saturday
3. 44.7% Formal
4. 72.6% Within RBG Kew
5. 77.4% Smart casual
6. 34.8% £30-40
7. 50.0% 1-5 occasions
8. 44.0% It is too expensive
9. 67.7% Tea/Coffee
10. 80.2% Presentation of George Brown Award and Fellowship.

Leo Pemberton pointed out that any catering has to be done by Kew official caterers and that is why it is so expensive. Simon Owens agreed, saying ‘Kew’ and ‘cheap’ do not match and that a dinner at Kew is always going to cost over £50.

The catering contract for the Gardens comes up every five years – they could be approached to see if they could make an exception for the Guild. An exception is already made at present, as room hire is not charged for. This can range from £5-10k depending on the venue. Cambridge Cottage has the choice of five different caterers, all of whom quoted more than what we actually paid.

It was suggested that the Guild look for sponsorship of the Annual Dinner by a corporate partner, but the Guild would need to look at this carefully to avoid treading on Kew Gardens' toes and ensuring that the sponsor is true to the Guild rules and beliefs.

The turnout of the Annual Dinner averages between 60-70 people but there has been up to 100. There is a new Director of Kew Gardens soon and the members felt that he should be approached to become more involved.

A show of hands resulted in the majority wanting the Committee to take the sponsorship idea further but it is realised that this may take time. Pamela Holt suggested the Guild subsidise the Annual Dinner as there is lots of money in the kitty. This could offset the cost to the members. Simon Owens said if the Guild could get sponsorship of, say, £1,000 this could then bring down the cost of the dinner to a more manageable level.

### **President's report**

It has been a pleasure to serve as your President for the past year and thank you to Alex George for his leadership in the previous year.

We should all remember that we volunteer for this privilege to represent the Kew Guild, carry on its traditions and to improve and hopefully modernise the way we operate – especially in this ever-changing world of social communications.

I would like to thank all the Committee members who give up their time and at their own expense attend Committee meetings at Kew. The Guild would not operate without them and I as President am grateful for this.

It's not all dull meetings though. There is the chance for those who can do it to meet and have a meal after the meetings. It was especially good to welcome the new first year diploma students in autumn with a meal provided by the Guild, and to encourage them to join!

Communications as already mentioned are important. Jonathan Rickards and Bob Ivison have been working away behind the scenes with SomCom to update and make our website more relevant to those members who use computers. I too have attended meetings in Chipping Norton to try and get this project finished. It has taken longer than we anticipated but it will all be worth it in the end. I would like to personally thank Jonathan for the time and energy that he has put into this project.

The Annual Dinner always raises issues and in an effort to find out what the members really want, an electronic survey was sent out. The idea of a survey was originally suggested by Pamela Holt and Paul Sadler. Jim Mitchell and I, aided by red wine, put together the survey that finally went out to all members!

This revealed that many members do not use computers or they are not willing to give their email address to the Membership Secretary. There are many good reasons why this occurs and so we cannot assume that all our members will want to communicate by email. The results of the survey have been given and your new Committee will be able to consider it in more detail at the next meeting and hopefully come up with a better focus for the Annual Dinner.

To those whose term on the Committee ends, thank you for all your work and please keep in touch with ideas and ways the Guild can function more efficiently.

As you all know we have functioned this year without an Honorary Secretary. It has fallen on your President to liaise with paid secretarial help for all the communications that need to be done. I would like to thank Sara for the service she has provided to the Guild but would like to make a plea for a member to come forward on an honorary basis to take on the job. A full description of what is involved has been put together by Wendy Staniforth. If you want to find out more please contact Sara.

Finally, I wish Jim Mitchell well in this coming and exciting year of celebration which I'm sure will be a full one and I expect that you will support him in his endeavours for the Guild.

### **15.12 Retiring members of the Committee**

Miranda Kimberley, Amanda le Poer Trench and Masaya Tatebayashi. The meeting thanked the members for their contribution.

### **16.12 Election of officers: Proposed**

President	<b>Jim Mitchell</b> Progression from President Elect
President Elect	<b>Bob Ivison</b>
Vice Presidents	<b>Jonathan Rickards</b> (second year) <b>Tony Overland</b> (first year)
Honorary Secretary	<b>Vacant</b> (Acting Secretary, Sara Arnold) No nominations received.
Honorary Treasurer	<b>Jennifer Alsop</b> continuing
Honorary Membership Secretary	<b>Judy Hancock</b> continuing
Award Scheme Chairperson	<b>David Barnes</b> continuing
Kew Gardens Representative	<b>David Hardman</b> continuing
Events Officer	<b>Vacant</b> (Pamela Holt and Jean Griffin subsequently volunteered to work together)
Editor	<b>Alexandra Ward</b> continuing
Website Officer	<b>Bob Ivison</b> continuing
Website Manager	<b>Jonathan Rickards</b> continuing
Archives Officer	<b>Kiri Ross-Jones</b>

The above 2012/2013 Committee posts were proposed by Stewart Henchie, seconded by Leo Pemberton and were approved en bloc by members present.

### **Committee**

There were three nominations received for four committee places.

### **Nominations for committee:**

**Terry Sunderland** (Indonesia)  
**William Bessler** (Spain)  
**Graham Burgess**  
**Emma Allen** was removed  
**Richard Ward** was subsequently voted on

The above committee posts were proposed by Charles Funke, seconded by Pamela Holt and approved by the committee.

**17.12 Any Other Business**

Jonathan Rickards gave his report on the web site at this point, but is reported in the appropriate section in the minutes.

**18.12 Inauguration of the new President**

Stewart said a few words about the incoming president Jim Mitchell, and welcomed him to the committee as President.

The new President thanked Stewart for his service and dedication to the Guild and said that he would be a hard act to follow. Jim presented Stewart with a past President's badge.

**Incoming president's report, Jim Mitchell**

The Guild has a big year ahead and he thanked those Committee members who will be joining us.

Jim said it's hard to believe that it is 46 years since he last stood on this platform along with Leo Pemberton, the Supervisor of Studies, and the Director Sir George Taylor when he received one of the first Diplomas presented. At that time never did he think he would return to be honoured as President of the Guild and thanked everyone for having confidence in his ability.

2013 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the final intake of the Kew Guild Certificate students. Tony Overland was one of those students so it is great that he is actively working with the Guild and becomes Vice President this year.

Jim closed the meeting and thanked everybody for attending especially Stewart for his time as President of the Guild.

**19.12 Date of next Annual General Meeting:**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

**Members present****Committee:**

Stewart Henchie (President)  
 Jim (and Val) Mitchell (President Elect)  
 Jonathan Rickards (Vice President)  
 Pamela Holt (Vice President)  
 Judy Hancock (Membership Secretary)  
 Jennifer Alsop (Treasurer)  
 Sara Arnold (Acting Secretary)  
 Bob Ivison (Web site officer)  
 David (and Sue) Cutler (KG Medal Chairman)  
 Kiri Ross-Jones (Archives Officer)  
 Richard Ward (Journal Advisor)  
 Martin Sands (Advisor)  
 Miranda Kimberley (Press and Media)  
 Martin (and Wendy) Staniforth

Jean Griffin  
 Charles Funke  
 Jim Handley  
 Brendan Mowforth  
 Tony (and Jan) Overland  
 Alan Stuttard

**Members:**

Mike Clift  
 Tricia Fisher  
 Patricia Gleave  
 Harvey Groffman  
 Jenny Grundy  
 Nigel Hepper (News of Kewites)  
 Harold and Fiona Heywood  
 Colin and Valerie Hindmarch  
 Colin Jones  
 Noel McGough  
 Simon Owens

Leo Pemberton  
Sylvia Phillips  
Sue Thorne

Granville Turley  
Mike Wilkinson

## AGM 2012

by Miranda Kimberley

The Kew Guild AGM took place on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Kew Gardens on a scorchingly hot, blue-sky day when it seemed almost criminal to be inside. Afterwards, attendees were treated to grand hospitality at the School of Horticulture as well as fascinating behind-the-scenes tours around the Economic Botany Collection, Tropical Nursery and Quarantine House.

At the meeting Noel McGough received the Kew Guild Medal for his considerable career safeguarding plant species. He joined Kew in 1988 and is currently Head of the Conventions and Policy Section, which entails advising the UK government, managing Kew's role as UK Scientific Authority for Plants under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and working with partner countries to identify methods to correct detrimental trade.

Outgoing President Stewart Henchie presented Noel McGough with the Kew Guild Medal (below).



Stewart then revealed initial results of the survey carried out earlier this summer canvassing Kew Guild members' views of the Annual Dinner. Early reactions appear to support a formal Saturday dinner, within Kew, for £30-40 a head. Several audience members raised the thorny truth that holding the event within the Gardens and keeping the cost at that price would be almost impossible with the current catering conditions.

Stewart also encouraged any members interested in taking on the role of Honorary Secretary to come forward. A job description for the non-paid role is available on the website. Please contact [secretary@kewguild.org.uk](mailto:secretary@kewguild.org.uk) for further information.

Stewart Henchie then passed the baton to incoming President Jim Mitchell, who outlined an ambitious programme of events for 2013, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the final year of the two-year certificate course and the commencement of the Kew Diploma Course. Possible extraordinary events next year are likely to include regional celebrations in the North East and South East, a Grand Reunion picnic at Kew Gardens in September and maybe even tours of Spain and Singapore.





Following the meeting, attendees were treated to several tours of areas of Kew Gardens not normally seen by the public. Curator of the Economic Botany Collection Mark Nesbitt showed many treasures including objects related to tea, lacquer and timber (left).

One item, a Maori cloak recently discovered to be made from the alpine plant *Celmisia*, with soft furry leaves, demonstrated how important it was to “unlock the stories of these objects, using conservator knowledge, so that they can be passed back to the native community”. A Maori weaver in New Zealand has since made a traditional cloak using this plant following this discovery at Kew.

Manager in the Tropical Nursery Nigel Rothwell showed visitors the smallest cactii in the world, *Blossfeldia liliputiana*, the smallest waterlily in the world – the endangered *Nymphaea thermarum* – and a new species of *Nepenthes*, named after Borneo Exotics owner Rob Cantley. It is said to have larger pitchers than *Nepenthes rajah*, making it capable of catching rodents and lizards.



The waterlily is a great example of Kew's propagation and conservation skills. After experimenting with how to get the seed to germinate it was discovered that, unlike other waterlilies which germinate deep in water, it needed to be close to the surface in mud. Kew were able to produce five seedlings and with greater experience of growing the seedlings on they now have 200 plants, which is the

whole world population. They hope to reintroduce the plants to their region in Africa, but the hot spring habitat they grew in remains under threat.

Last, but not least, Sara Redstone showed the groups the Quarantine House (above left), a relatively new facility at Kew. It is far better suited than the previous house for containing any pests and diseases on plants which are imported to Kew, either through botanical garden exchange, or through customs seizure, as Kew can be called upon to hold material confiscated by the government.

The Quarantine House boasts a rainwater drain system, which connects to the Lower Nursery tanks, keeping it efficient and easier to maintain, thrip proof mesh screens and a cooled inspection room, which slows any insects which might escape to a catchable speed!

To end the day, in the light of a fantastic pink clouded sunset, the Kew Guild members retired to the School of Horticulture for food and drink ably laid on by Volunteer Co-ordinator Amanda Le Poer Trench.

**ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW**  
**SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE**  
**PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 2012**

**School of  
Horticulture**

Conservation, Living Collections  
and Estates Directorate

**Course 47**

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September

3.00 pm

**Introduction**

Professor Tim Entwisle FLS

Director of Conservation, Living Collections and Estates

**Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes,  
followed by the Travel Scholarships awards**

by Monty Don, Television Presenter, Gardener & Writer

(read by Martin Staniforth MHort(RHS) Dip Hort (Kew) (Hons)

Acting Principal of the School of Horticulture)

**Address by the Guest of Honour**

Monty Don

**Vote of Thanks**

Marcus Agius CBE

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**Student Vote of Thanks**

Lindsay Schuman Dip Hort (Kew)



Steve O'Brien Dip Hort (Kew)  
Saul P. Walker 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.

Professor Tim Entwisle, Director of Conservation, Living Collections and Estates gave his welcoming address. Martin Staniforth then introduced the Kew Diplomas and Prizes:

'I would like to start by introducing another couple of people on the platform party, from your left is Judy Hancock, Administrator of the Kew Diploma who has been instrumental in preparing for Prize Day this afternoon. I am delighted that Monty Don is our Guest of Honour chosen by Course 47. I think they had a tip-off from Jess Evans of Course 45 who has been working for you at Longmeadow. Monty is a well known Television Presenter, Gardener and Writer especially for his Friday night programmes although I must say I don't watch TV on Fridays. I have watched 'Around The World In 80 Gardens' and 'Italian Gardens' resulting in a long wish list of gardens to visit. Behind me is Stewart Henchie, President of the Kew Guild. The Kew Guild is an Association of present and past staff, volunteers and alumni. It provides a global network of 'Kewites' who have service at Kew or Wakehurst Place as a common bond. The Guild is a generous supporter of Kew Diploma students, helping them with their second year travel scholarships.

You will have gathered from my job title that 2012 has not been a 'normal' year in the School of Horticulture. In December our Horticultural Technician, Kevin Dowding (who is in the audience), left to become Assistant Head Gardener at Alnwick Castle, the garden of the Duchess of Northumberland. This has left a void and he has been missed, but I know he is very happy in his new post and closer to his family. Emma Fox, former Principal (also in the audience), has run the School since 2006 and has left a great legacy regarding the organisation of the School. So my thanks go to Emma for arranging an orderly transfer. Emma is now enjoying spending more time with her family and is also doing some consultancy work for a friend's new gardening business. I would also like to thank the remaining School of Horticulture team of Judy Hancock and Pam Black for their exceptional dedication and shear hard graft that has enabled the School to continue with a semblance of normality. I also deeply appreciate the good humour and tolerance of Course 47 who have taken these changes in their stride and come out smiling. I would also like to thank the many staff, lecturers and examiners that have given the School of Horticulture great support this year.

Graduation is very much about celebration of the students' achievements with the support of their friends and families and an acknowledgement of the hard work to obtain a difficult qualification.

For some it also marks the end of a chapter and the start of a new career beyond Kew; the immediate futures for some of today's graduates include that of **Rob Alcock** who will be taking up the position of Head Gardener at Hatley Park in Cambridgeshire. **Sara Miller** will be joining Architectural Plants, a specialist plant nursery in West Sussex as a Garden Designer and Contracts Manager. **Phil Ostley** will be joining Syngenta at their Jealott's Hill International Research Station as a Glasshouse and Lab Experimentalist – he will have a long business card! **Alice Lumb** is hoping to find a position in a Kitchen Garden growing food and ideally with some community role. **Steve O'Brien** is heading west to Cornwall and the Trevarno Estate near Helston as the Head Gardener. **Lindsay Schuman** is travelling to Sicily for three months to do an internship in a Kitchen Garden of a cookery school. She hopes to eat well! **Pete Feilen** will be taking his wife travelling, they missed out on a proper honeymoon so will be making up time now! Destinations could include Poland, Italy and Istanbul. Pete's wish is to move to Canberra and get a job at the newly formed Canberra National Arboretum; failing that, to work at the National Botanic Garden. **Tim Hickey** will be returning to his home nation of Canada and will be looking for work when the hiring season begins.

This leaves seven graduates which will be continuing with employment here at Kew. **Liz Harbott**, **Rebecca Hilgenhof**, **Crissy Mulrain**, **Sam Phillips** and **Paul Rees** all take up positions as Seasonal Support Horticulturists in various Sections around Kew. **Ben Houston** joins Kew's Rock Garden Team as a Botanical Horticulturist and **Saul Walker** will be joining the Woodland Garden also as a Botanical Horticulturist.

Before I turn to the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to our third-year students of Course 47, 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 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, Monty Don, to make the presentations.

### **Rob Alcock**

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

The George Conrad Johnson Memorial Prize – administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees on behalf of the magazine 'The Grower' now incorporated into 'Horticulture Week', in memory of an ex-Kewite. The prize is for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma course;

The Kew Gardener Prize – sponsored by 'The Kew Gardener', a local horticultural business, to the top student in Amenity horticulture;

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Pete Feilen**

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Liz Harbott**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Timothy Hickey**

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

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Rebecca Hilgenhof**

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

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

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize – awarded by the City of London Livery Company awarded to the person attaining the highest marks in their Systematic Botany Project;

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Bill Houston**

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;

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Alice Lumb**

The Freda Howson Award – bequeathed by Reginald Charles Howson in memory of his wife (and we are delighted to have Ken Roberts, Freda Howson's nephew with us in the audience today). This prize is awarded for excellence in Ecology and Conservation;

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

Unfortunately our next student recipient can't be with us today because of family reasons.

**Sara Miller**

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize – (and I am delighted Colin Squire is in the audience today) donated by Squire's Garden Centres for the best overall performance in landscape studies;

Kew Diploma with Honours

Her husband Rowan Blaik will collect the awards on Sara's behalf.

**Crissy Mulrain**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Steve O'Brien**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Phil Ostley**

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Sam Phillips**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Paul Rees**

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!;

The Drummer Memorial Prize sponsored by the Kew Guild for the joint best Herbarium project;

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Lindsay Schuman**

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize – (and we are delighted to have two of the Rotarians with us today including the President Elect) 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 organising volunteers developing the St Andrews Church Community Garden in Earlsfield;

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Saul Walker**

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

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. This together with **The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology** awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject, to **Martin Deasy**.

**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. She is **Georgie Darroch**.

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 Kew Mutual Improvement Society in recognition of the work carried out by the Chairman of the Society. The Kew Mutual Improvement Society was established in 1871 under the auspices of Sir Joseph Hooker, second Director of Kew. This is awarded to **Wes Olliffe**.

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

**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' talks to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. For his item on 'A brief glimpse of the South African Cape Floristic Region' **Tom Freeth**.

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 risen to the challenge 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 visit Java and West Papua to study *Vireya Rhododendron* and montane flora. She is **Georgie Darroch**.

**The Margolas Travel Award** is donated by Marjorie and Nicholas Biddle, parents of Kew graduate Nick Biddle (who we are pleased to have in the audience today) to assist a Kew Diploma Student to undertake their travel scholarship. The recipient is **Lee Oram**.

**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 Panama and Costa Rica in Central America to study neotropical Heliconiaceae, common name lobster claws. He is **Michael Benedito**.

Our next recipient travelled to New Zealand to discover how native plants are valued from a conservation and horticultural point of view. She is **Adele Dyer**.

Our next recipient visited the French and Spanish Pyrenees to study the montane flora and to work in the Conservatoire Botanique des Pyrenees and Jardin Botanique de Tourmalet. She is **Beccy Middleton**.

Another second year student travelled to Brazil and the Amazon Basin to observe *Victoria amazonica* in the wild and also to work at Rio de Janeiro Botanic Garden. He is **Wes Olliffe**.

Our next recipient travelled to Mauritius to study its endemic flora and conservation. He primarily worked with the National Parks and Conservation Service (NPCS), helping with such tasks as propagation of endemic species and seed collection. He is **Lee Oram**.

Our final second year student undertook a study tour of the genus *Banksia* in the south west tip of Australia working at Kings Park Botanic Gardens, Alcoa Inc and The Banksia Farm as well as visiting national parks. She is **Tsuyeko Western**.

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 works within the Great Glasshouses and Training Section at Kew in the Tropical Nursery cultivating cacti and succulent collections. For her scholarship she travelled to USA, Sonora Desert, Arizona to study succulents and cacti and to work in nurseries and botanic gardens to increase knowledge of propagation and cultivation. She is **Ellie Biondi**. Unfortunately Ellie can’t be with us this afternoon.

Our second recipient works in Kew’s Arboretum and has undertaken fieldwork and studies of Yunnan flora, China, with emphasis on the Genus *Berberis* for collections and display. He is **Robert Edwards**. Unfortunately Robert can’t be with us this afternoon.

Our next winner is a Horticultural Apprentice and is currently working in the Hardy Display Section at Kew. For her scholarship, she will be visiting Ecuador in late October for horticultural work experience and develop a specific interest in orchids and associated flora. She is **Tilly Jones**.

Our next recipient works at Wakehurst Place. For her scholarship, she travelled to Poland to study temperate plants and their hardiness at Wroclaw Botanic Garden. She is **Agi Kurcius**.

Our final recipient is a member of staff in Kew’s Arboretum where she is responsible for the Woodland Glade next to Cedar Vista. She travelled to China to visit temperate forest zones in Yunnan and study the associated flora. She is **Helen Marriage**.

That concludes the awards of Diplomas and Prizes.’

Guest of Honour Monty Don was then invited to say a few words. He had always thought of Kew Gardens as a bubble of excellence and he was a fan of elites. We should jealously preserve the situation at Kew.

Whilst he is a non-qualified amateur gardener, he thought that we all need to continue ‘spreading the word’ as much as possible. He urged outgoing students to be open to all

aspects of gardening and, above all, keep in touch with the soil in difficult and demanding times.

Chairman of Trustees Marcus Agius then gave the Vote of Thanks and said what a passionate speech Monty Don had provided today. He said that it was a joy to be at Kew today to celebrate with the outgoing students, and added his own congratulations to all concerned.

Lindsay Schuman, Steve O'Brien and Saul Walker gave the student Vote of Thanks.



The outgoing Course 47 students with Monty Don, centre front



## COURSE 50



**Bertie Bainbridge**  
4998

**Kathryn Braithwaite**  
4999

**Will Burridge**  
5000

**Ruth Calder**  
5001



**Jack Clutterbuck**  
5002

**Ashleigh Davies**  
5003

**Alex Hankey**  
4807

**Clare Harte**  
5004



**Chris Hudson**  
5005

**Jamie Innes**  
5006

**Rama Lopez-Rivera**  
5007

**Aaron Marubbi**  
5008



**Matt Parker**  
5009

**Nic Starkey**  
5010



## STUDENT REPORT

by Suzanne Patman

The student life for Course 47 culminated this year with Graduation, accompanied by esteemed guests such as Monty Don as well as a variety of gnomes and student ‘artworks’ left to ornament the Gardens in their memory. The new graduates are now gainfully employed in a variety of pursuits, including here at Kew, and it is terrific to see their hard work over the last three years pay off.

Course 48 has also been extremely busy, not least with their demanding study load. A flurry of ‘please return’ slips from the library testifies to the amount of midnight oil that has been burnt in the pursuit of knowledge about subjects as wide ranging as landscape detailing, pest monitoring and genetics. The now third-year students have also been raising their public profile, with a variety of impressive presentations at the KMIS lecture series, where they have been able to share their experiences of research abroad during their Travel Scholarships. Other travel closer to home has also been underway, with an extremely enjoyable trip to Wales alleviating some of the pressure of the classroom (below, fossil hunting).

Course 49 had a successful year of vegetable sales, with regular offerings of their Kew Guild Veg Plot bounty raising both money towards their Spain trip and the organic profile of Kew amongst local businesses and staff. Plants and produce were also a hit at local fetes and fairs such as the Ham House festival. They further enjoyed a week-long stay at the Millennium Seed



© Sheila Das

Bank as part of the first year study program, an experience that has been followed up by plant identification practice with fruits and seeds. These students have also been presenting an impressive KMIS lecture programme, ably led by KMIS President Matt Brewer, and including something for everyone with talks covering plant projects in space, perfume manufacture and climate change in the Pyrenees. Luckily they also had time between these formal duties to organise the traditional Halloween Party, this year supported by ‘The Botanist’ on Kew Green.

Most significantly, in a historical sense, 2012 has seen the arrival of Course 50, the 50<sup>th</sup> year of students to undertake the Diploma in its current form. Tradition reigned

supreme from the outset, with the customary Clog and Apron Race taking place up the Broadwalk early on in their tenure (see photo below). They have now taken over the Veg Plot projects, with some dedicated digging in heavy weather, and the results for next summer are hotly anticipated. They have also launched themselves into the spotlight with KMIS Points of Interest and some great work in their first placements, as well as some extra-curricular DJ'ing at The Botanist!

All in all 2012 has been a successful, historically memorable and productive year for the students, and 2013 promises even greater things.



## KEW GUILD ANNUAL DINNER, 24<sup>th</sup> MAY

by Richard Ward

The Kew Guild Dinner took place at Cambridge Cottage, Kew Green, on Thursday 24th May. The weather was perfect and nearly sixty guests enjoyed pre-dinner drinks in the garden. Guild President Stewart Henchie, accompanied by his wife Pat, started the evening off by saying Grace.

Following the dinner, chief guest and past Kew student and author Ursula Buchan regaled members with her recollections of applying to Kew, her interview with Leo Pemberton and her wage of £29.50 per week, half of which went on rent. She supplemented her income by writing articles about plants for magazines – her grandfather was the author John Buchan and her father was author William Buchan. She mentioned Dan Campbell who was a student with her, and now in Canada; and she gave an overview of the war years at Kew and the research that went on during that time.

Adil Güner, co-editor of the Flora of Turkey and Keeper of Nezahat Gökyigit Memorial Park in Istanbul, received his Honorary Fellowship and spoke about the importance of the Kew Guild.

Tony Kirkham, head of the Arboretum and Horticulture at Kew, giving a toast to ‘Our President’, admitted that this was the first Guild Dinner that he had attended since 1980. At that time, as President of the Students’ Union, he had spilt his wine over Charles Notcutt and had toasted Charles instead of The Queen! He had entered Kew as a student in 1978 and stayed on as Manager in the North Arboretum afterwards and in 1985 he accompanied Stewart Henchie for several months plant collecting in Chile. He told guests about their adventures alongside the Argentine border during the Falklands crisis, and of Stewart trying to mount a carthorse en route to a plant hunting expedition. He paid tribute to all the work that Stewart had put in place during his time at Kew.



The top table, left-right: Leo Pemberton, Tony Kirkham, Ursula Buchan, President Stewart Henchie

In response Stewart Henchie thanked members attending the Dinner. These had been taking place annually since 1893 and were a great source of networking and keeping in touch with like-minded friends. He thanked all Guild Committee members for their support so far during the year, Paul Sadler and Jennifer Alsop for organising the Dinner and Paul for acting as Master of Ceremonies, and Alexandra Ward for producing the annual Journal in time for this evening. He presented the George Brown Award to Jim Mitchell (awarded 2011) and Pamela Holt ‘for furthering communication and goodwill in the true spirit of the Kew Guild’.



Honorary Fellow Dennis McGlade, left, talking to Jonathan Rickards

Student Union representative Adele Dyer introduced her fellow students and gave the toast to ‘Absent Friends’. She

thanked raffle supporters and later Tony Kirkham auctioned four items raising a total of £643 for the students' Ecology trip to Spain.

## **KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME**

by David Barnes

How quickly each year seems to pass by. I find myself writing another report on the good works of the Kew Guild Awards sub-committee. Once again we received a good spread of applications from students, staff and members no longer based at Kew. Fourteen in total, with a wide range of proposals from assistance with publishing a book to extracting chemicals from Pines in the Turks and Caicos islands to studying cacti in Canada! Unfortunately we were not able to make awards to all of the applicants. Some did not provide us with sufficient information to make an award while one other, worthy as they were, required more funds than we held at the time to ensure the proposal could have taken place. The recommendation there was for a re-submission early next year. Sadly one proposal had to be returned when the recipient was no longer able to carry out their proposal due to personal reasons. We wish them well and hope to see their proposal resubmitted in future years. In total we confirmed awards to the value of £7,304.

Unfortunately I have to end this report with news that I will no longer be able to continue as the Awards Scheme Chairman after the 2013 AGM. I took the role of Awards Scheme Chairman in 2007 previously having been a member on the sub-committee. Prior to that I held the office of Membership Secretary from 1998 to 2003 along with membership of the main Committee for several years before that. With the increased volumes of work I have found for a couple of years now that I am unable to give the role the attention it warrants, which is unfair on my fellow committee and personally frustrating. I continued as best as I could but have finally come to the sensible decision that it is time to stand down and 'pass the torch' to someone else. As I have stated above I fully intend to honour my commitment to the post up to the AGM but give due notice that a new Chairman should be sought. I hasten to add that it is an extremely rewarding role. During my term the scheme has awarded very nearly £45,000 to approximately 80 applicants.

Finally my thanks go to the other members of the Awards Scheme sub-committee, past and present who have endured my idiosyncratic approach to the role of Chairman. Their support and advice has been invaluable. My very best wishes to you all.

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](http://www.kewguild.org.uk)). Application forms can either be downloaded from the Kew



Guild Website or obtained from the Secretary of the Kew Guild Awards Scheme, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

The closing dates for receipt of completed application forms are 28<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Journey through Britain's Landscape and some others**

by Brian Lowe

I came to landscaping early, a decision made on a school visit to Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, which was supposed to be a general study history visit. Our guide was an estate worker with an enthusiasm for Capability Brown, who laid out the park at Blenheim and where our guide worked on the maintenance.

The guide was so enthusiastic about Brown that the history study soon became more of a natural history study visit. I was soon enthralled with the whole landscape story, that I made the decision there and then that I would like to be landscaping when I left school. Later, on another school study visit, this time to the R.H.S. Gardens at Wisley, helped confirm the decision made. Our guide this time was a final year student who introduced me to plant taxonomy. His skills at giving a Latin name to all the plants we saw fascinated me completely, and made up my mind to develop that skill too. In conversation I interrogated him about landscape as a career, but he had no experience. Nevertheless, he did think that a similar course to the R.H.S. Wisley course, which might be most suited to a landscape career, would be a Kew Gardens course (which turned out to be very good advice).

Back at school, I persisted in trying to find the best way forward into a career in landscape work. The only career advice I could get was from people who had heard of Capability Brown and knew he was called a Landscape Gardener. Therefore gardening must be the best starting point.

Upon leaving school I was able to find and gain a start as a trainee on an unstructured training scheme with the local Parks Department of the Council. The scheme relied upon moving through all the various work sites until you had sufficient experience to be a Gardener. During this time I kept up a correspondence with Kew, trying to get on the Kew course. 'Stay and get more experience' was the polite advice from Kew. After doing the compulsory two-year spell in the Armed Forces National Services, I was accepted for the Kew studentship.

Eventually I arrived at Kew in 1958 on the then two-year course. In those times most landscape work was in fact in the hands of Local Authorities. In due course, Landscape came up as a study subject in the course. The visiting tutor in this subject was a landscape Architect working for the London County Council Parks Department who

managed to be quite off-putting by spending most of the time concentrating on type faces and north points. Although a member of the Landscape Institute (now the Royal Institute of Chartered landscape Architects), he recommended not joining.

The best choice for landscaping opportunity seemed then to be the Public Parks. There was a gap year before I could join the Parks College at the Grotto near Reading run by the Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration. The visiting Tutor helped in getting me a site-based job for one year with one of the London Councils landscape contractors (which turned out to be very good experience).

After completing the course at the Grotto, I became an assistant in the London County Council's Parks Department landscape group, at the time very busy in dealing with post-World War Two restoration works. My landscape career moved on through various positions, including civil service, teaching, and commercial until latterly as a self-employed consultant. An accident and stroke in 1999 left me a wheelchair-bound hemiplegic. Having time on my hands and needing to keep my mind occupied and also because there was no descriptive account of the contemporary landscape industry, (there is still no comprehensive account for today's new entrants), I thought that I could improve that, if I turned to writing. Being a big champion of the Kew Guild's Award Scheme, I applied for some help in obtaining specialised computer software to convert speech to text, so I could get on with a book that can explain how Landscaping is done and how to get started.

Horticulturists usually claim that landscaping (i.e. Landscape Gardening) is a part of Horticulture, whereas in practise, Landscape Gardening is only one part of the many types of Landscape work. Structural and Environmental Landscaping are larger than Landscape Gardening in financial terms. The title of my proposed book is tentatively called "Landscape Now". It will concentrate on describing the practices and principles of each sector of landscape activity. After more than forty years of mostly enjoyable work, it will be my chance to give something back. If nothing else it should help potential new recruits to make informed decisions about which parts of the Industry suit their ambitions and abilities best.

I hope members might think to ask their local library to include the book on the appropriate shelf. Book Publication date is not yet known, such timetables are determined by Publishers etc. I am of course grateful to the Kew Guild Awards Scheme for all its help.

**Travel Scholarship to the Amazon Basin:  
In search of *Victoria amazonica*  
by Wes Olliffe**

On May the 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 I travelled to Brazil to start my 3-week trip to observe *Victoria amazonica* in its natural habitat in the Amazon Basin. It has always been a dream of mine to see these fabulous plants growing in the wild.

The trip also involved spending one week at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden which was founded in 1808 and is renowned for its large collection of tropical and subtropical plants including 900 varieties of palm. One of the objectives of my trip was to improve relations between horticulturalists at RBG Kew and Rio de Janeiro. I was shown round



the gardens by curator Ricardo Reis and we were able to discuss the possibility of setting up seed exchange between Kew and Rio. I also spent time looking at the plant displays which included the famous avenue of *Roystonea oleracea* and the large pool of cultivated *Victoria amazonica*. Whilst visiting the garden I was able to plant a number of *Heliconia sp* in its already established collection and learn more about the collection of 3000 specimens of bromeliads.

From Rio de Janeiro I flew to Manaus, where I started my riverboat journey into the rainforest. Due to record rainfall levels the Rio Negro had flooded, reaching a depth of 27m, destroying numerous homes and submerging areas of the forest that usually remain above water level. It was not long into the week that we found *Victoria amazonica* growing in a lake off the Rio Negro called Lake January. There were hundreds of plants growing in the area with numerous lily pad birds (*Irediparra gallinacea*) using the large leaves of the *Victoria amazonica* to rest on. It was a great moment to see these incredible plants in the wild. My time spent in the Amazon was phenomenal. With so much variety of plant and animal life, everywhere you looked there was something new to see – whether it was a venomous snake or a beautiful orchid.



*Victoria amazonica* growing in the Amazon Basin

After leaving the Amazon I then went to REGUA (Reserva Ecológica de Guapiaçu) which protects one of the last stands of the severely depleted Atlantic Rainforest, which is located 80km from Rio de Janeiro. It was great to see how this organization is protecting and restoring such an important ecosystem that is extraordinarily lush in biodiversity and endemic species, many of which are threatened with extinction. I was

also able to visit the national park of Serra dos Orgaos which is famous for its diverse flora including numerous bromeliad species.

In conclusion, my time spent in Brazil was an amazing opportunity to see an extraordinary diversity of plant species growing in the wild. I am very grateful for the support of the Kew Guild, which made this fascinating and informative trip possible. I have learnt a huge amount about the diverse flora of Brazil; and how vital it is to protect it for future generations. There is still so much that we can learn from the Amazon and Atlantic Rainforest.

## Hunting Hardy Cacti in the Wilderness of Canada

by Andrew Gdaniec

I have been addicted to cacti since I was four years old, so I could not miss out on the great opportunity to travel to see some of the hardiest members of this amazing plant group in their natural habitat. I was keen to see wild specimens to better understand how one might cultivate them as interesting additions to a horticultural collection. The trip involved travelling through the wilderness of Canada for three weeks in May and



*Escobaria vivipara* in the Dinosaur Provincial Park.

June 2012. I was fortunate to be joined by Mats Hjertson, Curator of the Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University, Sweden.

We began our trip in Vancouver from where we flew to Fort Saint John, British Columbia, the northern most location of the family Cactaceae. After only two hours of searching I saw my first specimen of *Opuntia fragilis* on the south facing slopes near Peace River.

Mats and I then joined the University of British Columbia (UBC) Botanical Garden Cactus Expedition to Thompson-Nicola region, British Columbia, where we saw a huge population of the natural hybrid *O. x columbiana*. There were hundreds of plants growing in the area with very diverse stem shape and spination. After five days we separated from the UBC team and travelled east to Alberta Province to see *O. polyacantha*, *O. fragilis* and *Escobaria vivipara*. I found them in two major locations: the Dinosaur Provincial Park and the Writing-On-Stone Provincial Park next to Milk River. The Dinosaur Provincial Park, UNESCO World Heritage Site, is situated in the valley of the Red Deer River, which is noted for its striking badland topography. The park is well known for being one of the richest dinosaur fossil locales in the world.

The second location is one of the largest areas of protected prairie in the Alberta, and serves as both a nature preserve and protection for a large number of aboriginal rock carvings and paintings. It was a very long journey through the Great Plains but it was great moment to see these incredible plants in the wild.

As we drove back to Vancouver, *Opuntia fragilis* proved to be abundant along highway number 3. From Vancouver we flew to Toronto where we met Alex Henderson, the Curator of RBG, Burlington. The main purpose for a visit to Ontario Province was to see *O. humifusa* and the eastern most location of *O. fragilis*. We found the first of these in its only existing Canadian location in the Point Pelee Provincial Park. The species has a wide distribution but here reaches its north limit.

Following on from this, Ontario Province did not disappoint as we found a very isolated population of *O. fragilis* next to Kaladar. These plants were first discovered in 1930 on a single rock and have been monitored and studied very closely but flowers have never been reported. It was therefore a huge surprise when we found a single specimen with three flowers. What was even more interesting is that they were only male flowers. Dioecy is very rare in Cactaceae and never reported for this species.



*Opuntia humifusa* in the Point Pelee Provincial Park.

During the study trip I also took advantage of the opportunity to visit the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden & Centre for Plant Research, Vancouver and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Burlington where I was able to gather valuable information about the gardens themselves as well as data on succulents.

My time spent in Canada was an amazing opportunity to see not only cacti but an extraordinary diversity of plant species growing in the wild and I am extremely grateful for the support of the Kew Guild which made this trip possible.

## Arizona Travel Scholarship

by Maija Ross

During my three week 1,800 mile trip through Arizona to study desert ecology I saw spectacular scenery, learnt about the rich and varied plant communities, met

knowledgeable and generous people and was awed by the mighty Saguaro (pronounced saw-WAH-row).

My first stop was 60 miles west of Phoenix at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum where the director, Mark Siegarth took me on a tour of the 300 acre garden which showcases arid land plants of the world in the natural setting of the foothills of the Pinal Mountains.

I drove north to the Grand Canyon to an elevation of 7,000ft. On my hike below the rim I saw *Juniperus monosperma* and *Pinus edulis* clinging to the rock sides, *Agave utahensis* jutting out of cracks in the canyon walls and many herbaceous plants including *Castilleja sp.*, *Cryptantha sp.* and *Phlox sp.* I left the Canyon as snow started to fall.

Before heading south to Tucson I visited the Hassayampa River Preserve near Wickenburg, one of the few riparian river corridors left in Arizona. The vegetation is dominated by cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and *Salix gooddingii* and supports over 280 bird species. Tucson and the surrounding area is where I spent the next two weeks, in the heart of the Sonoran Desert.

I visited Tucson Botanical Gardens, Tohono Chul Park and the Campus Arboretum at the University of Arizona, where I met the curators to discuss the collections and xeriscaping. I toured the downtown Rincon neighbourhood to see community efforts at xeriscaping with native plants to help with water control. I visited the Desert Laboratory on Tumamoc Hill where many research projects are conducted on the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. I also hiked Sabino Canyon in the foothills of the Santa Catalina Mountains, one of the five mountain ranges that surround Tucson.

At the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum (20 miles west of Tucson) I was a guest of George Montgomery, Curator of Botany, for five days along with Elisa Biondi, a Kew trainee. The museum is a zoo and botanic garden nestled in the Saguaro National Park. We were shown around the various departments and taken on a hike into King Canyon to study the phenology of the flora with horticulturist Erik Rakestraw who was a font of knowledge not only about the plants but the geology and history of the native tribes. George took us on visits to nurseries, 'Miles to Go' and 'Plants for the Southwest', botanising trips and a day trip to the Chiricahua Mountains near the Mexican border.

The highlight of the trip was a hike to Brown Canyon in the Baboquivari Mountains to survey the endangered and endemic *Amsonia kearneyana*. The party was led by Daniel F. Austin an eminent botanist and included ecologists from the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife service and a biologist from the Todd O'dham Nation, whose land the Baboquivari Mountains border. This was a wild hike over steep slopes with no trails and we found some of the documented groups as well as new groups of *Amsonia kearneyana*. I saw my first rattlesnake, courting wild turkeys and a golden eagle.

My last day was spent at the San Pedro River Preserve in Cochise County, one of the most important riparian areas in the United States. The vegetation communities include Chihahuan desertscrub, cottonwood-willow riparian corridors, mesquite terraces (*Prosopis sp.*) and sacaton grasslands (*Sporobolus wrightii*).

Thank you to the Kew Guild for their generous support.



## Surveying preferences for yams in Madagascar

by Timothy Harris

In April to May 2012 I spent five weeks in the Ikongo region of Madagascar implementing a survey in eight different villages to investigate the species of yams (*Dioscorea*) that villagers currently use and to investigate the species that villagers would most prefer to use.

The villages surveyed are 60km southeast of Fianarantsoa city which is centrally placed in the highlands. Ambohimahasina is 80km from the eastern coastline of Madagascar and is in the Haute Matsiatra region. The other seven villages are further East in the Ikongo district: Tanambao, Faliarivo, Tsalamaha, Maromandia, Ambalahosy, Ambatombitro and Ankarimbelo. Between Ambohimahasina and the villages of Ikongo district is an escarpment descending from 1000m near Ambohimahasina to 800-400m altitude for the other villages studied. On this escarpment is the Ambositra-Vondrozo 'corridor' forest (COFAV), which has been included within a protected area since December 2006.

Madagascar has 40 native yams species all of which are endemic to Madagascar. Thirty of these species are edible but at least half of these edible species are endangered through forest loss and over exploitation. This survey investigated preferences for three wild species of yam that occur locally: *D. kimiae* (ovitareta), *D. arcutinervis* (ovifaitra) and *D. seriflora* (ovifotsy).

The survey employed a choice experiment in which respondents selected their most favoured option from a choice set containing three options. Cash price was not used as it was expected that many respondents would be predominantly subsistence farmers and only involved in the cash economy to a limited extent. Instead the method assessed how much more villagers prefer quantities of rice to a range of quantities of different species of yam. In addition to the choice experiment, the survey also established the wealth, knowledge, household structure and existing yam consumption and cultivation in the study area.

The survey was devised to ask three questions:

- Do people in villages area value cultivated yams more highly than wild collected yams?
- Do people in villages that are involved in the yam cultivation project value cultivated and wild collected yams differently to people in villages not yet involved in the yam cultivation project?
- Does the wealth of different villagers correlate with how those villagers value different varieties of yams?

The survey was translated into and out of Malagasy by Vonjy Andriamihaja and implemented in person by Claire Rasoanandrasana, Ravo Randriamampihanona and Famato Andriamampihatoana, who are all from Feedback Madagascar.

The survey found that in the Ikongo region, villagers strongly prefer the cultivated *D. alata* to any of the native wild species. Due to the role of yams as a food of last resort, wealthy villagers were expected to show a weaker preference for yams in general than less wealthy villagers. However, there was no evidence of this.

Whether or not the villager was from a village involved in the local yam cultivation project did not have a substantial effect on preferences for yams. There is evidence of exchange of yams between villages involved in the cultivation project and those not involved in the cultivation project. This suggests that there is scope to expand the project to some of the villages not currently cultivating yams. The findings of this survey in Ikongo region differ to the findings of the survey in Brickaville, northern Madagascar, carried out by Jeannoda et al. where respondents favoured the local wild species over the species *D. alata* that has been introduced into cultivation.

The survey supports the idea of yams being used as a food of last resort, despite the low preference placed on wild collected yams, respondents claimed to be extracting a considerable volume of these endemic species from the forest.

Thank you to the Kew Guild for supporting my research in this area.

## **Travel Scholarship to Mauritius to Study the Conservation of its Endemic Flora and its Habitat**

by Lee Oram

During June 2012 I travelled to the Republic of Mauritius to study its rare and endemic flora and the lengths that are being taken to conserve it. My main priority was to work with the Government-run National Parks & Conservation Service (NPCS) to see how they manage and conserve their unusual flora and fauna as well as visiting a number of NGOs (Non Governmental Organisations) doing similar work.

During week one I visited the NPCS Head Office to meet the staff I would work with during my trip. I also visited the Mauritius Herbarium to speak to staff about locations of endemic plant populations I wished to see and how to identify them. Next up was the Native Plant Propagation Centre (NPPC) where I toured the facilities and got to see the work being done to propagate the endemic plants for repatriation. Other activities in week one included a trip to the NPCS CMA (Conservation Management Area) at Petrin, home to many endemic Heath-land plants such as *Roussea simplex* and *Trochetia boutoniana*, the national flower of Mauritius (see photo below); also the Bris Fer CMA in the depths of the Black River Gorges National Park to see the last wild population of *Hyophorbe vaughanii*, numerous *Angraecum spp.*, a rare species of *Jumellea*, the recently discovered *Dombeya sevathianii* and the MWF (Mauritian Wildlife Foundation) site where breeding and reintroduction of the pink pigeon and echo parakeet is carried out.





During week two I visited the NPPC again to finish touring the facilities including the shade house, fernery, seed bank and medicinal garden. Next was the Sir Seewoosagur Botanic Garden where I saw plants such as *Ficus religiosa*, *Victoria amazonica*, *Nelumbo nucifera* and *Corypha umbraculifera*. Other visits included the MWF site Ile Aux Aigrettes where I got a glimpse of what Mauritius was like before man arrived and the seven colours of the earth at Chamarel.

Week three started with pollination of *Nesocodon mauritiana* and propagation of *Senecio lamarckianus* and *Ramosmania rodriguesii* from cuttings at the NPPC. Next was a visit to Ebony Forest Limited (NGO) who are working to restore endemic ebony forests. They use local workers to boost the local economy and to raise awareness about conservation. The project manager informed me of plans to completely restore the forest and build an education centre for schools. While here I helped map some of the endemic plant and animal populations using a handheld GPS. Other visits included Mont Vert National Park where I saw *Tambourissa* and *Sideroxylon sp.*, the Bras D'eau National Park, eastern coastal areas to see species such as *Tournefortia argentea*, *Rhizophora sp.* and *Scaevola taccada*, Mare Sarcelle which is an example of wetland areas in Mauritius and Perrier Nature Reserve where I saw a great example of primary forest.

Finally I would like to thank the Kew Guild for helping to fund this Travel Scholarship, without their help this trip would have not been possible.

## South Africa

by Katharine Cook

My thanks and appreciation to the Kew Guild for contributing much needed financial support in order for me to travel to South Africa and search for succulents in the wild.

The aim of my trip was, initially, to locate the critically endangered *Muiria hortenseae*, a monotypic succulent in the family Aizoaceae (see photo below). Before my trip there was one known population on a farm in the Klein Karoo. Werner Voight, Curator of Karoo Desert National Botanic Garden, was kind enough to take me on a three-hour journey, starting at 6am, to hunt down this population.

Most exciting of all is, after some time searching, we found the known population and did our best to survey the numbers and vigour of the population. After this the farmer revealed that there was another population! We found and surveyed this population and I saw many more succulents in the surrounding areas. Nothing can replace the understanding that comes from seeing a plant in its natural place.

During my three-week trip I visited Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden, Harold Porter Botanic Garden and, as stated above, Karoo Desert National Botanic Garden. Everyone was so very kind and accommodating, giving me their time and answering my questions. I learnt about the impact of invasive plant species, human development and fires on the endemic species as well as seeing for myself the varieties of vegetative habitats that South Africa boasts, such as fynbos. As part of a collection expedition, I drove for two days across South Africa, west to east, over to the grasslands of the Pondoland Region, full of endemic plant species and supported a team of canoeing botanists as they hunted for plants down the Msikaba River.



## Prey Long Forest, Cambodia

by Felix Merklinger

Prey Long forest in North East Cambodia is the largest area of intact lowland evergreen forest remaining in South East Asia and also a vital watershed for much of central Cambodia. Covering more than 3600 square kilometres, it is exceptionally bio-diverse and home to elephants, tigers, bears and other threatened animals, and of course to a number of rare and threatened plants, although very few botanical studies have been conducted for this area. More than 700,000 people live within 10km from the forest, many of whom depend upon the natural resources of the forest for their livelihoods. But like most other forests, Prey Long is also under severe threat of logging as well as clearance for construction or agriculture. Slash and burn techniques are employed to clear vast areas of forest for Cassava cultivation, which is then ironically made into bio-fuels consumed in the rest of the world. Logging concessions are in place with people not native to the area, extracting wood for the market. Illegal logging takes place on a small scale.

In March 2012 I joined the team of Professor Theilade from Copenhagen University to conduct a vegetation survey of different forest types and composition within Prey Long. These form part of an ongoing study initiated in 2007 by Forest and Landscape Denmark, Conservation International Cambodia and the Forest Administration of Cambodia, to map the floral and faunal biodiversity of Prey Long and to identify sensitive and key conservation areas.

To travel into the centre of this vast forest area took two whole days. Base was put up along a small stream of water (used for washing and cooking). Transport medium was a former soviet vehicle that bore similarity to a lawnmower but was just powerful enough

to pull a trailer with seven people. Specimens were collected under instructions of J. F. Maxwell, one of the last remaining true field botanists. His phenomenal knowledge of plants and plant morphology was an intense experience. A particular method of collecting was applied, the ‘Schweinfurth-method’: Specimens are collected as usual and pressed in a plant press. In the evening of each day of collecting, when meticulous notes have been taken and specimens carefully arranged on the sheet, they are put in a bundle which is then put in a plastic bag and 90% alcohol is poured over them. The bag is then sealed so the alcohol cannot evaporate. Specimens can be kept like this for months and thus this method is usually applied for remote collecting without electricity or gas supply, when specimens cannot be dried immediately. The disadvantage is that specimens collected using this method lose colour (hence the notes are important) and DNA extraction becomes impossible.

The botanical surveys conducted identified at least seven forest types with unique floral (and probably also faunal) compositions. This mosaic of forest types can broadly be defined as evergreen, semi-evergreen and deciduous forests but their species composition is remarkably different. In addition to the lowland evergreen forest, which is recognised as threatened globally, Prey Long is the last remaining area where forest types from deciduous to evergreen forests as well as the transition zones between them are found in a continuous and intact landscape. Conservation would provide future generations in Cambodia a chance to study the country’s most productive forests and landscapes and the natural processes of succession and forest dynamics essential to develop sound forest management practices within the country. I thank the Kew Guild for funding.

## ‘Scent’ to sample Caribbean Pines

by Paul Green

A non-native pine tortoise scale (*Toumeyella parvicornis*, or PTS) is causing decline in the Caribbean pine (*Pinus caribaea* var. *bahamensis*) of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), while a related insect species is becoming more common and damaging young or diseased trees in the Bahamas. The UKOTs team at Kew are working with the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) in TCI to better understand and possibly arrest the decline of the TCI-pines, while re-introducing healthy trees to plots on the least affected islands. Complimentary studies – in collaboration with the Bahamas National Trust – are investigating the ecology of the Bahaman pine forests. One aspect of this project is looking at the chemistry of the pines. It is possible that differences in the chemicals present in the TCI and Bahaman pines could explain the difference in susceptibility to insect pests. Differences in chemical composition may be governed by environmental factors, such as water shortage and frequent inundation of the land by seawater. Analyses of extracts prepared from pine needles (collected in 2011) showed that the compounds present in insect infested trees from TCI differ from those in healthy trees from the Bahamas. One complication is that the composition of extracts also varies among trees infested to the same degree from the same location. One aim of the fieldwork in May 2012 was to collect additional samples of pine from TCI and the Bahamas to confirm this variability within and among populations. The second aim was to collect, analyse and compare the blend of volatile compounds emitted from healthy and unhealthy pines. To collect the volatiles, a pine branch was placed in a specially designed polypropylene bag and sealed inside. For each collection, air was drawn into the bag via a charcoal tube

© Paul Green



Collecting pine volatiles in Conch Bar Pine yard (Middle Caicos). The Poropak Q tube is visible at the base of the bag.

(collects background chemicals) and over the pine branch before being sucked through the Poropak Q tube, which collects the volatiles, and out through a pump. Each collection took over an hour as the volatile compounds are in such a low concentration. The grant from the Kew Guild facilitated the purchase of some tubes filled with either Poropak Q or charcoal.

Back in the laboratory the compounds can be washed from the tubes with solvent and analysed to establish which compounds are present. During the two-week visit to the Caribbean, samples were taken from healthy and insect-infested trees in TCI (two locations in North Caicos; Middle Caicos and Pine Cay) and from healthy trees in The Bahamas (New Providence and Grand Bahama). Differences in the volatile plume might be an indicator of tree health and also govern susceptibility to PTS. Thanks to everyone in UKOTs and the DECR who organised the fieldwork; to the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP) for travel costs and the Kew Guild for providing funds for equipment.

## THE KEW GUILD HONORARY FELLOWSHIP

by Allan Hart

This is the seventh 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 2012 nominations are John Massey, who has had and continues to have a most distinguished career in the nursery industry, with particular interest in *Hellibors* and *Cyclamen species* and Graham Ross who is an Australian resident with an extensive gardening background combined with a successful media career.

Current Honorary Fellows are:

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

Elected 2007 - Dennis McGlade and Anna Pavord

Elected 2008 - John Brookes

Elected 2009 - Richard Bisgrove and Niall Kirkwood

Elected 2010 - Shirley Sherwood



Elected 2011 - Adil Guner

Elected 2012 - John Massey and Graham Ross

### **Mr John Massey MBE, VMH**

John Massey was born in 1949. Although his father was an engineer he bought Ashwood Nurseries in 1967 in a dilapidated state and John took over the business. It soon flourished under his care, although he had no formal horticultural training.

His driving force has been a wide-ranging passion for plants, but equally he has explored a growing number of genera in great depth, and amassed some significant collections. In the early years, he was attracted to dwarf conifers. These were followed by *Lewisia*, *Helleborus*, *Cyclamen* species and *Hepatica* and more recently *Salvias* and *Hydrangeas*. Ashwood holds a national collection for the N.C.C.P.G. for *Lewisias*. He has travelled extensively to study plants both in the wild and in cultivation, and his enthusiasm has taken him as far afield as North America, Europe, Scandinavia, Japan, Korea and China.



John's aim has always been to bring his collections to the attention of the gardening public and fifty exhibits to date at Westminster have been awarded coveted Gold Medals from the Royal Horticultural Society as well as two Williams Memorial Medals for displays of *Lewisia* and *Hepatica* respectively. In 2000, in a joint stand in association with the Niigata Nurseryman's Association of Japan, Ashwood was awarded the Lawrence Medal for a stunning display of

*Hepaticas*. In 1996 Ashwood also received a Gold Medal at Chelsea for *Lewisia* and again for *Hydrangeas* in 2005, and in addition has been awarded the Farrer Trophy on five occasions for displays of alpins at Westminster.

In 2003, John was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal for his contribution to the advancement and improvement of the science of horticulture. His extensive knowledge of plants is backed up by a 'hands-on' approach to propagation and cultivation of his chosen genera. For over 45 years, John Massey has built up the reputation of Ashwood Nurseries and the plants associated with it. He believes passionately that there are still many more plants worthy of attention and has been creating a new garden for that purpose, which he opens to raise money for local charities regularly throughout the year. In the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June 2008 John was awarded an MBE for his services to local charities in the West Midlands, and in 2010, he was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society in recognition of his life-long services to horticulture.

## Graham Ross VMM

Graham Ross trained in agronomy, horticulture, parks administration, landscaping and teaching – working in sections of horticulture for thirty years and then ten years in teaching posts. The media discovered him and he has spent some twenty-five years in television, presenting many programmes, including several in the ‘Ground Force’ format, identified by our current President as the Alan Titchmarsh of Australia. Graham was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal in 2011.

## NEWS OF HONORARY FELLOWS

Compiled by Allan Hart

### Richard Bisgrove

The New Year started, as always, with three days of lectures in garden history at Kew. I never cease to be impressed with the quality, friendliness and engagement of Kew students, and with their fortitude at sitting through my six-hour lectures (*with* coffee/lunch breaks!) and this year was no exception.

In February 2012 my wife and I went to India for the third February in succession, this time beginning in Kolkata (Calcutta) for the wedding of our daughter-in-law’s cousin but tacking on a package tour beginning and ending in Kolkata then venturing by plane, car and (briefly) train to Darjeeling and Sikkim. Not having been to northern India before I thought that living at 14,000 feet (4250 metres) would be like Mont Blanc times three but of course we were much nearer the Equator, so had orange trees and ginger fields by the roadsides, bird of paradise, rhododendrons and French marigolds (in February) in the hotel gardens and *Primula sikkimensis* as a lawn weed everywhere until we got really high at the frozen lakes. It was ‘interesting’ to travel along mountain roads which had obviously been damaged by recent landslides and fascinating to see whole families sitting by the roadsides breaking large boulders into smaller and smaller pieces then fitting the pieces together like a jigsaw to form the sub-base, and sometimes the surface, of the rebuilt road.

In May we sailed from Plymouth to the Scilly Isles on my brother-in-law’s catamaran. The chief target was the garden at Tresco but we were reminded of how beautiful the Scillies are and how reminiscent, with the blue sea and innumerable rocks and rocky islets, of a Japanese garden.

At the end of May we had a visit from the niece of one of my American students from many, many moons ago. The niece was studying Mechanical Engineering for a semester in Cardiff but was interested in organic farming (an odd combination, and she has since determined on a career in organic farming) so we went up to Garden Organic near Coventry and down to Dorset where one of my fairly recent students runs an organic smallholding.

June was Jubilee month and July/August the Olympics. The non-event of the year was our abject failure to obtain any tickets for the Olympics or Paralympics. I am not a sportsperson at all but I did want to see the landscape while it served as a backdrop for the games and talking point for the horticultural community. I will have to wait until the Olympic Park re-opens as a less-crowded but hopefully long-term landscape.



At the end of June I joined the MSc Horticulture students from Reading on their East Anglia field course, probably the last such jaunt as Horticulture at Reading has dwindled. On the day after returning from Cambridge I started the first of my three garden history summer schools in Oxford which occupied much of the rest of the summer – a week of Oxford Experience with Americans, mainland Europeans and one English person, three-weeks for Oxford/Berkeley (18<sup>th</sup> Century gardens this year) then a two-week course for Michigan State University so my summer was mainly spent lecturing, but with the thought of a nine-month ‘vacation’ to follow. Sadly my lecturing commitments meant that I was unable to attend the Kew School of Horticulture’s Prize Day and graduation ceremony in September.

Mid-September marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my first arrival in Reading as an undergraduate. It is odd when one starts measuring life’s milestones in centuries rather than years or decades but I have enjoyed my half-century as a perpetual horticulture student.

October was fairly quiet – a few lectures at Kew (Amenity Horticulture) and visits to Sheffield to examine two PhD candidates. In November I went to Broadcasting House as an ‘expert’ on William Robinson to record a *Great Lives* programme with the guest star Carol Klein of Gardener’s World. The programme will be broadcast on Radio 4 on January 29<sup>th</sup> so I look forward to 2013.

### **John Brookes MBE**

In February John went on a site visit to tribal hospital and a proposed house and garden in Udaipur. In May he was in Warsaw for the Nurseryman’s Association’s conference and lecture, and then a site visit to ongoing estate work in Torun, Poland. In June was the opening of the restoration of Peter the Great’s garden in St Petersburg. A Bergamot/Italy conference and lecture followed in August with a site visit to Chicago Botanic Garden to check on English Walled Garden in September. In October John went on a site visit to an ongoing estate in Millbrook, New York and held a masterclass in St Petersburg, while at the end of November through to December he gave a tour for English Garden magazine on Mughal India.

### **Derek Edwards**

Derek continues to battle with Parkinson’s Disease and is very well supported by his wife June and twin sons Alex and Steven who are joint Directors of ‘Inturf’. Inturf projects during the past year have included the Olympic cycling time trials course at Hampton Court, the gardens of Kensington Palace and a massive 20,000 square metres of turfing work for a Russian Oligarch’s estate in Highgate.

### **Professor Adil Güner**

‘In addition to the day to day management of the Botanic Garden in Istanbul, my remaining time during 2012 was taken up as editor in chief of *‘Türkiye Bitkileri Listesi’: A Checklist of the Flora of Turkey (Vascular Plants)*. This was published at the end of November under the patronage of the President of Turkey by the Ali Nihat Gokyigit Foundation and the Flora Research Society. The book is the result of collaboration with 100 Turkish botanists and for the first time in a single volume lists all 9,996 Turkish plants, 3,035 of which are endemic. An average of more than two new species a week are being recorded in Turkey every year.

Produced and printed entirely in Turkey in Turkish, the 1,320-page checklist also includes a recommended unique common name for every species. The front cover is of

*Tulipa sprengeri* which, although originating in Turkey, is no longer known in the wild but well known in cultivation in European gardens. The watercolour painting is by my daughter, Isik Güner a Royal Horticultural Society gold medallist who was trained by Christabel King from Kew. The checklist includes 12 new species or subspecies and with forty-eight new combinations.

Following on from the checklist, we are now proposing to produce a new *Illustrated Flora of Turkey*. The existing *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*, which was published by Edinburgh University Press in nine volumes and two supplements had been started in the 1960s by Peter Davies at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh and took over 30 years to complete. We aim to complete this new Turkish Flora in 28 volumes by 2023. The first introductory volume is being funded by a major Turkish bank and will give general information about climate, vegetation, geology, history of taxonomy and research and an illustrated key to the families.'

### **Niall Kirkwood**

'I presented a guest lecture on plant hyper-accumulators in March at the Arnold Arboretum, Boston, Massachusetts as part of their spring public evening talks to an audience of Arboretum Members and landscape architects from the Boston Society of Landscape Architects. The lecture addressed the emerging field of phyto-technologies in the United States and the use of introduced plants to clean up soils and groundwater on former industrial lands.

In October I attended a conference in Seoul, Korea sponsored by The Financial Times and the Korean Ministry, and presented a short paper on the role of urban vegetation to reduce the effects of climate change.

Finally in the summer I was invited to visit the City of Pingshuo in the Province of Shanxi, five hours west of Beijing, China. My purpose in travelling to this area rarely visited by tourists was to look at the reforestation approaches by the China Coal Company to reclaim and regenerate the former coal mining lands that dotted the regions. The scale of these installations covered many square miles and I was shown the planting methods, the intensive maintenance techniques and ongoing stewardship methods by Dr Gao Wenming.'



### **Roy Lancaster**

Roy has had an extremely busy and eventful year – these notes are a summary of a long conversation I had with him and I apologise if there are any omissions or errors!

Roy is currently President of the Hardy Plant Society and is also heavily involved with the RHS and the reorganisation of its many committees which has been very time consuming.

Trialling of new plants – spp. and varieties, continues to be very rewarding.

In April, Roy was invited to Japan by Mikinori Ogisu – a one-man heritage conservation campaigner, having saved more indigenous plants than any other person. A further treat involved travelling to China where he met up with John Massey (new Honorary Fellow) for whom Roy has huge admiration for his skills in hybridisation and his eagle eye for opportunities for its commercial use.

A series of extensive undulations in a mountain valley had a ground cover of *Matteuccia orientalis* with colonies of *Helleborus thibetanus* taking advantage of the shelter. The original discovery by Pere David was in Baoxing in 1869. A magical experience was nightingales singing in this most beautiful flowering area, which they seemed, unsurprisingly, to prefer!

### John Melmoe

For those fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit the Park during the London Olympic Games would have experienced a landscape of spectacular celebration of contemporary horticulture and planting design, which comprised half a mile of naturalistic perennial plantings. While the main focus in the Olympic Park Gardens, as a whole, is on native biodiversity and ecological approaches such as the annual meadows, the London 2012 Gardens explored the horticultural diversity of British gardens.

Walking the gardens, visitors were taken on a tour of the bio-diversity hotspots of the world that have been the major source of plants for UK gardeners over the past 600 years.

The design of the gardens was by LDA Design/Hargreaves Associates, who were the lead consultants for the Parks and Public Realm project. They called

upon Professors James Hitchmough and Nigel

Dunnett from the University of Sheffield, to assist in the development of the plant lists and specifications. Sarah Price undertook the spatial design of the gardens, and the detailed planting design within the gardens. 25 acres of wildflower meadows have been created to form a colourful setting for the sports arenas. Annual meadows were used predominantly in South Park to create a visually spectacular display during Games year in 2012.



The South Park was created by Willerby Landscapes Ltd. whose Managing Director is John Melmoe.

Now closed to the public until July 2013, where North Park will be the first part of the re-named Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to be opened, the 2012 Gardens are being put to bed for the winter months and will witness the forthcoming transformation of the

area known as South Park, where a new and exciting addition to the Gardens will be constructed.

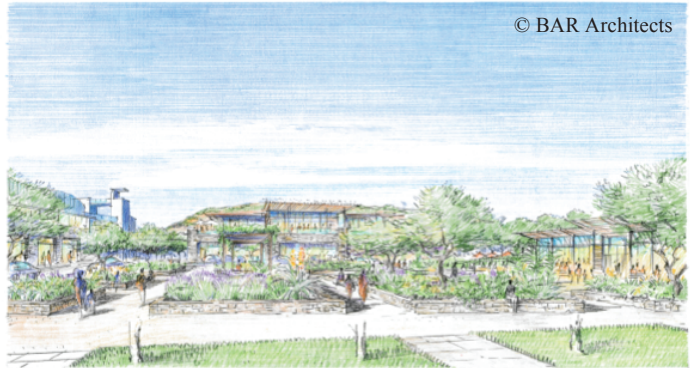
Willerby Landscapes Ltd were proud winners of the following awards in 2012:

- 2012 BALI 40th Anniversary Commemorative Award for Outstanding British Landscaping Excellence: Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.
- 2012 BALI Principal Joint Winner, Soft Landscaping cost over £1.5 million: Olympic Park London.
- 2012 BALI Principal Winner, Best Innovation/Technology Used in a Landscape Scheme: Willerby Landscapes Security Planter.
- 2012 Skanska Infrastructure Services' Best Supply Chain Award. The Award highlighted the excellent partnership and collaboration enjoyed by Willerby Landscapes as a sub-contractor to Skanska during the construction of the Olympic South Park and during the Games as the 2012 Gardens & Wild Flower Meadows maintenance team.
- 2012 Gold: Homebase Teenage Cancer Trust Garden, Joe Swift TV personality. His first time at Chelsea designing a show garden. In addition to the Gold, Joe's garden was runner up in the RHS People's Choice show garden.

### **Dennis McGlade**

The work of Dennis McGlade, FASLA, a Partner at OLIN, has spanned a diversity of typologies and locales throughout 2012. He currently leads a comprehensive renovation of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Fifth Avenue plaza, which officially broke

ground in New York City on January 14<sup>th</sup> of this year. In California, he is completing a master plan of the historic Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and is developing an urban design plan for the former site of the Copia Food, Wine, and Arts Center in Napa. His work at Camana Bay in the Cayman Islands has



Copia Redevelopment Project, Napa, California

continued with the development of a new office block, bicycle paths, and a public beach park. Dennis' other continuing projects include a private estate in Aspen, Colorado; the Grace Farms Foundation in New Canaan, Connecticut; the Washington University in St. Louis Olin School of Business in St. Louis, Missouri; and the University of Chicago's 58<sup>th</sup> Street closure and transformation into a pedestrian way, as well as the design on the grounds of the Milton-Friedman Institute, in Chicago, Illinois.

Dennis was honoured with numerous invitations for academic and speaking engagements, as well as project awards in 2012. His master plan for the Blithewold Mansion, Gardens and Arboretum in Bristol, Rhode Island earned the Stewardship Award from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission. His master plan for the Chinese Academy of the Sciences in Shanghai, China, was

honoured with the American Institute of Architects California Council's Merit Award for Urban Design. He served as a visiting critic at the University of California's Department of Landscape Architecture, for a studio entitled 'Urban Nature, Intervention and Succession: Boyle Heights'.

Dennis also was invited to lecture on behalf of the Cultural Landscape Foundation on the stewardship of Manhattan's Central Park woodlands; the Congress for the New Urbanism on 'the secret life of trees', and the Palm Beach Preservation Society on methods of sensitively modernizing historic landscapes.

### **Anna Pavord**

Anna writes that she continues to do a weekly gardening column for the Independent newspaper which she has done since the paper was founded in 1986.

A full year of activities in 2012 included a January visit to the Jaipur Literary Festival in Rajasthan to talk about her book 'The Tulip' and other subjects. In February and March, Anna was a guest lecturer on the liner 'Sea Cloud' when it visited Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia and then the Caribbean. This was followed in May and July by visits to the Moffat and Port Elliot Literary Festivals to talk about 'gardens in books'.

A couple of days in July were spent on recording a programme for BBC Radio 3 on William Turner – the distinguished botanist who lived in Kew. A more relaxing time followed with visits to Le Jardin Plume and Manoir d'Eyrignac in France in September.

Anna's fully healed ankle (damaged last year) allowed her to visit Sikkim and walk in the foothills of the Himalayas in November.

### **Shirley Sherwood**

'Last year (2012) was a busy one for me. I spent almost two months in Cape Town in the winter and then another month in South East Asia.

I was awarded the OBE in the New Year's Honours List and a lovely ginger was named for me, the Burmese *Globba sherwoodiana*. This was a 'thank you' for 10 years on the Board of the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian in Washington.

The Shirley Sherwood Gallery had two exhibitions in the Link gallery. The first one, 'Plants in Peril' went on to Germany for my collection's first visit there. It was replaced in the Link with 'Leaves and Fungi', an exhibition designed to compliment David Nash's wood sculptures exhibited in the rest of the gallery (and also around Kew Gardens).

I wrote articles for a number of books; for a German writer Renate Hücking, another for the forthcoming exhibition on Rory McEwen in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery and a third for a show in a new museum in Pisa, called 'Botanical Art into the Third Millennium' of recent paintings in my collection, which will open in the Musee della Grafica in April 2013.'



## THE YEAR AT KEW 2012

by Miranda Kimberley

**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.**

### The Gardens

In February, the Arboretum team made improvements to the Holly Walk. The Walk has the largest number of mature holly cultivars in the world but in recent years some of the older specimens had started to go into decline. Some of the plants in the main walk were pruned a few years ago in an attempt to increase their vigour. The ground was de-compacted and they were fed and mulched. This led to healthier specimens but there were still gaps where some trees had been lost over the years. Thus a dozen new and interesting new plants were chosen from Highfield Hollies in Hampshire and transplanted to the Holly Walk.

Between February and March the Princess of Wales Conservatory was transformed for the annual Tropical Extravaganza, featuring thousands of orchids and other beautiful flowers. The theme for the 2012 Festival was 'Forces of Nature' – floral displays represented the four classical elements: air, fire, water and earth. Hanging baskets of aquatic hues were used for water and arches were decorated with blazoned reds, yellows and oranges for fire. There were also sculptures of wind-dispersed seeds, fungi, mangroves and wildlife, as well as an atmospheric sound-scape conveying the importance of air and wind to nature's balance.

As an expression of Japan's deep gratitude and appreciation for the support of the UK government and public following the earthquake and tsunami which struck north-east Japan on 11 March 2011, a tree planting and seed presentation ceremony was held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.

Japanese children from the town of Yamada in Iwate Prefecture, an area that was badly affected by the disaster, were chosen to present seeds to Kew's Millennium Seed Bank. The seeds came from the Ai-Akamatsu tree (a hybrid of Japanese black and red pine), which were all destroyed by the earthquake last year, leaving only a single tree left standing in the city of Rikuzen-Takata, Iwate. This surviving tree has now become a national symbol of hope in Japan.

In April, Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, The New York Botanical Garden and the Missouri Botanical Garden announced plans to develop the World Flora – the first modern, online catalogue of the world's plants – to be made available by the year 2020. This massive undertaking will include the compilation of information on up to 400,000 plant species worldwide. It will achieve a primary target of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation to halt the continuing loss of plant biodiversity around the globe.

In May and June, the documentary TV series Kingdom of Plants 3D, featuring everyone's favourite naturalist Sir David Attenborough and filmed at Kew during 2011, was screened on Sky 3D and Sky Atlantic. There were three 50-minute episodes. Life in the Wet Zone considered the adaptations of plants to wet and humid environments. Solving the Secrets explored plant movement, scent and communication. Survival

focused on the ways in which plants continue to adapt as well as taking a look at Kew's Millennium Seed Bank.

Between May and September the British Museum forecourt was again transformed into a landscape – this time evoking a North American habitat, featuring prairie plants, grasses and maple trees. This was the fifth landscape created by a collaboration between the Museum and Kew. Trees planted included *Acer saccharinum*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Fraxinus americana*, to provide the 'fall' colour of North America. *Rudbeckia fulgida* and *Echinacea purpurea* were some of the prairie plants. Groups of the carnivorous pitcher plant, *Sarracenia*, were even included.

2012 was a special year in London because of the Olympic Games. Kew paid homage to the incredible sporting event by creating a bedding display which depicted the five Olympic rings, using marigolds, lobelia, lilyturf, red pelargoniums and apple mint for a fresh green. A floral version of the Paralympics symbol was also created, featuring the three agitos in red, blue and green. Both of these floral tributes provided a stunning backdrop to welcome the Olympic Torch Relay when it passed briefly through the Gardens on 24<sup>th</sup> July en route from Kingston to Ealing.

Kew's 'Old Lions', five of the Gardens' oldest trees, celebrated their 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They comprise an oriental plane opposite the Orangery; the pagoda tree (*Styphnolobium japonicum*), which is propped up close to the Ice House; the Ginkgo biloba which is one of the remaining trees from the botanic garden started by George III's mother, Princess Augusta in 1759; a black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) which was home to the Chief Gnome in a CBBC cartoon for children 'Gordon the Garden Gnome' and Caucasian elm (*Zelkova carpinifolia*) in the grounds of the Herbarium.

Sculptures by David Nash appeared throughout the Gardens in June, to be displayed until April 2013. As well as having an exhibition at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery, and major pieces in the glasshouses Nash also set up a Wood Quarry within the gardens for six months, creating beautiful natural sculpture out of trees from Kew which had come to the end of their natural life. Nash is particularly interested in the unique characteristics and artistic possibilities of wood.



David Nash at work in his wood quarry

In September a research paper which could allow biopharmaceutical companies to distinguish groups of plants most likely to be beneficial to

our health was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America. The research was undertaken by the University of

Reading, Kew and Imperial College. London was published on 10<sup>th</sup> September in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS).

By studying and recording over 1,500 medicinal plants reported to have health benefits in three continents, the researchers created a family tree of plant species for each area, demonstrating how medicinal plants relate to each other. They then combined the trees to create a ‘super’ family tree representing 20,000 species to reveal which medicinal plants from different areas were related. The researchers found examples of very closely related plants being used as medicines in different parts of the world and discovered they were being used to treat the same ailments. Furthermore, they found that many modern day drugs come from these groups of closely related plants.

This study, the first of its kind, could enhance the success rate of companies involved in bio-prospecting, the search for new, economically-valuable biological products. This is because the super tree will help companies involved in bioprospecting to narrow their search for plants with medicinal properties which could lead to new disease fighting drugs.

In the Diamond Jubilee year the Main Gate was renamed Elizabeth Gate in honour of the Queen. The gates, which were originally installed in April 1846 as part of Decimus Burton’s grand garden plan, had been restored at a cost over quarter of a million pounds with the help of funding from Abdul and Mehbooba Qayyum, Heritage of London Trust, The Ironmongers’ Company and many donors to the Kew Fund. Princess Alexandra unveiled a dedication stone and planted a sapling of *Aesculus indica* ‘Sidney Pearce’, which had been raised at one of Kew’s own nurseries.

### People

The School of Horticulture’s Principal Emma Fox departed in March. Martin Staniforth has been appointed Acting Principal.

In June, the Trustees announced the appointment of Richard Deverell (below) to succeed Professor Stephen Hopper as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The new Director took up his appointment in mid-September following Professor Hopper’s departure after six years in the post.

Deverell has joined Kew after nearly 20 years at the BBC where he was a senior manager. He ran the news and sport websites and BBC Children’s where he was responsible for CBBC and CBeebies. He was also the Chief Operating Officer for BBC North and thus contributed to the creation of Media City in Salford. He is a Natural Sciences graduate from Cambridge University and was a Trustee at RBG Kew between 2003 and 2009.



© BBC

Commenting, Richard Deverell said “My years as a Trustee reinforced my deep love for Kew as an institution and my belief in the role it can and must play in

understanding plants and explaining their importance. Kew has a wealth of scientific expertise, possesses a number of the largest and most important botanical collections in the world and has, through its gardens at Kew and Wakehurst Place and its website, the means to showcase and explain the importance of plants and their sustainable use to the world.”

“I know what an enormous knowledge base Kew represents and just how many clever, hardworking and dedicated people work there. It is an honour and humbling to follow in the footsteps of Steve Hopper and the other giants who have been directors before him. I am full of ideas and commitment and have as my simple ambition that Kew will sustain and, ideally, improve upon its reputation as the World’s premier centre of excellence for botanical knowledge and further develop the care of its significant collections and heritage assets.”

It was announced in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List in June that the award of Companion of Honour of Australia had been conferred on Professor Stephen Hopper in recognition of his ‘eminent service as a global science leader in the field of plant conservation biology, particularly in the delivery of world class research programs contributing to the conservation of endangered species and ecosystems’.

On hearing of the award, Stephen Hopper said ‘I am delighted and humbled by this unexpected honour, as well as grateful to anonymous friends and colleagues for their nomination. The world of plant conservation science is full of quiet achievers; all doing essential work on plant diversity that underpins the very existence of people throughout the world. This honour I see as recognition of the importance of the science I have been lucky enough to be part of in my career’.

In November, Rachel Mason Dentinger of Kew Magazine received the New Writer award from the Garden Media Guild. Rachel joined the magazine in Spring 2012 and received her award for three separate features. The judges said “Her writing style made in-depth science and conservation stories highly readable, while never dumbing-down their content’.

Kew magazine also made the finalist list for three other categories – the Environment award for Bruce Pavlik’s feature on Kew’s restoration ecology programme; Garden Columnist of the Year for Andrew Jackson’s insightful ‘Wakehurst View’ articles, and Features Photographer of the Year for John Millar, for his stunning images of the David Nash sculptures at Kew.

## **BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR! A REVIEW OF 2012 AT WAKEHURST**

by David Hardman, Head of Horticulture and Estates Management

“Be careful what you wish for, it might come true.” This could be considered a reflection on 2012 weather-wise. After a cold start with one of the driest winters on record the alarm bells rang about the impending drought which I had mentioned in my 2011 review. By the end of March we were planning strategies to beat the Drought Order and the likelihood of a hosepipe ban to follow. We had gained recognition with the water authority about the value of the collections and their status but this was not going to be a guarantee of us not being affected at the final stage. This was even more

concerning as our irrigation system was out of action whilst Westwood Lake was having silt removed.

By March the cumulative rainfall showed that on top of a very dry year in 2011 we had now achieved the driest first three months recorded over the last 25 years so concern for the plant collections was very high. The water level in the Ardingly reservoir was very low for this time of year, so the pressure was on to find solutions. We need not have worried as nature was about to take a hand and change the weather but we did not appreciate exactly what this would be. Looking back we now know 2012 was the second wettest year on record, the weather table at the end of this article shows all the nuances of rainfall over the last 14 years.

It is worthy of note how effective we have become at getting the garden open in the periods of very heavy snow and ice. The Logistic team using snow ploughs and gritting machines cut a swathe across the car park and roads, whilst other colleagues attack the snow with shovels and grit. A fantastic effort by everybody.

Oscar Wilde once said, “when the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers” – there must have been lots of prayers for the rain but the punishment was surely the constant disruption to our plans about which I will expand in this brief report of life and achievements at Wakehurst in 2012.

### **Major Construction projects**

**Westwood Lake silt extraction.** Following on from my 2011 estimate for silt removal from the Lake to the lagoons proved to be low compared to the eventual total of 10,000 cubic metres which was pumped from the Lake into the series of earth work lagoons constructed at Forest Ridge. Overall the project has been very successful and the work was carried out with only a few minor issues. Flooding was a constant threat and the unpredictability of the rain meant attention to rainfall forecasts was essential as the water level in the Lake could rise quickly. Upon inspection of the outfall penstock that controls the water level it was found to have been repaired previously but had since failed, putting the water management at risk. It was therefore necessary to fit a new penstock to ensure control in the future. This was again achieved against the constant worry of torrential rains having a serious impact on the timing of this work.

To complete the project additional funding was obtained to improve the paths and road around the whole Lake which will improve access to visitors, this was in addition to the total reconstruction of the boardwalk at the top end of the lake undertaken by the Woodlands team. A major part of the project was the creation of a natural silt trap at the inlet end of the Lake, designed to ensure such major silt removal work will be unlikely for the whole Lake in the future.

**The Irrigation Project.** This project was badly affected by snow, ice and then the excessive rainfall. The Logistics team battled valiantly against the elements to complete the work, which required a trench being excavated from the Schools entrance to Westwood Lake which is over 1600metres long.

The new lake water irrigation supply pipes were installed in the trench and the large numbers of joints along the length were housed in purpose built manholes to allow for any future additions we may want to make. Connecting to the potable water main was a challenge as the incoming main proved difficult to locate at the Schools entrance. However, a potable water supply to Field Study Centre is now installed, which means



drinking water does not need to be carried there. The project included additional conduits being installed to allow for power, telecoms and IT services ready for the future.

A new oak framed pump house has been built by the South Drive Pond from where the water pumped from Westwood Lake will be extracted and distributed around a new garden irrigation system. To maximise our extraction allowance a new pond will be created between the Schools entrance and South Drive Pond and then linked together. In addition, to reduce the risk and ensure future water shortages and droughts will not have such a great impact on Wakehurst, the banks around South Drive pond will be raised and its holding capacity increased.

### Roads and Fences

Two additional applications to Defra for capital funding in the 2012/13 financial year were successful. The first project will see the deer fence to protect the garden and woodlands replaced and in parts re-aligned by the end of March 2013. The second project is to upgrade the site roads through Coates Wood, Bethlehem Wood, Bloomers Valley, Horsebridge Wood and link in to the roads around Westwood Lake. Whilst this will cause some disruption to visitor access in the first months of 2013 the resulting road surface will be a major improvement to the old and decaying road surfaces. Tenacity to prepare and implement all these project bids has been a great team effort and completion will have a major impact for the long-term future of Wakehurst.

### Kew Horticultural Review

The Review Panel spent a day at Wakehurst as part of their overall review of horticulture at both sites, they were taken on a tour of the gardens with the horticultural managers where they were able to see at first hand and ask questions about all the diverse areas of the horticultural team's work. Their report was highly complimentary and their personal recommendations endorsed the work being undertaken. The full report had a number of recommendations which were discussed by managers from both sites in preparing a response about the actions to follow. The Director and Trustees then signed off the Review and we have started to address these issues.

### Seed matters

The year certainly had a 'seed feel' to it in several ways. The innovative project '**The Seed**'



Tom Hare's Banksia being positioned

was finally delivered between the four Great Gardens of Sussex group consisting of Borde Hill, High Beeches, Nymans and Wakehurst and involved West Sussex County Council. The interactive online treasure hunt game, which followed the journey of a seed researcher in a quest to find the truth about a missing seed, linked to the exploits of the great plant hunters. Their stories were told through theatre held at each garden and intertwined with clues provided in each of the plays.

'**Fools Gold**', the play based on George Forrest the plant hunter, was successfully performed in a yurt at Wakehurst and received by five different audiences despite the very rainy conditions over a July weekend. This form of theatre added to the drama by putting the audience and actor in very close proximity making the relationship an intimate form of storytelling.

**The UK Native Seed Hub** project moved on with the new site opened to the public for the summer after a small opening ceremony. Visitors were able to walk around the site and learn about the project and see the different species being grown. A number of willow seed head sculptures were commissioned for the site and were installed as part of the landscape story prior to the opening.

The sculptor, Tom Hare, was already known to Kew as he had been commissioned to install a display of **seed head sculptures** at the Kew site as part of the Millennium Seedbank exhibition held there several years ago. It was arranged that after the Kew exhibition that these beautiful seed sculptures could be re-worked and then brought to Wakehurst. This was carried out in October; they are positioned around the garden close to the plants each seed sculpture represents. Conker and sycamore can be viewed in the Oaks, star anise in the Carriage Ring, *Banksia* and *Sophora* in the Southern Hemisphere Garden, lotus and poppy on the MSB site.

Finally the **Seed Swap** was held in the Millennium Seedbank in October and built on the success of last year's event. Over 500 people attended the one-day event which had a range of 35 exhibitors, tours and specialist attractions throughout the day and of course the opportunity to bring your own seed and exchange it for others.

Other **sculptures** have been added to the site and include the humming birds re-used from Kew which are now in place with interpretation in Specimen Bed J, as part of the Pollination displays.

A major new feature, the **Pollination Garden** (see photo right, with pollen sculptures), was completed with the installation of interpretation in an oak frame





“Bees” by Tom Hare in the new Pollination Garden

building constructed by the Water Garden team and Tom Hare’s honey bee sculptures hover to welcome visitors entering. This area is already popular with visitors and will form the basis of a new schools teaching resource.

### Compliments and achievements

In previous reviews I have mentioned the range of regulations and assessments undertaken at Wakehurst below I have provided just a brief insight to some of these and other important comments received:

*“The standard of horticultural maintenance at Wakehurst was of the highest quality and maintenance of the garden is quite exceptional among NT properties”*

– Conclusion from **National Trust Garden Panel** on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2012. The Panel members include experts from the horticultural sector.

### Which? Gardening magazine:

Wakehurst Place came third in a survey of the top 15 gardens in the country, ahead of Kew, Edinburgh, Eden, Helligan and Sissinghurst. Our customer satisfaction rating was 87%.

*“I had a great day today... really impressive people and a hugely impressive site. I hope you are rightly proud of your team and all that they achieve”* – Richard Deverell (new Director of Kew) following induction to the Wakehurst garden and estate.

Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme (VAQAS) our accreditation was retained. *“Wakehurst Place offered an excellent outdoor experience, where attention to the detail of presentation, coupled with a warm visitor-facing approach by staff, was key. The Millennium Seed Bank was a “must see” feature and the high quality guided tour was a “must experience” event for first-time visitors”* – Report, Executive Summary.

**Forest Stewardship Council** certification audit – The FSC audit concentrated on three main aspects, Health & Safety and risk management, conservation and enhancement (including chemical use, training of work force), and community and public access. Wakehurst passed the audit without any non-compliance issues or recorded observations and the auditor described all aspects of the estate management at Wakehurst as *“exemplary”*.

### **Sustainability and recycling initiatives**

*“Thank you for the tour of Wakehurst yesterday. I was very impressed by the efficient and professional way you are tackling reducing the sites carbon footprint. It is always interesting to see behind the scenes to better understand how much work goes into maintaining a site and its infrastructure”* – received following a successful visit by Mid Sussex Sustainability Group on 13 September 2012 – all were very impressed with our recycling and Compost Corner.

**ISO 14001** accreditation was retained.

**Waste Carriers Certificate** received and Wakehurst is now registered as an Upper Tier Carrier Dealer of controlled waste. This was required as part of the new legislation to enable us to continue operating compost corner. Two people were awarded Certificates of competence as managers of materials and processes that we use in our composting (EPOC). This is an essential requirement under the new legislation.

### **Havelock Farm**

The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew was pleased to announce that it had purchased Havelock Farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2012. The farm, adjacent to the Millennium Seed Bank, will be used to support Kew’s nationally and globally significant conservation work at Wakehurst. The purchase was funded by Kew Foundation; established as an independent charity in 1990, Kew Foundation raises much needed funds from individuals, companies and trusts to support Kew’s work.

### **Events**

**Wakehurst the Movies** in its first year was greatly received by all who attended. The King’s Speech on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September was followed by Mamma Mia on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September. Despite the relatively low numbers the atmosphere was lovely on both nights and we received some wonderful feedback from visitors, many said they would definitely support another event next year.

Mother Teresa once said, *“More tears are shed over answered prayers than unanswered ones”* – was getting what some may have wished for the worst thing that could have happened?

So for those who prayed for rain it certainly worked and changed drought into flood but a consequence was a reduction in our visitor numbers and proved a challenging year thereafter.

As always the year end was greeted with the Christmas tree lights being switched on followed by a programme of activities over the following weeks culminating in the Carols evening to bring us to Christmas and the close of another successful year and this brief overview of 2012.

## Weather at Wakehurst Place, January to December 2012

2012	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year total
Month's total rainfall (mm)	61.1	25	26.9	136.2	65.9	162.3	125.1	57.7	85.9	143.7	97.5	177.5	1164.8
Compared to													
2011	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
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	83.5	40.2	56.5	33.7	60.5	10.2	117.5	152.7	66.8	36.4	165.8	869.45
Rainiest day (mm)	3 <sup>rd</sup> 14.6	4 <sup>th</sup> 14.9	4 <sup>th</sup> 10.5	25 <sup>th</sup> 19.2	9 <sup>th</sup> 20.0	2 <sup>nd</sup> 43.8	7 <sup>th</sup> 40.4	24 <sup>th</sup> 14.7	23 <sup>rd</sup> 33.9	31 <sup>st</sup> 24.3	24 <sup>th</sup> 14.6	19 <sup>th</sup> 26	
Rainless days	11	15	23	7	18	11	7	17	18	2	4	0	133
Highest Max Temp	12°C 11 <sup>th</sup>	20.0°C 23 <sup>rd</sup>	23.5°C 28 <sup>th</sup>	21.7°C 31 <sup>st</sup>	29.2°C 27 <sup>th</sup>	26.8°C 28 <sup>th</sup>	33.4°C 25 <sup>th</sup>	31.4°C 18 <sup>th</sup>	30°C 8 <sup>th</sup>	21.9°C 24 <sup>th</sup>	20.5°C 14 <sup>th</sup>	12.4°C 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Lowest Max Temp	0.8°C 31 <sup>st</sup>	0.3°C 8 <sup>th</sup>	8.1°C 4 <sup>th</sup>	7.7°C 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9°C 5 <sup>th</sup>	14°C 8 <sup>th</sup>	16.2°C 16 <sup>th</sup>	17.5°C 30 <sup>th</sup>	14.5°C 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.5°C 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.1°C 29 <sup>th</sup>	3.6°C 12 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest Min Temp	10°C 1 <sup>st</sup>	8.2°C 29 <sup>th</sup>	8.2°C 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.4°C 27 <sup>th</sup>	15.5°C 24 <sup>th</sup>	15.6°C 28 <sup>th</sup>	16.5°C 28 <sup>th</sup>	17.3°C 18 <sup>th</sup>	14.5°C 10 <sup>th</sup>	14.5°C 23 <sup>rd</sup> &24 <sup>th</sup>	11.4°C 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.6°C 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest Min Temp	-2.7°C 16 <sup>th</sup>	-7.2°C 11 <sup>th</sup>	0.9°C 19 <sup>th</sup>	-1.8°C 6 <sup>th</sup>	2.5°C 16 <sup>th</sup>	5.1°C 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.9°C 30 <sup>th</sup>	5.2°C 31 <sup>st</sup>	4°C 19 <sup>th</sup>	1.6°C 28 <sup>th</sup>	-0.2°C 30 <sup>th</sup>	-3°C 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Nights - air temp below freezing	5	15	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	31
Windiest day	4 <sup>th</sup> W 34mph	2 <sup>nd</sup> ENE 18mph	5 <sup>th</sup> NW 20mph	29 <sup>th</sup> ENE 30 mph	10 <sup>th</sup> SW 19mph	10 <sup>th</sup> SE 30mph	12 <sup>th</sup> W 35mph	26 <sup>th</sup> NNW 31 <sup>st</sup> NNE 12mph	25 <sup>th</sup> SW 17mph	5 <sup>th</sup> W 21mph	25 <sup>th</sup> W 30mph	31 <sup>st</sup> SW 33mph	



## AN OLD MYCOLOGICAL BOOK AND TWO LETTERS

by Nigel Sinnott

This article was first published in *Bibliowews* (Sydney: Book Collectors' Society of Australia), no. 373, March [May] 2012. The present version contains additional information about 'Mr Eaton'.

In the mid-1960s I would often spend Saturday afternoons exploring London suburbs on foot, looking out either for fungi or second-hand bookshops. On one occasion, in about 1965, I visited a bookshop in Holland Park Avenue, Notting Hill, and while browsing made an extraordinary discovery.

I found myself handling the first published mycological work of a man sometimes called the father of British mycology<sup>1</sup>, the Reverend Miles Joseph Berkeley (1803–89). The book had been published in 1836, but what made this copy unique was that the boards were almost undamaged, the paper spine label was entirely legible, and the pages were uncut. The book was in as good a condition as you would have found it in a bookshop in 1836! I believe I paid 30 shillings for it, and regarded this as a bargain.

The book consisted of 32\* (*sic*: marked with asterisks), 386 and xv pages (220 x 140 mm), but it was edited by Sir William Hooker, who was continuing to bring out volumes of a British botanical series started by Sir James Smith, so it is sometimes cited as volume 5, part 2, of Smith's *English Flora* or volume 2, part 2, of Hooker's *British Flora*. The title page reads as follows:

THE / ENGLISH FLORA / OF/ SIR JAMES EDWARD SMITH. /  
CLASS XXIV. CRYPTOGAMIA, / BY / WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER,  
LL.D., F.R.A. & L.S. / MEMBER OF . . . / AND / REGIUS PROFESSOR OF BOTANY  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW. / VOL. V. / (OR VOL. II. OF DR. HOOKER'S  
BRITISH FLORA.) / PART II. / COMPRISING THE / FUNGI; / BY THE / REV.  
M. J. BERKELEY, M.A., F.L.S., &c., &c. / LONDON / LONGMAN,  
REES, ORME, BROWN, GREEN & LONGMAN. / MDCCCXXXVI.

I was working at the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew when I bought the book. And when I left Kew in February 1969 I decided that, in view of its condition, I would present this copy of Berkeley's book to the herbarium library. The library already had a copy, but it had been rebound.

I moved to Australia (Victoria) in 1976; and on 2 January 1990 I was surprised and delighted to receive a gift from R. Desmond Meikle (b. 1923), under whom I had worked at Kew herbarium from 1967 to 1969. The gift was another copy of Berkeley's 1836 book. This copy was not in perfect condition, but what made it especially interesting was that it contained two letters, one of them written by Berkeley himself.

The letter (178 x 102 mm) by Berkeley, written in 1875, is glued to the endpaper facing the front board, and reads as follows:

Sibbertoft  
Market Harborough  
Aug 15. 1875

My dear Sirs

D<sup>r</sup> Rostafinski a friend of Reichenbach who is staying with me, leaves tomorrow for Kew where he wishes to examine the Myxogastres in the Herbarium. I have written to D<sup>r</sup> Hooker, but as he will probably turn up at the Herbarium first, I shall be greatly obliged if you will give him any information he wishes. He understands English but does not speak it. He is to return to Sibbertoft on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

There are some stems of Pringlea with fungi on them as I understand from<sup>2</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Eaton. I shall call at the Herbarium on the 30<sup>th</sup>

Yours truly M J Berkeley

Berkeley was vicar of Sibbertoft, Northamptonshire, from 1868; and in 1879 his private collections of fungi were made over to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew where they form an important component of Kew's Fungarium.

Berkeley's letter was written on behalf of Józef Tomasz Rostafinski (1850 – 1928), the first major writer on slime moulds; author of *Florae Polonicae Prodromus* (Preliminary flora of Poland, 1873), *Versuch eines Systems der Mycetezoen* (Preliminary [classification] system of slime moulds, 1874), and *Sluzowce (Mycetozoa) Monographia* (1874). The last title was adapted and translated into English by Mordecai Cubitt Cooke and published as Rostafinski & Cooke, *The Myxomycetes of Great Britain; arranged according to the method of Rostafinski* (1877).

Rostafinski is described as “a friend of Reichenbach”, very likely Professor Heinrich Gustav Reichenbach (1823-89), a renowned orchidologist and director of the Hamburg Botanic Gardens.

The letter was for Rostafinski to hand over at Kew Herbarium in case Dr Joseph Hooker<sup>3</sup> was not already there.

The loose letter, also written in 1875, was on two folios of a piece of paper (151 x 93mm folded), the front page of which had a wide black margin (usually a sign of mourning). It was presumably intended for Joseph Hooker or one of his colleagues at Kew Herbarium. It read thus:

1 Rockhall Terrace  
Cricklewood  
[London] N.W.  
19<sup>th</sup>. July 1875.

Dear Sir

As M<sup>r</sup>. Eaton nearly a fortnight ago wrote me that you were just sending off the Kerguelen Island Lichens to me, and as they have not yet come to hand, I begin to feel Rather [*sic*] anxious about them. The Carrier informs me that there has been no parcel for me at any of his places of Call. But for the wet weather last week, I should have come over to Kew to make inquiries about them. If you have not yet sent them, you need not trouble doing so, as I shall be down [*sic*] at Kew some day this week.

Yours faithfully  
James M. Crombie.

Rockhall Terrace is probably today's Rockhall Road, London N.W.2.

I also found in the book a small piece of folded paper, annotated by Berkeley, containing a dried specimen of a tiny species of the agaric *Marasmius*. As this had been collected at Kew (in the 1870s, I think), I sent the specimen and paper a few years later to the head of mycology at Kew.

I wrote to thank Desmond Meikle for his gift and in his reply (9 January 1990) he explained that the loose letter was “from the Rev. James Morrison Crombie (1830 – 1906), a noted lichenologist” and author of *A Monograph of British Lichens* (1894).

Mr Meikle also gave me some information on what he believed was the past ownership of this copy of Berkeley’s book:

“It is almost certain that the book belonged to J. G. Baker, and passed to his son, E. G. Baker, after J. G.’s death. I bought it — probably in Richmond [upon Thames] — I can’t be sure — soon after E. G. Baker’s death. I think J.G.B. was probably interested in keeping examples of handwriting, and kept the Berkeley . . . and Crombie letters for this reason, but this is a surmise.”

John Gilbert Baker (1834 – 1920) worked at Kew from 1866, and was keeper of the Herbarium from 1890 to 1899. He wrote *Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles* (1877) and *Handbook of the Irideae* (1892). His son, Edmund Gilbert Baker (b. 1864), died in 1949, so Desmond Meikle probably bought the Berkeley book in the early 1950s.

The Berkeley and Crombie letters were written just over a month apart, and both mention a Mr Eaton, although this surname was hard to decipher in the Berkeley letter. I strongly suspect that the letters refer to the Reverend Alfred Edwin Eaton (1845 – 1929), naturalist and vicar of Shepton Montague, Somerset, who was on the British Transit of Venus Expedition of 1874-75. Things became clearer when I sent a transcript of the Berkeley letter to Dr Tom May, a senior mycologist at the National Herbarium of Victoria. He realised that “some stems of Pringlea” referred to the Kerguelen cabbage, *Pringlea antiscorbutica*, and sent me an e-mail message informing me that Eaton had collected fungi on Kerguelen Island during a visit by the Expedition there. Details of Eaton’s fungal collections were published by Berkeley in 1876.<sup>4</sup> James Crombie must eventually have received the Kerguelen lichens, as he enumerated Eaton’s lichens the same year.<sup>5</sup>

The Kerguelen Islands (sometimes called Desolation Islands) are French possessions in the Southern Ocean (at latitude 48° south and longitude 69° east) north of Australia’s McDonald and Heard Islands. The Kerguelen Islands were first visited in 1772 by Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen de Trémarc in 1772, and later by Captain Cook (1776). The young Joseph Hooker visited the islands in 1840 (while on the *Erebus* and *Terror* Expedition of 1839-43), and made a detailed study of the Kerguelen cabbage.<sup>6</sup> The 1874 Transit of Venus was the reason for expeditions to the islands from Britain, Germany and the United States.

It is unusual to own a copy of Berkeley’s 1836 book on fungi twice, and I very much appreciate the one I still have. In view of its rarity in Australia it is often on long-term loan to my mycologist friend at the National Herbarium of Victoria, as the herbarium’s library does not possess a copy. The two old letters, and Desmond Meikle’s information about its provenance, further add to the interest of this volume.

## Notes

1 Berkeley in fact studied and wrote about fungi from all over the world, including (mainland) Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. He was also a pioneer of plant pathology.

2 It is possible that “from Mr Eaton” might be “for Mr Eaton” as the word before “Mr Eaton” looks very like the “for” in “for Kew” on line 2 of the letter. But from the context of the letter it is more likely that that the stems with fungi on were for Berkeley to examine and he learnt about them from Eaton.

3 Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817 – 1911) was knighted in 1877 and succeeded his father, Sir William, as director of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.

4 *Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany*, 15, 1876: 221 – 222.

5 *Journal of the Linnean Society, Botany*, 15, 1876: 180 – 193. I am obliged to Dr May for these publication details.

6 Hooker thought of naming it *Rossia kerguelensis*, but he decided to use a hitherto unpublished (manuscript) name given to the plant by Robert Brown (1773 – 1858), *Pringlea antiscorbutica*. — Leonard HUXLEY, *Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker*, 1, 1918: 78, n. 1.

## KEWITES IN ARBORICULTURE since the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and with a nod to the previous 200 years

by Peter Bridgeman

(Names in **bold** were/are staff or students at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew).

All the celebrations for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Diploma course at Kew mean it is worth remembering that another important institution was conceived at the same time. In 1963 a group of like-minded tree men, horticulturists and nurserymen got together and in 1964 formed the Arboricultural Association. There had of course been arboriculturists for a century or two but it was not until the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that arboriculture was recognised as an industry and profession in its own right. The post-war urban renewal, the New Towns Acts of 1946 and 1965, planning legislation and the introduction of Tree Preservation Orders required greater specialised expertise in tree care and modern arboriculture was born. However what many may not realise is the important part Kewites played in the developments in arboriculture, both in the UK and internationally, since the 1950's. Here is a brief summary.

In 1953 we saw the first Arboricultural Officer in the UK, **Ted Storey**, at the then London County Council (LCC). In 1958 The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) had the foresight to introduce first the Certificate and then the Diploma in Arboriculture a year later. It was no surprise that the man behind these examinations was Kewite **Hubert Taylor**, who worked with and took over from George Taylor (not our **Sir George**). A decade or so later **Tony Schilling**, **Jim Kerr** and **John Gaggini** were examiners.

The 1960's saw a major development with the formation of the Arboricultural Association (AA) in 1964. **Don Wells** was the founder Chairman and **Anthony Dunball** was the first Journal Editor. Of the eleven members of the initial Executive Committee, five were Kewites. Not only that, in 1966 seven of the thirteen members of the Executive Committee of the AA were Kewites with **Hubert Taylor**, **Sydney Pearce**, **George Brown**, **George Joy** and **Noel Procter** joining the Chairman and

Editor – a bit of a Kew mafia! At about the same time the Association of British Tree Surgeons and Arborists (ABTSA) was formed and in 1967 they asked Tony Harris the Principal of Merrist Wood, a Farm Institute in Surrey, to host a two-day Course in Tree Surgery.

The success of that first two-day course gave Tony Harris confidence that there was a need for full-time education and training in arboriculture. Within a year the first full-time courses were offered at Merrist Wood, which had now become an Agricultural College. **Peter Bridgeman** was appointed as the first lecturer in arboriculture in the UK and at the same time **Geoff Yates** was appointed to develop the Nursery Practices courses and **Brian Lowe** those in Landscape Construction; all had trained or worked at Kew.

It was not just people from Kew coming to Merrist Wood. In 1969 Merrist Wood student, **John Whitehead**, went on to Kew and in the mid-1970's **Peter Thurman** and **Tony Kirkham** followed him. All became successful arboriculturists. **Barry Phillips** is a Kew student who went on to Merrist Wood as an arboricultural technician. Barry Phillips and John Whitehead started the Kew Diploma course in October 1969 at the same time as **Alan Titchmarsh** but I cannot find any arboricultural connection for him. **Mark Johnston** is also a Merrist Wood student who made good. His links with Kew are a little more tenuous, being employed for just a few months on the tree gang in 1981 between a Tree Officer post in London and a lecturing position at Askham Bryan College. In 1971 **Pamela Holt**, a Nursery Practices student at Merrist Wood, went on to Kew. She became a lecturer at Cannington College, is one of the few female Tree Officers and is Vice Chair of the AA Professional Committee. **Mike Cudd** showed great early promise as Tree Officer at LB Hounslow and the Greater London Council (GLC) and was Secretary then Chairman of the South East branch of the AA, but tragically suffered a fatal stroke and died aged just 38 in 1984. **Malcolm Leppard** became the first Tree Officer at Welwyn Garden City and then helped pioneer arboriculture in Zimbabwe. **John Sales** was appointed Chief Gardens Adviser to the National Trust in 1971 and held that post until retiring in 1998.

In 1969 a two-day symposium was held at Merrist Wood to discuss the future of Arboricultural Education. **Ted Storey**, as Chairman of the AA Education Committee, chaired the meeting and this led to the establishment of the Standing Committee on Arboricultural Education under the Chairmanship of **Frank Knight**. He had just retired as Director of the RHS Gardens at Wisley but was originally a Kew Student.

By the early 1970's the ABTSA two-day course had become an Annual Conference and in 1972 **George Brown** and **Dr David Cutler** presented a paper on their Tree Root Survey at Kew, the first practical research on this subject. Later **Dr Cutler** and **Dr Ian Richardson** were co-authors of *Tree Roots and Buildings*. **John Simmons** became one of the youngest Curators of Kew in 1972 and retired from that post in 1995.

In 1974 the AA and ABTSA amalgamated, with **Peter Bridgeman** as Secretary. The Merrist Wood annual conference became a national event and one of the important matters discussed was safety in tree work. In 1975 a draft Code of Practice for Safety in Tree Work was prepared and submitted to the Forestry Safety Council (FSC) with a view to publication. This was rejected by the FSC but in 1979 they published their own guide, FSC 18. Although it contained much of the information contained in the AA code, no discussions were held with the arboriculturists and the modified guide was simply not acceptable for safe tree climbing practices. It took several years of



discussions before no lesser person than the Director General of the Forestry Commission accepted the need for separate guides for arboriculture and the Arboricultural Safety Council was established under the Chairmanship of **Trevor Preston**. He went on to negotiate co-operation between the foresters and the arborists and became Chairman of the Forestry and Arboricultural Safety and Training Council (FASTCo). He was the first Chairman of the South East Branch of the AA in the late 1960's. There are now ten Branches in the UK.

The AA grew into a recognised professional body and its Chairmen included **Trevor Preston** in 1979/82, **Leo Pemberton** in 1992/93 and **Peter Bridgeman** in 1993/95, as well as the founder Chairman **Don Wells**.

In the 1980's and 90's **Peter Bridgeman** was Chief Examiner for the RFS Diploma and he was succeeded by **Peter Thurman** with **Tony Kirkham** as an examiner. **Tony Kirkham** and **Mark Flanagan** went on plant-collecting journeys to Chile and the Far East. They also went to China and followed in the footsteps of **Ernest Henry Wilson** (not literally as the intrepid Mr Wilson broke his leg and had a permanent limp). **Flanagan and Kirkham** (sounds like a music hall duo!) wrote of their journeys in their book *Wilson's China: A Century On*. **Wolfgang Bopp** was a Kew student in the early 90's and is now Director of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum which has the most extensive collection of hardy woody plants in Britain. Two other Kew students now in arboriculture are **Andy Jackson**, the current Head at Wakehurst Place and **Harvey Stephens**, Head at Savill Gardens. **Graham Burgess** was also in arboreta management and **Charlie Erskine** became Assistant Curator of the Arboretum at Kew when George Brown retired. **Alan Cathersides** was a student in the 1980's and became the Senior Landscape Manager for English Heritage, with many arboricultural responsibilities.

We are now approaching the 'Golden' anniversary of the establishment of the AA and the age of modern arboriculture, but we must always acknowledge our gratitude to early Kewites like the plant collectors of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries who helped fill our gardens with the huge variety of plants, trees and shrubs from all parts of the world. Men like **Joseph Banks** who sailed with Captain Cook, **William Hooker** and his son **Joseph Hooker** and, as already mentioned, **E H Wilson** and **Frank Kingdon-Ward** in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We should also recall the great plantsmen of the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century who left their legacy of books – authors like **W J Bean**, **A Osborn**, **W Dallimore** and **S G Harrison**. **Bean's** book *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* was revised in the 1970's. The Editor in Chief was **Sir George Taylor**, Director of Kew, who was assisted by a team of eminent tree men including Kewites **Frank Knight**, **Sydney Pearce** and **J R Sealy** plus Desmond Clarke, Christopher Brickell and Sir Harold Hillier. **Tony Schilling** worked with Desmond Clarke on the Supplement in 1988.

Arboriculture has come a long way in the last sixty years and it is important to recognise and record the major part that staff and students from Kew played in these developments. Over the past 49 years four Kewites have been Chairman of the AA but in total these four held office for 12 years, which is virtually a quarter of the AA's history. There can be no other Institution that has had such a profound effect on arboriculture and the Arboricultural Association than the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

**Acknowledgements:** Thanks are given to the following who helped in the preparation of this little bit of history: **Peter Thurman, Tony Schilling, John Whitehead, Wolfgang Bopp** and **Joan and John Woodhams**. Also thanks to the Editors of the Guild Journal for their accurate indices (and how did we ever manage without Google and Wikipedia?)

**Author's Note:** Deciding who to include, and even more difficult those to exclude, has not been easy. If there is anyone who should have been included, please let me know via the Editor and I will put it right in time for the Diamond anniversary!

#### **Additional notes on Individuals (with Titles, Awards and Honours)**

**D V (Don) Wells:** Middlesex County Council then Landscape Architect to the LB Harrow. Served as founder Chairman of the AA from 1964 to 1970. Died in 1976 shortly after retiring. His wife Evelyn was Hon Treasurer of the AA.

**Hubert Taylor MBE:** AA Award 1988, Horticultural Advisor to the LCC then GLC. Examiner for the RHS, City and Guilds, Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration as well as the RFS. Retired 1973. Died 1997.

**Sydney Pearce MBE AHRHS:** Asst Curator then Deputy Curator at Kew. Author of *Climbing and Trailing Plants* and *Trees for Parks and Roadside*. Died 1972.

**Sir George Taylor VMH FRS,** Scottish Horticultural Medal: Appointed Director at Kew 1959, retired from Kew 1970. Died 1993.

**Frank Knight VMH** Ass of Honour of Royal New Zealand Inst of Hort: Nursery Manager at Waterers, and later General Manager at Notcutts. Employed during the war to camouflage important buildings like aircraft hangers with ground works, foliage and any other materials. Died 1985.

**George Brown:** Asst Curator Arboretum at Kew. Author of *Pruning of Trees Shrubs and Conifers*. Former Editor of the Kew Guild Journal. Born Uganda 1917, died 1980.

**W E (Ted) Storey:** Horticultural and Arboricultural Officer with LCC then GLC. Chairman of the South East branch of the AA. Together with Hubert Taylor helped pioneer large tree transplanting and tree banks. Died 2000.

**John Simmons OBE, VMH:** Chairman of Consultations Committee at Bedgebury Pinetum and also Westonbirt Arboretum. Hon Curator of Castle Howard Arboretum Trust.

**Anthony P Dunball:** Min of Transport Motorway and trunk road tree planting.

**A D (Tony) Schilling VMH:** Deputy Curator Wakehurst Place. Hon President of TROBI. Plant collector in the Himalayan region. Now retired and living in Ullapool.

**George Joy:** National Trust's Emmetts Gardens, Idle Hill, Kent.

**Jim Kerr:** Sheffield Parks Department.

**Noel Proctor:** Editor of *Amateur Gardening*. Author of *Garden Hedges* and *Climbing and Screening Plants*. Died 1991.

**JR (Bob) Sealy:** Botanist at Kew with published papers on *Arbutus* and *Sarcococca*. Died 2000.

**W Trevor Preston:** AA Award 1991. Chief Officer LB Ealing and responsible for arboriculture there from 1976 until he retired in 1997. Member of the Tree Council since 1979 and now chairs its Allocation Committee, awarding grants for tree planting.

**Leo Pemberton:** Director of Studies at Kew. Helped secure Gumley Cottage for first-year student residential accommodation and established the School of Horticulture.

**John Sales VMH:** His responsibilities with the National Trust included many fine arboreta and important tree collections. Governor at Pershore College.

**C M (Charlie) Erskin AHRHS :** Took charge of the arboretum at Kew in 1977. Expeditions to Brazil, South Korea and China. Took a young Tony Kirkham under his wing and we can all see the results of that.

**A Graham Burgess:** Arboretum Supervisor under George Brown. Won a Churchill scholarship to Europe and member of AA's Publicity and Education Committee.

**Alan Cathersides:** Served on the South East Branch of the AA. Active with The Ancient Tree Forum.

**Dr David Cutler:** Became Prof Cutler. Joint author of *Tree Roots and Buildings* and *Root Identification Manual of Trees and Shrubs*.

**S Gerald Harrison:** Principal Scientific Officer at Kew then Keeper of the Department of Botany, Museum of Wales.

**M John Whitehead (Aka Log):** Lecturer in Arboriculture and Plant Knowledge for twenty-five years at Merrist Wood. Plant collector for Kew and botanical explorer. Artist and photographer. World traveller visiting at least 185 Countries (is there anybody out there who can beat that?)

**Peter Thurman:** Landscape and Arboricultural Consultant, another great plantsman. External Arboricultural Examiner for the Kew Diploma. Lecture tours to Far East and Hong Kong.

**Tony Kirkham AHRHS:** Currently Head of Arboretum at Kew. Featured in BBC's *A Year at Kew* and *The Trees that Made Britain*. Revised George Brown's book 'Pruning of Trees Shrubs and Conifers'.

**Barry Phillips:** Went on to Bermuda and helped save the Bermuda Juniper, *Juniperus bermudiana*, from extinction. Planted a two-and-a-half mile long 'Palm Highway'. Became Curator of the Hillier Arboretum and is now a freelance consultant and continues his world travels.

**Malcolm Leppard:** Became Curator of the National Botanic Gardens in Harare and is writing a book on Arboriculture in Southern Africa.

**Mark Johnston:** Went on to be Head of Arboriculture at Merrist Wood and later became **Dr Johnston MBE**. Now involved with this country's first degree courses in Arboriculture at Myerscough College. Currently involved with attempts to restore Castlewella Arboretum.

**Mark Flanagan:** Worked with and took over from Tony Schilling as Deputy Curator at Wakehurst Place and went on to be Keeper of the Savill Gardens at Windsor.

**Harvey Stephens:** Works with Mark Flanagan as Head at Savill Gardens. His New Zealand garden was opened by The Duke of York in 2007 and showcases native New Zealand plants.

**Andrew (Andy) Jackson:** At Wakehurst Place since 2003 and has a particular interest in Conservation of UK Biodiversity.

**Wolfgang Bopp:** Formerly at Middleton, the National Botanic Garden of Wales. So fond of the new glasshouse, the Eco Dome, that he and his wife Janet were the first couple to be married there.

**Pamela Holt:** 27 years Hort and Arb Lecturer at Cannington College and part-time at Merrist Wood. Now at the LB Barnet. Travelled extensively in South America and took evening classes to improve her Spanish. She is well known for her mountaineering adventures even surviving an avalanche!

**Dr Ian Richardson:** A Research Botanist at the Jodrell Lab at Kew. Co-author of *Tree Roots and Buildings* and went on to set up a Tree Root and Botanical Identification service.

**Dr A G (Tony) Harris CBE:** Not a Kewite but was a guest speaker at a Guild Dinner. He went on to be Principal at the Harper Adams College in Shropshire. He was awarded a Doctorate by the Open University in 1996 and was recognised with an OBE in 1991 and a CBE in 2005. Now retired.

**Peter Bridgeman:** AA Award 1987. After ten years at MW established his own Consultancy. Government Inspector for TPO Appeals. Author of *Tree Surgery* ('Log' Whitehead did the artwork) and *Trees for Town and Country*. Retired 2005. Secretary of Aldershot Town FC 1992-1996.

**John Gaggini:** Developed Mears Ashby Tree and Shrub Nursery specialising in container grown stock. Governor then Vice Chairman at Moulton College in Northampton. Travelled 20,000 miles visiting 39 States in North America, also travelled extensively in Scandinavia.

**Sir Joseph Banks GCB:** Accompanied Captain Cook to the South Pacific in 1768. Appointed unofficial Director of Kew by his pal George III in 1773.

**Sir William Hooker FRS:** First official Director of Kew 1843. Transformed Kew from a rundown 11-acre garden and laid the foundations of what we see today.

**Sir Joseph Hooker OM\*:** Son of William. Succeeded dad as Director in 1865. Many of his Rhododendrons from Nepal still seen in the Dell at Kew. Friend of Charles Darwin. Worked with **George Bentham** on plant classification and their book

*Handbook of British Flora*. Succeeded as Director by his son-in-law **William Thiselton-Dyer** (talk about keeping it in the family!)

**William Jackson Bean MVO\* ISO\***: Kew student 1883, Foreman of the Arboretum and finally Curator with some 46 years at Kew. His book *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* was first published in 1914 and he edited the 7<sup>th</sup> edition but died three years before it was published in 1950.

**William Dallimore ISO VMH**: Kew student 1891. His book *A Handbook of Coniferae and Ginkgoaceae* was written with AB Jackson and published in 1923. Revised by **S G Chapman** in 1966. He helped develop and became Curator of Beddington Pinetum. Died 1959.

**Arthur Osborn MBE AHRHS**: His book *Trees and Shrubs for the Garden* was published in 1933. Curator of the Arboretum at Kew for 36 years. Died 1963.

**Ernest Henry ‘Chinese’ Wilson VMH, VMM**: Travelled extensively in the Far East and in particular China. Became Associate Director and then Keeper of the Arnold Arboretum in Boston USA. Sadly he and his wife were killed in a road accident in Massachusetts in 1930.

**Francis (Frank) Kingdon-Ward**: Travelled in Tibet, China and Burma with some 25 expeditions between 1909 and 1954. Sent over 120 plants to Kew. He had unique arboricultural experiences when one tree fell on his tent and he escaped unhurt and another caught him in its branches when he fell off a cliff – the original tree hugger! Died 1958.

\***MVO** ‘Member of the Royal Victorian Order’

\***ISO** ‘Imperial Service Order’

\***OM** ‘Order of Merit’

## A KEW BALLOT FOR THE CORONATION PROCESSION IN 1953

by F. Nigel Hepper

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations on a chilly, wet day in 2012 reminded me of the actual coronation procession I had watched on the Mall sixty years ago. In a Kew ballot I won a pair of tickets for seats at five shillings [25p] each on Carlton House Terrace. They were donated to Kew by the Ministry of Agriculture which was responsible for Kew in those days. I was only 24 years old and had recently been demobilised after two years National Service in the Royal Air Force. I was quite a ‘new boy’ Scientific Officer taxonomist in the Herbarium. Being unmarried, I invited Ken Douglas who I lodged with at 45 Montague Road, Richmond to use the other seat ticket, so very early on that chilly, wet Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1953 we caught the Underground to Victoria.

The evening before I had penned my ‘reflections on the impending event’ – which I obviously took with solemnity and dignity as I wrote: “Surely only a hard-hearted person can fail to be moved and thrilled by the present happenings – I rejoice to see the decorations and public spirit and I realise what a great thing we have in the Crown. It is amusing to see private decorations such as the house with masses in front as a patriotic



display, yet those with little or nothing. Many are done in the most shocking artistic taste. Even one I saw had Queen Victoria in the Middle – probably kept from her Jubilee in the 1890s! Fairy lights have been used, I see, as window decorations to illuminate a photo of the Queen in red, white and blue in many cases.”

Then “The great day was here at last but promised to be wet – as it was indeed – but spirits were high. I woke up at 2am and did not go to sleep again before the alarm went off at 3am. Woke up Ken whose alarm did not go off; we had a spot of food; packed up more sandwiches that Mrs Cook [our landlady] had made for us and caught the 4.03 train at Richmond station ... Walked to Duke of York’s Steps where there was a police cordon across the road but as we had tickets for Carlton House Terrace were let through. People camped out on the steps were trying to keep warm. We found our seats on the Terrace and delighted with prospect and situation.”

Behind us was Carlton House itself still in a poor state after being bombed in WW2 and I expected it would be demolished. On the contrary, it was splendidly rebuilt and became the headquarters of the Royal Society. Many years later when my Kew mentor, Dr Ronald Keay, left Nigeria where he was Director of Forest Research, became the Executive Secretary of the Royal and he and Joan were accommodated upstairs in rooms with marble pillars and magnificent furnishings. There they entertained many from abroad and at home, including my wife and I – I recalled my view of the Coronation procession from the Terrace immediately below us!



Queen Elizabeth II & Prince Philip about the time of the Coronation

© National Portrait Gallery, London

“By 6.30am most places were occupied and late-comers had had an awful job getting through the crowds. Tension mounting, especially among poor souls who had waited all night. Some were periodically taken off on stretchers. We found a mobile refreshment van and had a cup of tea at 7am. Police now getting into position and the Guards’ markers in position. Then squads of them (in capes as it was by now raining,) went to and fro and gradually lining positions smartly. Mall now clear except for the odd mounted police. Great cheer went up from expectant crowd as sewer-pipe lorry careered up Mall and the chum inside thoroughly enjoyed waving and bowing as he went along! Crowd in growing impatience. Here and there a ripple of good humour. Biggest cheer went up for auxiliary fireman on drop handle-bar bicycle going up Mall – cannot imagine what for – but he looked most embarrassed as if he could not quite make out what the crowd was for!”

“Loud speakers on all trees and music had been relayed from BBC. Now commentators took over as troops getting into position; commentary on procession etc. and details of the day’s programme. Lots of cars cruised along the Mall and halted in order with representatives of foreign states. Had binoculars and got a good view; saw [Ambassador] Gromyko of USSR. Also car procession of members of the Royal Family: Harewoods [Lascelles] etc. These moved off at about 8.40, followed by open carriages of Colonial rulers – saw Queen of Tonga who has captured public imagination, she is 6ft 3 & a jolly person. There has been no more rain and the Guards are in scarlet. Now carriages of prime ministers with escorts; Canadian mounties and Pakistan lancers. Also saw Sir Winston Churchill for first time, what a broad face he has, in closed carriage. Then Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother & Princess Margaret in one carriage, got good view of them.”

“Finally the Queen’s procession to the Abbey led by mounted officer in full regalia, 4 troopers of Household Cavalry looking splendid, then solid blocks of 5 companies of Guards on foot in red tunics. Last 2 failed to hear order to halt so rather a shambles, ditto the order-arms, so even the great Guards can do that, but I sympathise. They halted in front of us for c.15 minutes. Then down the Mall came a ripple of cheering, saw & heard band of Welsh & Irish Guards as they approached rear of halted companies; latter got under way & procession proceeded in orderly way. Behind band 5 more companies. Then King’s Troop RA with highly polished horse-drawn carriages with cannons.”

“Her Majesty then appeared with tremendous cheers as Golden Coach came into view: 6 greys with postilions, drawing the State Coach, all much more glorious than I ever imagined from pictures – gold and scarlet in abundance which thrilled me. Then I saw the Queen herself and the Duke of Edinburgh. She looked beautiful, much more beautiful than photos suggest & smiling in spite of the ordeal she must go through. I admit it was almost too much for my emotions on seeing her. As they went by lent my glasses to lady standing next to me. Household Cavalry before and behind. As they disappeared thro’ Admiralty Arch the BBC commentary came on [the tannoy] & we were able to hear as it was happening a few hundred yards away & they went through Trafalgar Sq. to the Embankment where the children were, to the Abbey. It seemed so strange to hear the cheers so highly amplified and yet looking at the crowd below me it was now silent.”

“Settled down now for several hours whilst the Service of Dedication & crowning were in progress. The lady and her friends [beside me] offered us sandwiches as they had been given extra ones and had too many. This was great as we had been given only enough for one good meal by Mrs Cook. It was while we chewed these that we realised that she [the lady who evidently won the other pair of Kew tickets] was the sister of Mrs Sealy of Kew”. [Mrs Sealy was better known as Miss Stella Ross-Craig, the famous botanical artist who died in 2006 when almost 100. She left substantial bequests to Kew. Much of the Kew Guild legacy was used to make the Students’ permanent Vegetable Plots].

“Then came the crowning moment as the Archbishop took King Edward’s crown and placed it on her head and a great shout within the Abbey of ‘God save the Queen’. At that moment the guns fired in Hyde Park, there was spontaneous cheering in the crowd & (I believe) the bells rang in Westminster Abbey – down came the rain at the same moment! So the Queen is crowned. The service goes on. Ken and I queued in the rain while we waited for the procession, for 3/4 hr for a cup of tea! The troops still line the

route, being relieved in turn. Rain pours down. A real soaker. Something has delayed the people at the Abbey, according to the loud speakers. Then about 2.30 Ken and I went over to the crowd lining Pall Mall, across the open square behind the Duke of York [column]. There we saw most of the return procession. In spite of the rain, crowds cheered lustily & those in expensive boxes had their opportunity at last: the ones in covered stands gained as the rain continued. Then the Guards went by again & halted just in Pall Mall. There they waited in the pouring rain for 25 minutes, from 3.00 to 3.25. Then, as the band in that square struck up to pass away the time all joined in singing, rain or no rain.”

“At last the band came into view from Trafalgar Sq. & the ones who had been waiting got under way again but not quick enough to avoid a concertina movement which persisted for long up & down the squads. No paper I have read since has made any mention of this or that again in the Mall, presumably out of courtesy for the parade was really marvellous. Now carriages again & the Queen fully crowned – got a lovely view of her. Ken and I went back to our seats; it was now fine & indeed we had a lovely bit of sunshine just as the Life Guards & the Golden Coach came into Pall Mall, so I was able to get an idea of what it should have been like had the sun been out all the time... No more rain from now on. About 4.10 the Parade began and this time I had the full view. It is impossible to describe all the units, but there were units from Empire and Commonwealth; Fiji Islands Police; & dark chaps in aprons and sandals; superb marines & Pakistanis with a large pipe band (14 bands in all). There were women’s corps & masses of RAF so that my entire view was for a time a mass of RAF blue & they marched well. Massed troops, soldiers in dark blue with grey stripes and peaked caps. I had no idea it would be a parade on this scale. The precision was excellent... Sufficient it is to say it was fine and thrilled me repeatedly down my spine! All this, then the return of those who went to the Abbey this morning still bearing up very well. For the second time I saw the Queen pass very near on the right of the carriage. It suddenly dawned on me as I looked at her that she might be thoroughly bewildered only 3 years older than me & all this fuss it must indeed have been an ordeal.”



A later trooping the colour ceremony on Guards Parade with the troops dressed in scarlet uniforms and black bearskins, such as were worn at the Coronation in 1953. © Nigel Hepper



Household Cavalry on the Mall after passing through Admiralty Arch, with the Duke of York’s column and the steps crowded with spectators for a later royal occasion; the part of the Carlton House Terrace where I stood may be seen on the extreme left. © Nigel Hepper

“As the Household Cavalry followed and disappeared down the Mall towards the Palace Ken and I looked at one another: it was all over – but how good it was! It made one proud to be British – and English too, that we could show the world what we did. Everything was catered for, but the weather did the dirty again after all the glorious weather we have had this year. It is ironical that my arms are peeling after last week’s heat-wave & today is the coldest June day since records began.”

“The RAF fly-past was modified for bad weather but about 140 instead of 168 flew over at 5.42pm. They flew directly over us at Carlton House which I thought was rather far away from the Palace: 7 flights I think, of 24 each zooming over: Meteor & Sabre jets, very close formation for so low and with such low cloud.” [This was especially interesting to me as a recently demobilised RAF Pilot Officer and still in the RAFVR, I had controlled by radar such fighters and flown as an observer in several types.]

“Immediately the procession passed a police cordon prevented people charging down the Mall, but when it was released there was just an orderly stroll down. The crowds have not been too bad, I think many were scared by press reports & others stayed behind to watch television (which I understand was superb). [I observed that during the Diamond Jubilee the same technique of crowd control was successfully repeated.] We wandered down the Mall, but the stench was so horrid from the kerbside accumulations that we struck across St James’s Park ... as I was determined to see the fireworks.”

I have no recollection of the fireworks after all these years but thanks to the Kew ballot I was able to participate in the Coronation and write 12 pages in my diary – a loose-leaf note-book which I used subsequently for many of my official and personal botanical expeditions and conferences, to be donated in due course to Kew Herbarium, Library, Art & Archives.

## KEW ATTENDANCE

The charts below give annual visitor numbers to Kew from 2002 to 2012 and a monthly record from 1957. Provided by Rebecca Bower.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Attendance totals</b>	<b>1957 - Month</b>	<b>Attendance totals</b>
<b>2002/03</b>	1,033,737	<b>Jan</b>	11,427
<b>2003/04</b>	1,091,114	<b>Feb</b>	23,363
<b>2004/05</b>	1,281,231	<b>Mar</b>	118,231
<b>2005/06</b>	1,480,281	<b>Apr</b>	218,565
<b>2006/07</b>	1,379,165	<b>May</b>	123,368
<b>2007/08</b>	1,483,715	<b>Jun</b>	168,916
<b>2008/09</b>	1,373,720	<b>Jul</b>	103,253
<b>2009/10</b>	1,265,002	<b>Aug</b>	153,526
<b>2010/11</b>	1,204,589	<b>Sep</b>	77,005
<b>2011/12</b>	1,254,253	<b>Oct</b>	47,875
		<b>Nov</b>	10,279
<b>1957</b>	1,064,815	<b>Dec</b>	9,007

## CONTINUATION OF CIRCUMSTANCE AND OBSERVATION

by Charles Funke

*I remember the bat-winged lizard-birds,  
The Age of Ice and the mammoth herds,  
And the giant tigers that stalked them down  
Through Regent's Park into Camden Town.  
And I remember like yesterday  
The earliest Cockney who came my way*

To describe my arrival at Bodnant Gardens after two years at Kew as anything but a cultural shock would be far from the truth. In my previous dissertation I mentioned my own background. Being born within sound of Bow Bells I qualify in every respect as a Cockney.

Bodnant sits in the Conway Valley of North Wales. The natural Landscape of Snowdonia encapsulates all. The Celtic culture that precedes the arrival of the Romans, does in certain aspects, in this particular part of North Wales, survive to this day. With the exception of a few members of Staff, the language of the day was Welsh.

For whatever reason, I found Welsh history an absorbing subject. It is perhaps prudent that I mention at this point the Garden of St Swithin's in the City of London. But for the Welsh language, that for social reasons I came to terms with, together with the grounding in plant identification from my time at Kew, I would not have been able to put together this landscape scheme. In essence, the concept is a tribute to an amazing era of Welsh history. In an endeavour to guide the thought process of any of the future landscapers of tomorrow, the following is my landscape introduction to the St Swithin's project.

The history in all senses of the word that is laying within the ground of St Swithin's graveyard must be taken into account when considering any design for the regeneration of the space. It is perhaps prudent to expand on the years between 1282-1485, which tell the story of a Welsh man with the blood of Princes of Powys and Deheubarth in his veins, whose daughter lays in the graveyard. The man in question was, in Welsh, called Owain ap GRUFFYD, Lord Glyndyfrdwy, known in briefer terms as Owain Glyn Dwr, to Shakespeare as Glendower.

This period in time was of great struggle and hardship for the Welsh people. With long periods of poor Harvest and the ravages of the Black Death it is little wonder that social order was undermined for long periods of time. Notwithstanding this, the fourteenth century was one of the great ages of Welsh Poetry with little of the social and politic distress being reflected in their verse. The poems were generally sung to the accompaniment of the Harp of Crwth and also the Horn and Bagpipe. Little written evidence is available of Welsh music at that time but what has survived suggests that the music was of a quality that equalled the poetry.

In England the Black Death was followed within a generation by the peasant's revolt. In Wales more than half a century was to pass before the smouldering discontent of the people was to literally explode and the father of the daughter who, with two of her



children, lay in a graveyard within the City walls of London was to emerge, and for a period of time lead a Welsh revolt.

Owain styled himself Prince of Wales. A turning point in Owain's power was undoubtedly his capture of Edmund Mortimer whose line stood in legitimate succession to the throne. A marriage was arranged between Mortimer and Owain's daughter, Catrin, who was later taken hostage with her children by the English. The rest is history.

In terms of daily work ethics at Bodnant, I was to take up in many ways where I left off at Kew. My last period at Kew was with Charlie Coates in the Arboretum Nursery. The latter period of that time was spent on propagation of a whole range of trees and shrubs. At Bodnant we have an environment which is kissed by the Gulf Stream. Resultant from this is an extraordinary range of genera that is growing in open ground conditions. The shrubs in question that were the main focus of propagation in the early stages of my time at Bodnant were of an ericaceous nature, such as Rhododendron, (Azaleas) Camellia, Eucryphia etc.

At this stage I must mention the basic soil structures at Bodnant. Whilst the nature of same is of boulder clay, the substrat is of shale. One of the work ethics worthy of mention was the year on year forking in of the autumn leaves in many areas. The impact of this discipline was the creation of a much lighter and friable soil. Over the years, Bodnant has made a great contribution to plant breeding. In this regard, Rhododendrons and Camellias were again to the fore.

From time to time, many plants of the aforementioned species, and other genera of all statues were lifted and transported to London for exhibits at the RHS. At that time, Henry Maclaren (Lord Aberconway) was Chairman of the RHS. Having physically worked with him, I came to respect him as a very 'hands-on' person whose individual knowledge of the subject matter was outstanding.

Looking back the potential in moving plants of great scale from one environment to another was becoming clear. Circumstance was to dictate that in grasping an understanding of the genetic performance of any given plant, the world would become an oyster for my future.

I spent a total of two and a half years at Bodnant, which was interrupted with Military Service. Having been at Bodnant eighteen months, I was to find myself in a Welsh Battalion bound for Palestine. With the conclusion of a period referred to as Exodus (not the book of Exodus), my last posting was to the Sudan and Khartoum. Having now been away from home for nearly two years, demobilization approached. To this day, I have no idea why I was selected or by whom, but was offered a Release Course in Agri Science in the Middle East College, Geneifa, Suez, Egypt. This proved to be a total immersion course, run by the Army Education Corps. The principal subject was based on Mendel's laws of genetic characters.

Readers may recall my contribution to the previous Journal refers to early interest in leached fossil fuels supporting plant life. It is common knowledge that a plant's rate of growth, the form of its development depends upon its genetic make-up or geno-type and environmental conditions. To my mind, the Mendelian laws of genetic character laid many of the foundations of the science that horticulture has become today.

On my return to Bodnant I was joined by another apprentice, who was to go on to be the Superintendent of Saville Gardens for the Royal Family. The young man in question was John Bond. Like myself, John was particularly interested in the cultivation and management of all things ericaceous. Whilst we went our separate ways for many years, we were to find common ground on a major water-body venture. This occurred when I found myself appointed Landscape Consultant to the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al-Nahyan, for the regeneration of Tittenhurst Park. This property sits on the boundaries of Windsor Great Park. The water-body in question was a very large lake which we formed from a natural water source that had simply been a stream ending in the Virginia Waters Lake. My reference to John reminds me of a particular batch of seed that I had sown at Bodnant shortly before I was called up in 1947. The seed in question had been collected from a waterside loving plant called *Lysicium americanum*, commonly known as the American Bog Bean. Naturally, two years and more had passed, by which time these were healthy young plants. In tandem with this observation, the first seed of *Metasequoia* had arrived at Bodnant and over the same period, germinated and grown well. Both these genera were to come into common use by John and myself.

As with my time at Kew, where I was given amazing support from all departments, so I also experienced the same degree of support at Bodnant. This was never more so, initially from FC Puddle the Head Gardener and on his retirement, his son the late Charles Puddle VMH, who literally became my mentor.

For my part, I believe that whilst many of the previous apprentices at Bodnant had followed the onward route into what was then known as Private Service and similar with Parks Administration, this was not my intent. After lengthy discussion with Charles Puddle, it was he who suggested I continue the learning curve, but to enter the commercial world in so doing. Bodnant approached a Mr Ivens at Hilliers' of Winchester. In simple terms I was to meet an authority par excellence on the subject of Rhododendrons. From my time at Hilliers' I was to never look back.

Overnight my hours of study at Kew, together with extremes of manual labours at Bodnant were to bear fruit. The Hillier nursery from which I operated was known as the West Hill Nursery. This was primarily a major propagation unit. One of my very first briefs was to proceed out to the Winchester by-pass to collect seed and vegetative material.

All sounded very simple, except the planting sustaining the required material was, to say the least, in places battered, flattened and rather nondescript. The reason for the damage was the result of many Military Vehicles that had been parked prior to D-Day, not only down the central reservation, but also the verges of the by-pass. Plant identification was the first objective. I have to say I was back to school and in my element.

The origins of a very substantial range of shrub and ground cover were completely down to the vision of Harold Hillier. This was both a seed bank and vegetative material source that provided an eco-system for a major dual carriageway.

Overnight I found myself looking at plant structures growing in completely different PH levels to that of Bodnant. The substrat of Hilliers', Winchester was also completely different to Hilliers' of Chandlers Ford.

A typical day, if I was seed collecting, would see me returning at the end of the day for the seed to be placed in virtually a Kipper box tray, filled with sand, with the seed being stratified for germination in large fruit like cages. I am sure that if John or Robert Hillier read this anecdote, they will recall being home from school pricking out such resultant seedlings. Such pricking out is illustrated right.

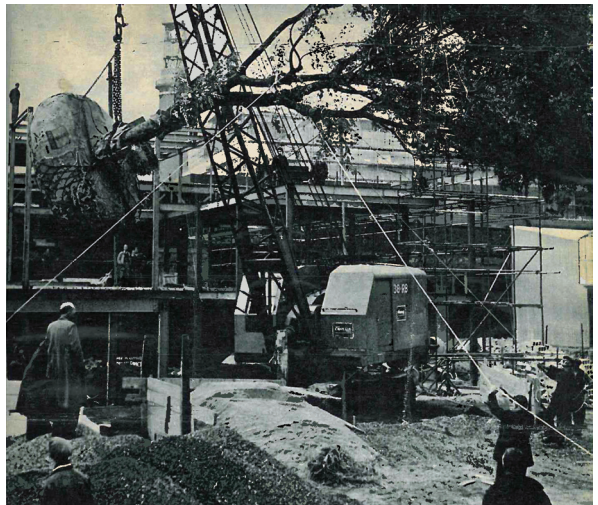
The West Hill Nursery was something more than just a propagation unit. The grounds which ran from Battery Hill down to Green Hill Road supported a great range of trees and shrubs. Whilst working on one of the planter beds I was approached by two smartly suited men and asked about a particular tree. The tree in question was *Zelkova serrata* and the question was 'could it be moved?' Having told them 'yes' and 'why', I proceeded on with my work. A little later in the day I was summoned into the site office and asked by HG himself why I had the temerity to say that the tree in question could be moved. To this day I have held the feeling that HG was actually attached to that tree and did not wish to sell it. In the event, the two well dressed gentlemen turned out to be Architects from the Festival of Britain.



Tending boxes of tree seedlings

The image right shows one of 58 trees that were supplied by Hillier to the Festival of Britain. Amongst those was *Zelkova serrata*.

During the latter part of my time at Hilliers, I was given the opportunity of participating in the preparation of tree and shrub material for the purpose of display at exhibitions. One event that remains very clear in my mind to this day is the Autumn Show at Vincent Square for the RHS. Hilliers



record at the RHS, and in particular Chelsea, is known around the world. The team leader of the show in question was a gentleman called Frank Shrubs. We became good friends, whom I used to call (yes, you've guessed it) 'Shrubby'. During the opening of this particular show, I was approached by a BBC Light Programme producer. The outcome of this was that I wrote a script that reflected a day in the life of a young nurseryman. In retrospect, I was about to put into practise, in every sense, six years of learning.

*And life was gay, and the world was new,  
And I was a mile across at Kew!  
But the Roman came with a heavy hand,  
And bridged and roaded and ruled the land,  
And the Roman left and the Danes blew in-  
And that's where your history books begin!*

## POEMS

by Jim Emerton

### **The Snowdrop**

Glistening snowdrop, I watched you grow, eyes probing the depths below.  
Winter beauty in petal form, spirit reaching out to the icy storm.  
When others shiver, in retreat from cold, a work of art you are so bold.  
In ancient cycle that does take place beneath the feet of human race.  
Each perfect bloom white heart of nature's bounty.

### **The Old Oak Tree**

Old oak tree, speak to me, reveal your untold secrets, when wolves howled, bears roamed, sunsets died, storms brewed, and men killed deer beneath ancient boughs.  
You are the voice of nature, uniting me with the past, the sun, the earth, the icy blast.  
When machines were mice, and men were lions.  
Your branches, quake with weight of ancient times.

## MUSICAL YOUTH

by Jim Emerton

There was an explosion of musical and cultural possibilities at Kew for a young impressionable mind. As a naïve country boy and sponge I soaked it up to the core. We were in London, the musical nexus of the universe – time to get lively. I was lucky the day that I befriended Alan Wilton, the social sec and musical circle man. He had worked at Truro, was a mod in inclination and liked the taste of the high life. Great news for me, whose previous musical taste was the best of Petula Clark on vinyl, in the inner sanctum of my little room at Askham Bryan College. Living like a monk, I loved her, she was my fantasy girl. We ventured far to the Royal Festival and Albert Halls, Fairfield Hall Croydon, Uxbridge University and other esteemed hot spots. Our tuned in ears luxuriated to the sounds of Deep Purple, Emerson Lake and Palmer, Soft Machine and other giants. That was the day, when Robin Bletsoe and I saw The Who at Hammersmith Palais for a massive £2. Robin managed it complete with broken leg. Pete Townshend must have made his leg vibrate with his raucous guitar licks. And yes

and oh so cool I was a member of the original marquee club in Wardour Street. Truly, we had some real hippy credibility in our intoxication of youthful enthusiasm. Although averse to crowds I enjoyed the Hollywood music festival in May 1970 with The Grateful Dead, Ginger Bakers Airforce, Traffic, Black Sabbath etc. This was eclipsed in August by the iconic Isle of Wight Festival, some 700,000 strong who witnessed guitar genius Hendrix in his twilight performance along with The Doors, The Who and Chicago. It was seminal since I got sunstroke whereupon Bletsoe thought my mind was blown. The dye was cast and I admit to some of the good life over 52 countries and islands, since those early years of cultural induction. The Kew experience shaped some of my life and at 63 I still speak in botanical Latin – all the time, honest – and recall the wild and wonderful times from the eyes of aging reflection.

## CHARACTERS AT KEW 1955-1964

by Mike Griffin

As part of the Guild 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations to celebrate the last intake of the old two-year certificate course and the event being organised by Graham Burgess at the Jodrell on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013, I have offered to speak about and put together photographs of those mentioned in an article that I wrote for this Journal in 2001, whilst I was Vice-President (Vol. 14. No. 106).

Not unexpectedly, it has been easier to uncover those of Assistant Curators and above using sources like this Journal and staff in the Herbarium, Library, Art and Archives Directorate (the latter being immensely co-operative) but the thrust of my article was to recognise the ‘ordinary’ garden staff, who so often go un-recorded. I have been unable to find any trace of some of those mentioned in the article and it occurs to me those reading this may be able to help me out, together with any photographs they may have taken at the time.

I shall be more than happy to copy and immediately return any that are sent to me to support this interesting project. Copies will be given for the Kew Archives but shown at this event only.

Fred Larkbey	Foreman, Dec. Pits, Office Yard (incl. No.4)
Charlie Stringer	Gardener, Flower Garden 1, Office Yard
Erny Skyrme	Foreman, Flower Garden 1, Office Yard
Frank Jackman	Gardener, Dec. Pits, Office Yard
George Nicholson	Foreman, T Range
Ted Pooley	Directors Gardener, (based in the Directors Garden)
Ron Rule	Asst. to Foreman, T Range
Jim Claiden	Birdman and Bell-ringer, (based [I think] in the Shaft Yard)
Arthur Goatley	Lorry Driver, (based in the Stable Yard)
Miss Kelly	Gardener, Cactus Pit (part of the Tropical Pits.) Office Yard
Harry Collins	Tropical Pits i/c Quarantine House. Office Yard
Charlie Preston	Foreman, Flower Garden 2, Shaft Yard
Bert Bruty	Foreman, Ferneries, (incl. No.1 and Filmy ferns) Tropical Dept.
(Jack?) Preston	Mechanic, Stable Yard
Eric Curtis	Foreman, Tropical Pits, Office Yard (subsequently Curator Edinburg B. G.)
George Gardener	Foreman, Arboretum North, Office Yard



Norman Hickman      Foreman, Tropical Pits, Office Yard (successor to Eric Curtis)  
 Bill Bridle          Foreman, Temperate House Pits, (located in the Arboretum  
 Nursery)

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS**

by Richard Ward

During 2012, up to 36 Committee members and advisors have met six times at Kew and deliberated on behalf of the Guild.

In no particular order many subjects and discussion included Secretarial work for the Guild; website development; Honorary Fellowships; Annual Dinner venues and costs; Journal costs and quotes; Kew Guild Award Scheme; Committee nominations; archives; Kew Guild Medal and Honorary Fellowships; the 50 year anniversary of the students' Diploma course and the forthcoming celebration of Kew's contribution to world horticulture; Membership generally; a 5-year strategic plan for the Guild; Kew Guild events; costs, accounts and investments; the Kew Guild room in the herbarium.

## **A RICH OPPORTUNITY FOR KEWITES**

by Graham Burgess

The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awards Travelling Fellowships to British citizens from all walks of life for overseas travel, to bring back knowledge and best practice for the benefit of others in their UK professions and communities.

Fellows receive a travel grant to cover return and internal travelling, daily living and insurance within the countries visited. [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)

## **REMATIO**

by Graham Burgess

In the 2010 Journal I returned to the topic of the Palm House positioning and true to the tradition something else has been revealed. It appears that the angle of 18 degrees for the axis of the Palm House, where it now sits, was not initiated by Decimus Burton as part of his Egyptological design inputs.

The line to the Pagoda already honoured that and the original intention was to have a palm house one side of it and a temperate house the other side. The position of the Palm House as it now is was based on Decimus imposing his 10's in the angle from the benchmark at Kew Bridge. I think Decimus was also tuning into the location of The Kew Observatory.

Smith, the curator, was obviously in on the original design location and said that the big wet area where Decimus proposed to put the house was full of risk. There were ultimately real problems there with the boilers due to this wet area. Smith lost the battle regarding positioning but won the battle regarding the use of Turner with his superior skills at metallic construction for the Palm House.

Had Smith won both battles The Palm House would be opposite the present Temperate House. Both houses have similar inherent geometries affecting proportions and symbolic measures in the buildings.

## CLEAN EARTH EYE

by Graham Burgess

One of the great pleasures and inspirations I get from perusing the Journal when I am researching and writing Obituaries is what amazing things have been put in the Journal to inspire Kewites. I remember a great fondness for Douglas Maitland when, as Kew Guild Committee Chairman, he positively supported the Kew Gardens Guyanan Expedition organised by the late Don Evemy and myself. It was not until I wrote Douglas's obituary that I found a very inspiring sentence, "He visited Ruwenzori and Mountains of the Moon and then went to Uganda and wrote a booklet called The Possibilities of Growing Coffee in Uganda".

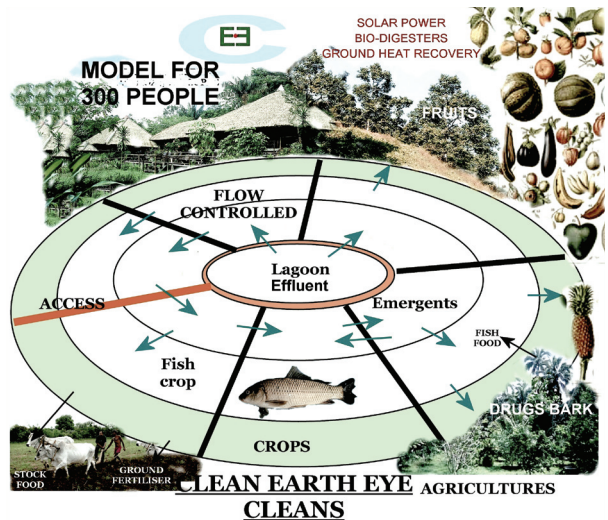
Go to British stores now and you can see some of the results following the UCDA official exports report that approx 3 million 60-kg bags were exported in the new season that runs from October to September.

That's monoculture but my reason for writing this article is to spread the word about a Garden of Eden Concept called Clean Earth Eye, where treatment of effluent is linked into Reed Beds and other productive Plant Dynamics and Fish.

The potential is enormous but the need is to bring together pieces in the jigsaw. Over a glass of wine Martin Sands said, "I suppose you know about the latest Durian cultivars?" Of course I did not, nor did I know about how carp, when different cultivars are mixed, are more productive than any on their own. Carp were used by Monks in the UK for sewage treatment a long time ago.

In the autumn issue of The Kew Scientist two articles nestle close to each other. One referring to a publication on 800 tree species in Uganda and the other referring to Dr Haris-Saslis-Lagoudakis and an amazing work carried out by various universities on 20,000 plant species with benefits in respect of herbal medicine.

One of the pieces of the jigsaw that we are looking at is a new study on the activity of bacteria and protozoa on the rhizospheres of emergent



plants.

Look at the image of Clean Earth Eye (above) and if you think you can join in let me know.

## THE BRITISH ROCK

by Graham Burgess

In last year's journal we spoke of a few things that might happen in respect of the journey of The British Rock – well, they happened. After leaving Singleton Botanic Gardens the rock moved to Castell Koch, the fairytale castle designed by William Burges. The first full day there added up to 37, the temperature of all human beings and the same happened when it went to Alrewas the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. As it moved and was placed it exposed amazing geometries linking Stonehenge with Figsbury Rings and the exact spot at Alrewas where the rock was placed.

Then it moved south to Salisbury and The Queen Elizabeth Gardens, appropriate for the Jubilee and placed co-incidentally 444 metres from a special building and very close to Salisbury Cathedral where William Burges worked.

Then to the hometown of Graham Burgess, Whitchurch, where it was touched by many people including the past Admiral of the Fleet, Sir James Eberle, who said 'This is such a good idea when you think of all the turmoil taking place in the world.' The rock, at a cost of £444.44, moved to Waltham Abbey there to be a feature at King Harold's Day – another day, adding up to 37. It was overlooked by the beautiful work carried out at Waltham Abbey by William Burges.

More hidden threads were exposed. We had used Google Earth to try to find a convenient place on the Greenwich Meridian and when I arrived on the day before King Harold's Day I discovered that Google have it positioned incorrectly almost 333 feet to the east of where it actually is. The lorry driver and Bob Ivison's contact Martin Page placed the rock close to a pathway and on the meridian as marked. Unknown to them a line drawn from the centre of the International Peace Garden, on the then 49<sup>th</sup> parallel that Henry Moore honoured, meets the Greenwich Meridian at an angle of 44 degrees exactly where they placed the rock.

When the ice melts in the Canadian rivers, the rock will cross the Atlantic.

A lot more is being exposed but the key is celebrating a major element of Nature and the Earth, Rock and Human Friendship. See the story or be part of it at [www.circleoffriendship.co.uk](http://www.circleoffriendship.co.uk) and [www.peacegardensecrets.com](http://www.peacegardensecrets.com)

## A MEDITATION ON A BALMY, PALMY LONDON

by Dennis C. McGlade

I am a landscape architect living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who enjoys observing the manifestations of the natural world in the urban environment. In early spring of 2012, I noticed a *Tradescantia pallida* 'Purpurea' (Purple Heart) plant had survived

the winter in a pot left outdoors on a Philadelphia sidewalk. I always thought of the Purple Heart as a tropical, herbaceous foliage plant planted in beds or containers for summer foliage colour in frosty climes like Philadelphia. That this plant had survived in an above ground pot over the winter I found very surprising. This same plant also appears (as of the date of this writing – January 2013) to be surviving the winter of 2012/13. I have been living in Philadelphia for over 30 years, and in that time I have seen *Magnolia grandiflora*, *Lagerstroemia* vars., and *Camellia* vars. spread across the landscape of the city. When I first came to live here, these three genera were rarely found growing out of doors, and when planted outside, they were cosseted in protected microclimates, sheltered by walls in urban gardens. Now they survive and grow quite well without such special care. They are readily available in the nursery trade and consequently are becoming widely planted in the city and suburbs.



I have also witnessed evidence of a warming northern hemisphere in another city across the Atlantic Ocean from Philadelphia. In June of 2007, when I was in London for the annual spring meeting of the Kew Guild, I was walking along the Paddington Arm of the Grand Union Canal, when much to my surprise, I stumbled upon a seedling Mexican Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), see photo right.



It was growing out of a weedy planting at the base of a low retaining wall by a waterside path. I went back in the spring of 2012 when I was in London again for this very same event, and was astonished to find this palm. After five years, the palm had a trunk over one meter in height, happily growing in this protected site about a meter and a half below street level, at the base of a masonry wall and close to the water level of the canal (see left).



The Mexican Fan Palm is found in arroyos and canyons with natural springs in Baja and Sonora Mexico. It is native to a warm and mostly frost-free desert environment with a year round supply of ground water for its roots. It is widely planted in warmer regions around the globe, and grows quickly in other warm desert areas when irrigated. It also adapts very well to Mediterranean and wet tropical climates. And perhaps now, it also is adaptable to London's climate.

The Mexican Fan palm is the city of Los Angeles' signature skyline tree. Its portrait is captured for posterity on hundreds of different post cards of the city. David Hockney also included them in a few of his paintings of Hollywood backyards and swimming pools, paintings that were created while he was living in Southern California in the 1960's and 70's. To find one growing outdoors in London somehow seems strange. Los Angeles has, for the most part, a very sunny, warm, Mediterranean climate with low humidity and mostly frost-free and wet winters – a dramatic shift from London's longer, much colder winters with very short days and weak sunlight.

Might the iconic palm so commonly associated with Southern California modernism now be available to lend their long and lanky beauty to the grand streets, ancient gardens, and historic architecture of London? How different is Chiswick House or Hampton Court from the low, lean, 'Frank Sinatra swank' mid-century modern houses epitomized by the Kaufmann Desert House in Palm Springs, California. The tall lines of the palm trunks provide a vertical foil to the simple, low slung, horizontal lines of the *moderne* architecture that is so unlike the ornate and visually complicated older period buildings of London.

Chinese Windmill Palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei*), have long survived London winters growing in the ground. Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) and Mediterranean Fan Palms (*Chamaerops humilis*) have appeared in pots and dooryard gardens all over London for quite awhile. *Butia capitata* (Pindo Palm or Jelly Palm) is another cold hardy species one spots occasionally in London. These are all more cold hardy palms than the Mexican Fan Palm. All these palms, including the Mexican Fan Palm, are common in warmer parts of Europe hugging the Mediterranean Sea as well as in Tresco Abbey Gardens on the Island of Tresco in the Isles of Scilly. These islands in the Atlantic Ocean off the southwest coast of Britain bask in the warm waters of the Gulf Stream.

The only palm native to the state of California is *Washingtonia filifera*, California Fan Palm, found in the mountain canyons and near fresh water seeps in the desert around the Palm Springs area. Although they are reported to be more cold-hardy than their Mexican relatives, they can suffer from periods of excessive rainfall, so they might not be as successful out of doors in London. They are





larger in scale than the Mexican Fan Palm, especially if their skirts of old dead leaves are not removed, and provide a powerful presence on the streets of Palm Springs (above). I have not seen the two hardiest palms native to southeast U.S.A., *Rhapidophyllum hystrix* (an excruciatingly slow growing, low, clump-forming type) and *Sabal minor* growing in London. It may just be a matter of time before they appear, or I may not have stumbled across them yet.

Commerce, it seems, has also noticed the change in the weather. London now has a Palm Centre, a nursery off Ham Street, in Ham, Surrey, selling a variety of hardy palms. Is the climate truly getting warmer or are there just more palm species that are proving to be more cold-hardy than previously thought?

The palm has long been a symbol of the tropics, at least for those of us coming from cultures located in climates with cold, gloomy, and snowy winters such as my birthplace, Chicago, Illinois. By extension, the palm also has come to symbolize places of sybaritic pleasure if not paradise. Think of the Hollywood swimming pool. It is amusing to imagine palm trees becoming 'normal' in a city that not so long ago, was famous for dank and cold, foggy streetscapes that abetted the sociopathic acts of the nefarious criminals that only Sherlock and Dr. Watson could eventually bring to justice. A lot of snow fell in a Dickensian Christmas, making poor Tiny Tim's pitiable infirmities even worse to bear. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the painter Paul Gauguin did not retreat to London but rather to Tahiti. But that was then; this is now.

The fogs mostly disappeared from London with the improvement to the air quality initiated by the Clean Air Act of 1956. As for the sybaritic part, I am sure London can provide as many, if not more, pleasures than any place else in the world, especially now with all that 'new' money pouring in from all over the globe. The summer of 2003 was the first time recorded temperatures in London hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit (~39 degrees Celsius). Welcome to Paradise!

## **GREETINGS FROM THE HIMALAYAS!**

by Udai Pradhan

Dear friends old and new,

Two generations at Kew is a considerable responsibility that my daughter, Hemlata and I try to shoulder in this part of our Planet. In the plant world, where conservation and sustainable use has come as a mandate, every little action in this direction, wherever in the world it may happen, contributes to the efforts made by Kew and its sister organisations and serves as the ultimate repository of plant knowledge for mankind. Indirectly or even directly, education at Kew opens you to a voluntary contribution in this important direction.

For the last two decades or so, I have been meditating and sharing my innermost thoughts and feelings with my *Chilaune* tree (*Schima wallichii*), below. Looking out every morning, I see it standing there in front of our bedroom window swaying in the breeze, hosting our blackbirds, tolerating the scampering squirrels that eat its fruits, and privy to all our secret thoughts, inspiration and follies. This magnificent Himalayan tree was quickly disappearing at our nursery in Relli, Kalimpong, which has for a long time been called *Chilaune Dara* (or a Hillock of *Chilaune* Tree). When we took over this

place in Orwell's Year, the trees had almost disappeared with only a few very old ones left along with the warm growing *Castanopsis* species.

We decided one of our goals would be to regenerate these trees and those associated with them in all our marginal lands. It also plays host to many Orchid species specially the Dendrobiums, Luisias, Cleisostoma and others. The rough fissured bark must be home to numerous other micro flora and fauna. Conservation of key species, we have come to notice, does help bring back other dwindling flora and fauna and today the *Chilauney* trees and others, at Relli have become an example for the village to follow. With its recovery many bird species, Orchids and other flora have become visible. Last year we experienced visits by seven peacocks and peahens and amongst the regular visitors are the Himalayan Barbet, White Crested Laughing Thrush, the Indian Barred Owlet, the Great Hornbill and many more. Since we took over the place, the *Chilauney* trees and the *Castanopsis* species have made a healthy comeback and we hope they will continue to perpetuate and carry on. This tree has many uses, apart from beautiful white *Camellia*-like flowers in profusion during early summer, as school-going children, we revelled in making small spinning tops from mature seed pods!



From 17<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> May 2011 a solo exhibition of Hemlata's watercolour paintings of unique and exquisite plants of the Himalayas was organised by Serindia Gallery in Bangkok, Thailand. Four of us – Tej, myself, my younger brother, Dr. Suraj C. Pradhan (Retired Director of Health Services, Government of Sikkim) and his wife Bindhya – decided to go and help Hemlata and be there during the opening of the exhibition.

[www.serindiagallery.com/artists-and-collections/hemlata-pradhan/hemlata-pradhans-album](http://www.serindiagallery.com/artists-and-collections/hemlata-pradhan/hemlata-pradhans-album)

We arrived Bangkok on 11.03.2011 where we had been booked into the Swan Hotel, a walking distance to Serindia Gallery and the French Embassy. The exhibition was organised by Shane Suvikapakornkul and his colleagues in their newly opened centre at O.P. Gardens. The Opening of Hemlata's exhibition was on 17<sup>th</sup> March. It was well attended and The Bangkok Post had done a nice ¼ page coverage with pictures on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Serindia Gallery also houses a library of fascinating books they publish and I

had the pleasure of obtaining a copy of the book, *Himalayan Enchantment* by Frank Kingdon Ward.

While in Thailand I also wanted to visit the OSSSU (Orchid Seed Storage and Sustainable Use Programme) Project undertaken by Dr. Kanchit Thamasiri and his team at the Biotechnology Laboratory of The Department of Plant Sciences of Mahidol University and the suggestion had come from Phil Seaton who also provided me with the contact. Dr Thamasiri agreed to meet us to show us around and discuss the project. Our intention was to see if it could be followed up in India as well under the Darwin Initiative. Kanchit is a wonderful person and very kindly took us first to see his orchid greenhouses where he was raising seedlings of many Thai and other exotic species and some interesting primary hybrids all very well attended to by his Orchid gardener. Then he took us to the laboratory where we also met his Ph.D. students, View (Cryopreservation), Korn (Tissue Culture) and Pok (Tissue Culture). We then saw the Orchid Seed Bank, which was a large ice-cream box like container with temperature of -20C and the seeds were being constantly tested after a month, a year and then after three years. Kanchit thereafter gave us a tour of the organic vegetable and herb farms from where we were taken for a sumptuous, delectable Thai meal.

Next day after the opening we flew over to Chiangmai to spend a few quiet days at the Botanic Resort and also visited the beautifully landscaped Queen Sirikit Botanic Gardens which was just opposite to the Resort. I bought a few books and mini-flasks of orchids to bring back home. Back in Bangkok, we made rounds of flower markets and Shane and our friend Sompog guided us. We all felt that Thailand certainly is a wonderful destination for plant and food loving tourists and Hemlata's exhibition made the trip extra special for us.

After concluding her exhibition in Bangkok, Hemlata returned to Kalimpong and with the funds generated through the sale of her works and prints and with monetary support from good friends and other Trustees of the Himalayan Trust for Natural History Art (HTNHA), furnished one of the school buildings to begin art workshops and art classes for the local talented and underprivileged children. The initial seed money for construction of the art school was gifted to Hemlata by Lady Lisa Sainsbury.

Since 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 to date HTNHA has been conducting free art classes, workshops, field trips and exhibitions, for underprivileged children from local villages in and around Kalimpong. The children go to regular schools during the day and attend the art classes in the evenings, weekends and every major holiday. They are being trained in Natural History Illustrations, Textile Design, Ceramics, Jewellery Design etc., keeping Natural History as the core subject. The aim is to empower these children through arts and crafts in the long run while raising public awareness of our flora and fauna and contributing towards preservation of our traditional art forms and the natural world. The upcoming Institute presently has 14 regular students between the age of seven years to 14 years supported by the Trust and more wanting to join. The children love the art classes which have become a success amongst the students and has brought in much appreciation from the local community and also from people all over India and other nations in the world. The Trust was recently granted the status of a Charitable Trust by the Government.

The children are taught how to be innovative and versatile with their drawings and are also encouraged to try different styles, techniques and mediums. Educational field trips form a vital part of the school curriculum. Besides art classes, different schools are

encouraged to visit the Institute so that the children can interact and learn from each other, bringing a sense of unity, sharing, communication, exchange of knowledge, ideas and friendship amongst them. Such exchanges are a wonderful source of inspiration, learning and encouragement for all. Over time they are slowly but steadily not only learning about art, nature and natural history but are also learning how to come out of their shells, gaining confidence and self-belief. Their relationships at home have changed for the better too as they have become more responsible with their duties and education and the parents are beginning to see the value of what the children are learning.

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Tim Fulcher of Jodrell Laboratory, Kew, and his friend, Magda, arrived from Darjeeling. They wanted to meet Hemlata and see her botanical paintings. After viewing the paintings we went to visit the upcoming Institute. It was already getting dark. We were greeted by Hemlata and the children she had been tutoring. As we were doing the rounds on the ground floor of the painting department, the building suddenly began to sway and we felt a huge shock wave never before experienced. It was about 100 km. from Kalimpong, and the tremors were felt all over north India from east to west and Nepal was also badly affected. North Sikkim was devastated. We were fortunate not to have any major misfortune.

In December 2011, eight of us (four children and four adults) travelled to Allahabad City in Uttar Pradesh to participate in the National Orchid Conference and Show organized by the Orchid Society of India, the National Academy of Sciences of India and IUCN-India. We sponsored two children of HTNHA, Roshika Sharma (then 13 years old), and Celestina Lepcha (then 12 years old) and our adopted grandchild, Liz Lepcha (11 years) for the trip as a prize for performing well in studies as well as in their art work. During the show, the children got the opportunity to meet many people from the field of Orchids and Natural History. One such person was Dr. Paramjit Singh, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Calcutta. He kindly invited us along with the children to view the original paintings of old masters and visit the Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Botanical Gardens (Indian Botanic Garden) at Shibpur near Calcutta. In Allahabad, they had the opportunity to visit India's First Prime Minister, Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru's residence, Anand Bhavan, and go through the Museum there, still in impeccable condition. We also took the children for a boating trip to the River Ganges where they saw the Allahabad Fort built by Emperor Akbar and the numerous seagulls that came to winter every year. Post-Conference I took everyone for a treat of ice cream and curd at the Aggies Corner in Allahabad Agricultural Institute, where I graduated from, which has now become the Sam Higginbottom University of Agricultural Sciences (named after its founder). This is the oldest Agricultural University in the India. Thereafter, we visited Bodhgaya and Sarnath, both places of historical interest and pilgrimage for followers of the Buddhist religion and Benares University. Benares is famous for its 'pan' or betel leaf preparation and we made the children taste them. Everyone, including Hemlata's husband Chris, found it delectable!

We visited the Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Botanic Garden (Indian Botanic Garden) on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2011 with the four children on the kind invitation of Dr Paramjit Singh, the Director whom we had met during the National Orchid Conference at Allahabad. Dr. Singh had made all the arrangements for visiting the different parts of the Garden and the Central National Herbarium. As we entered the Garden, we were greeted by a large pond that had several plants of the Giant Water lily, *Victoria amazonica* in bloom. The children were thrilled as they had only seen this magnificent plant in pictures. Dr P.V. Sreekumar, an old friend, and Mr. Sabhapati working for his



doctoral thesis on orchids, met us on the way and took us to the Curator's Office. From there Dr. Sreekumar, Ms. Pushpa Kumari and a Nepali gardener, Sharma, conducted us around. Dr Sreekumar, whom Tej and I had befriended at the Dehra Dun during the Indian Region Orchid Specialist Group Meet, took us first to see the Medicinal Herb Garden where the children made notes of different plants of medicinal value. Thereafter, we were taken to see the Great Banyan Tree and the Palm House where we also saw the shell of the Giant Nicobarese Clam, over 18 inches at the broadest part. Here was also located the female plant of the Double Coconut Palm, *Lodoicea maldivica* with the largest fruit in the Plant Kingdom and taking 12 years to germinate and grow! We saw the new Orchid Conservatory which had three climate controlled chambers for growing Orchids from different parts of India. We were then taken back to the Curator's Office where we took turns to be photographed with the seed of the Double Coconut Palm. Chris was as thrilled as the children.

As we made our way to the Central National Herbarium, all the while admiring the plants on the way, I suddenly sighted a small tree with large, pendent, scarlet red inflorescence. Yes, the Pride of Burma, *Amherstia nobilis* was blooming in all its splendour! There is a captivating story of how this magnificent plant was flowered by Sir Trevor Lawrence's mother, Louisa Lawrence, an ardent gardener of great fame in the second half of the Nineteenth Century. The English horticulturists were vying with each other during that time to flower this magnificent species from Burma. Mrs. Lawrence took up the challenge and became



Tej admires the flowers of Pride of Burma - *Amherstia nobilis*

the first person to flower it in Britain. She sent a spike to the Queen and the second one for engraving. The third one she sent to her arch rival, Joseph Paxton, the Duke of Devonshire's well known gardener, to their utter delight (and likely dismay!).

We were guided to the Central National Herbarium (CNH) which had undergone a complete change and we first met Dr Venu, in charge of the CNH who was delighted to meet Hemlata.

He asked Dr Sreekumar to take us to see Dr Laxminarasimham (past Indian Liaisons Officer at Kew) to show us the Old Orchid Paintings. Hemlata, Chris and the children were absolutely amazed by the magnificent collection. Hemlata also made contacts with the artists who wanted to learn botanical illustration from her.



At the Botanic Garden, the children had listed the names of around 70 species and sketched some interesting ones like *Theobroma cacao* (in fruit and flower), *Amherstia nobilis*, and others.

In the following days, we took the children to see the India Museum, Victoria Memorial and the Strand. The children made notes at the Museum and thoroughly enjoyed going around and learning and seeing things they had only read about in their school books.



Roshika, Celestina and Liz before the statue of Queen Victoria at the Victoria Memorial.

In February 2012, Hemlata and another ardent Conservationist, Dr. Sandeep Tambe of Sikkim were selected to receive the T.N. Khoshoo Memorial Award for excellent work in the field of conservation and development and in building awareness and support among the public. The Award, instituted by the well-known organisation ATREE (Ashoka Trust for Research in Environment and Ecology), was presented at the auditorium of the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2012. First Lady Nobel Laureate in Economics, Late Dr. Elinor Ostrom presented the Award at a very well organised function attended by some of the finest people in the world of Conservation and Sustainable Development.

Two awards preceded the above for Hemlata – one by the Bharatiya Gorkha Parisangh – (The Indian Gorkha Organisation) presented the ‘Pride of the Gorkhas Award’

and Mrs. D. K. Bhandari, Member of the Indian Parliament from Sikkim and the person responsible for recognition of Nepali/Gorkhali language in the Constitution of India, presented the Award. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012, the Kalimpong Orchid Charitable Society, an organization that works for the development of village children presented her with a Letter of Appreciation for her efforts in educating and training the local village children.

We had a rare honour of being introduced to an octogenarian Nepali writer, Dr. Indra Bahadur Rai in an engagement ceremony. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that he loved orchids and also grew some at his residence in Darjeeling. We decided to honour

him with one of our delicate primary *Phalaenopsis* Hybrid using two local species, *Phalaenopsis manni* and *P. taenialis* and had it registered with the Orchid Registrar as *Phalaenopsis Indra Bahadur Rai*. The translation of his work in the English language, *Gorkhas Imagined*, is an anthology of some of his best works.

For many years, Hemlata had wanted to visit the habitat of the fascinating Lady's Slipper Orchid, *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum*, and make sketches of how the plant grew with its associates in its home. After months of searching by our able boys, we finally got a report of a sighting and decided to follow it up.

This would be Hemlata's first trip to see *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* in habitat and there was a lot of excitement. The trek wasn't an easy one but we finally got there, the last bit being a steep abnormal climb that I thought she would give up on. "Our Himalayan Margaret Mee in the making, just a little bit more" I kept repeating from time to time as we trudged along. After countless minutes of the uphill climb that never seemed to end, lo we were there looking straight at this magnificent species in bloom (photo below). This charming species in 1905 had prompted Frederick Sander – the Orchid King – to offer a reward of one thousand pounds for its rediscovery, which gave it the



Hemlata and Udai on the trek



nickname of the Thousand Pound Orchid. Hemlata was overjoyed, took off her jacket and made herself as comfortable as she could and began to make sketches.

She observed in her notes: "While the boys got busy taking out their cameras and taking pictures, I began to contemplate on how best to keep my balance intact while I made my drawings and sketches of the colony. The space where I was standing was no bigger than two feet and just about

enough for me to half-squat and sketch. To my relief, a plant of dwarf *Pandanus* (locally called ‘tarika’) saved my day as it lent me firm support on the dangerous ledge. As I began drawing, I quickly got over my tiredness, fear, hunger and thirst. I was in my meditation mode. The plants I realised were far superior to the ones I had seen in cultivation. The dorsal petals were rounder and larger with stems as long as 15 inches (or more?)! What was also surprising was that they were growing in drier conditions where soil was replaced by dry white gritty rubbles which felt very fragile and crumbly. The root system of the plants, though, were amazingly strong and formed strong grips on the rubbles. Maybe the tiny stream we had seen earlier was the only water source for them. Long tropical grasses and a few other plants grew alongside the *Paphiopedilums*. Besides the tiny flies that took the chance to feed on me every now and then and a few ants walking across, I couldn’t see any other insects around. Somewhere over my shoulder, I could hear the rest of the team discussing the condition of the plants that Alister (my brother-in-law) had spotted. They were in bigger colony but many had been trampled upon (maybe grazing animals?). Dad later told me that the ledge ended there and below it there had just been a big landslide that ended at the bottom of the other hill.”

Finally, just as the sun came down, we slowly descended thanking the spirit that guided and protected us and made it a very fulfilling day. *Paphiopedilum fairrieianum* is in no danger of extinction but is perpetuating remarkably well in its habitat, with most likely thousands of plants in the area surveyed. What could have been a better way to end a year that will remain etched in our memories for a long time to come?

As we embrace the New Year, you all find peace and happiness and may it bring us all closer in the quest for a world where conservation of species and their sustainable use go hand in hand. Our warmest regards and best wishes on all your undertakings.

## THE GEORGE BROWN MEMORIAL AWARD

by Allan Hart

Norman Robson first studied botany at Aberdeen University, (obtaining a BSc. Hons. in 1951), where he began research into *Hypericum* which was to become a lifelong interest. A further period at Edinburgh University doing research and lecturing on Ecology and Cytology gained him a PhD. in 1956.

A move to RBG Kew saw Norman working (from 1956-1962) on *Flora Zambesiaca*, lecturing to the students on physiology and spending six months collecting in the then ‘Northern Rhodesia’ and Nyasaland, including the site of the proposed Kariba Lake and Dam. Norman then transferred to the Natural History Museum where he continued his research as Curator of the General Herbarium, combined with positions as Botanical Editor of the



Norman Robson



Linnaean Society and joint Editor of the European Garden Flora and *Watsonia*.

Norman was contacted by Roy Lancaster (Hon. Fellow of the Kew Guild) to identify *Hypericum* for the Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs, published in 1971. This led to his work on a comprehensive Monograph of the species.

Following his official retirement in 1988 Norman has continued as a Scientific Associate of the Natural History Museum. The final – 9<sup>th</sup> part – of the Monograph ‘Studies in the Genus *Hypericum*’ was published in 2012.

Norman Robson is a modest and retiring person who is widely respected and loved by his friends and colleagues for his interest and freely given help and advice with their studies. Norman has been a member of the Kew Guild since 1956 and has been a wonderful ambassador for it during this time. It is a great credit to the Guild that it has given the George Brown Memorial Award to one of its outstanding members.

## NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2012

Compiled by F. Nigel Hepper

Horticultural taxonomist **Susyn Andrews** was awarded the prestigious Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for her ‘contribution to the identification and nomenclature of garden plants’. Susyn has worked on many projects at Kew and is co-author of *The Genus Lavandula* from Kew Publishing. She was presented with the award by the Countess of Wessex (below left) and RHS president Elizabeth Banks (below right).



[Reproduced with thanks to Christina Harrison from Kew Magazine, edition Autumn 2012]. Susyn is a long-standing member of the Kew Guild and has been a stalwart of the Awards Scheme committee for many years. The Kew Guild offers its congratulations to Susyn on her very well deserved honour.

### **Gilbert and Patricia Briscoe**

Pat writes – ‘2012 started wet and is ending, by the looks of things, on a dry and very hot note. Gilbert is involved with a number of activities with U3A (University of the 3rd age – in other words for the older generation). Rambling is an interesting and fun section. These rambles are bi-monthly early in the morning through interesting forests/woods/ conservation areas. Botany in the Bush is another very interesting section.

We go bird watching on a monthly basis, organised through Indigiscapes, which is a conservation centre run by the local council. The birds are interesting, but quite different to South African birds. Indigiscapes also work with volunteers and they organise a monthly Seed Collecting programme; Gilbert has become a volunteer for this which he thoroughly enjoys. He also walks with the Heart Foundation – a bit like Walk-for-Life – except that it’s free! He does this three mornings a week and enjoys that. His part-time job came to an end in June as the firm closed down locally. Pity as it was close by. Gilbert is a volunteer at the Dutch Village, a retirement centre which is also close by and helps with the ‘Circle of Men’ on Tuesday afternoons trying to help the men socialise and keep in touch. There are many end-of-year school functions to attend, both in Brisbane and Sydney!

In June/July we motored to Sydney and were away for about three weeks. We travelled down on the inland route and enjoyed the autumn colours and ‘winteriness’ of the countryside – even frost in places! We came back along the coast where we were lucky enough to see a school of whales migrating northwards.

Richard and Mary and their families are very settled in Sydney. They both have nice houses in nice areas. Matthew now has his driving licence which must be a help to the family. Jane, Anthony and Shannon spent about ten days in Madrid in July. We moved in to look after Robert and Theresa. Louise and her family in Johannesburg are getting on well. Gavin is now at University in Pietermaritzburg and loves it. Kerry is going into Matric and has her learners licence. Andrew is going into High School.’

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**David Coleman** writes ‘The reunion of four Ex Kewites of the 1967 course intake, comprising B A Nash, E Saxon, B Penberthy and D Coleman came about by the attendance of Penberthy and Coleman at the 2012 Olympics – both shone at Athletics whilst at Kew especially Penberthy at long Distance and Coleman at shorter distance – Penberthy winning the Round the Gardens Races and Coleman The Clog and Apron Race.

Brian and Hazel Nash very generously gave Coleman and Penberthy accommodation at their lovely home in Croydon for the duration of the Olympics and invited Eric Saxon to join us for a visit to Kew Gardens. Needless to say the visit blew our minds as we reminisced over past memories some 50 years earlier, and were awestruck by the



numerous changes made to the Gardens over this period, and marveled at the Olympic and Paralympic Symbols miraculously laid out in plant form outside the Orangery. Thank you Kew Gardens, you did us all proud yet again.

D Coleman had intimated to the Kew Guild former Editor – none other than Mr Richard Ward – that he and Penberthy would be down in London for The Olympics, and was to make sure he called him when in the Kew area. This done, Richard agreed to meet us all at The Coach and Horses, a well known and frequent watering hole for weary and worn hard working Kew Students of a past age.

Richard, with a heart made of pure gold, wanted to join us for a meal to reminisce over many happy times spent at Kew, but unfortunately he already had a booking for a meal at another Hotel in Kew to celebrate his loving daughter's birthday, and after finding time to join with us for a quiet drink and brief discussion and many laughs on past memories had to leave, but not before so generously paying in advance with the Landlord for the meal and drinks we would consume and enjoy in his absence. Richard, bless you and many thanks again from us all, what a treat to round off a memorable and loving day spent at Kew Gardens 2012. Thank you.

All lapsed members of The Kew Guild in the party have renewed their membership – mission accomplished, Richard!' (Editor's note: 'It's who you know, not what you know!')

*Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot*, a book written by **Peter Crane**, is being launched on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 at Victoria Gate, RBG Kew. Perhaps the world's most distinctive tree, ginkgo has remained stubbornly unchanged for more than 200 million years. A living link to the age of dinosaurs, ginkgo is beloved for the elegance of its leaves, prized for its edible nuts, and revered for its longevity. This book tells the engaging story of a tree that people saved from extinction – a story that offers hope for other botanical biographies that are still being written.



Left-right: Richard Ward, Eric Saxton, Ben Pemberthy, Brian and Hazel Nash, and David Coleman

Inspired by the historical ginkgo that has thrived in Kew Gardens since the 1760s, Peter Crane explored the history of ginkgo from its mysterious origin through its proliferation, drastic decline, and ultimate resurgence in association with people. He highlights the cultural and social significance of ginkgo: its medicinal uses, its power as a source of artistic and religious inspiration, and its importance as one of the world's most popular street trees.

### Mike J. Griffin

'Kitty and I have holidayed in Fuerteventura for a number of years now, liking the stark and largely barren alluvial landscape... and the wonderful sun and light yellow sand, much of which comes across from the Sahara and blows even with a light wind; surely, no one would go here for diversity of botanical interest!

A couple of years ago on the outskirts of Corralejo we noticed substantial excavations on the site of a new compound for the Guardia Civil (police) and the following year a



substantial hillock had sprouted with an enormous children's playground on one side covering several acres and on the other, several football pitches. In the centre a 'Parque Botanico' had been created in what must be the most arid site available. One wonders how and why the 'powers that be' could even consider such an inhospitable location, (perhaps to elicit EU funding?).

Not unsurprisingly the whole site is now a wonderful local BMX cycle track and the majority of plants (few of which are labelled) are suffering, particularly the large palms that were placed at the top, some of which obviously did not survive the winter winds, (see photos left). Mainland Spain and the Canary Isles have some wonderful gardens but this is one you might well want to give a miss!



**Allan Hart** (1958) reports that 2012 was a good indicator of global warming with *Galanthus 'Lyn'* in flower in his garden at the

end of 2011 closely followed by *Cyclamen coum* and *Helleborus orientalis* in early January.

Design work is progressing on several private gardens with a very interesting consultation on the 2013 Chelsea Flower Show Australian Garden, which is being designed by Philip Johnson, a young landscape architect. Philip's own innovative garden incorporating water conservation and site specific ecological planting was viewed by participants in the Australian tour in 2008, when they visited his home in Olinda, near Melbourne.

In April, Allan with his wife Joan visited the Floriade in Venlo, Netherlands, which is held every decade in a different location. The majority of the infrastructure, exhibition halls and landscape will form the basis of a new settlement. Based in Amsterdam they arrived on Queen Beatrix's birthday when all the streets and canals were thronged with orange clad, hard drinking, partying holiday makers – great fun! A following visit to the Keukenhof Gardens saw superbly designed and maintained floral displays – much better than those at the Floriade.

Garden visits included the Australian Landscape created by RBG in the forecourt of the British Museum, Uppark, a National Trust property, to view the restoration works, and the Bishop's Garden in Chichester, which had some very interesting planting combinations.

In August Allan and Joan celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary by retracing their steps, by train, to Austria where they had spent their honeymoon. Vienna offered the superbly curated Gustave Klimf retrospective at the Belvedere Palace, Salzburg the formal gardens of Schloss Mirabel, open to the public until midnight(!) and the lakes and mountains of St. Wolfgang with outstanding views – all enjoyed in superb weather.

Guild activities have included Awards Scheme meetings, surveys for the location of a potential commemoration plaque in the Gardens and accompanying Jim Mitchell, current President of the Guild, to a meeting with the new Director, Richard Deverell, who outlined the problems of funding and future developments in the Gardens.

### **Stewart Henchie**

'During a holiday in March 2012 with our friends from Penang, Malaysia, we happened to attend a special open public meeting on the future plans for Penang Botanic Garden. After the meeting, which Pat and I attended as tourists, I was approached and, to cut a long story short, was asked if I would submit a CV when I returned to the UK. This I duly did, and in early June till November was in constant touch with the State of Penang authorities and finally arranged a one year contract as a working consultant for the BG. Penang BG has a long history and many ex-Kew staff have been involved in its management (Kew Guild Journal 1946 & 1947 combined Vol.VI No. LIII – see p. 575).

My job is to get the place back on course as a Botanic Garden and to train the existing staff, many who have only been working in the gardens for a short time. There is a small core of staff who have worked here for over twenty-five years and they do their best to pass on their knowledge, but it's a challenge. The actual site of the gardens is surrounded by untouched Dipterocarp forest, which is now part of the gardens and the whole site is just over 600 acres in total. My main job is to bring back some semblance of botanical horticulture, manage the place in a more efficient way and get some labels



on some plants amongst many other things! The job is challenging, but is made great by the positive attitude of many of the staff when somebody takes an interest in what they do daily. Also the site and plants are terrific and of course Penang itself has amazing food, scenery and beaches! Plus a great mixture of cultures all of which makes working here, in spite of the heat, so pleasurable.

As you may already be aware, **Dr. Nigel Taylor** is Director of Singapore BG, (and Daniela Zappi is Senior Researcher, Gardens by the Bay, Singapore) and we took the opportunity to celebrate Christmas together with their two children here in Penang and naturally did some sightseeing as well.'



Nigel Taylor and Daniela Zappi in 2012

**Sandra Leche** (1971) reports that she is still working on Isla Illeifa, Lago Ranco for seven months of the year, and then at Quinta Los Ganezos in Renaca, north-west of Santiago, Chile, for the remainder of the year. She was present at the opening of a new National Park of some 80 million hectares, protecting native and associated woodland areas. It is a very important centre of biodiversity and endemically will help to sustain culture and local regional economies. Educational programmes are encouraging and developing the promotion of native craftworks, forestry management and defending the local Apoyamos in the Araucania region.

**Christine Leon** writes 'Since 1980 I have worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK, as a botanist specialising initially in plant conservation, then in 1993, in response to poor quality control of traditional herbal medicines in the West, my focus shifted to their authentication, taxonomy and safe use. Collaborative work with a medical toxicology team in London's Guy's & St Thomas'



Chris collecting medicinal plants in the Min Shan mountains of Sichuan, with Chinese colleagues and local people.

Hospital involved me in a 5-year Traditional Remedies Surveillance Programme providing plant and materia medica identification support for Chinese and other medicinal species implicated in patient safety cases.

This work led me to create a Chinese Medicinal Plants Authentication and Conservation Centre (CMPACC) at Kew, begun in 1998 as a joint activity with the Institute of Medicinal Plant Development, Beijing, part of the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences. CMPACC was set up to contribute to the safe, effective and sustainable use of Chinese medicinal plants by providing a scientific reference point and advisory service for plants in international trade. The resource aims to benefit a wide audience from patients and medical practitioners to government regulatory groups such as the UK's Medical and Herbal Medicinal Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and wildlife crime teams, as well as the herbal medicine industry and researchers in natural products. My main involvement in this has been to build a vouchered reference collection at Kew of authentic and 'good quality' materia medica for all plant species in the Chinese Pharmacopoeia (c. 550 species) and their herbal substitutes and counterfeits which have increasingly begun to appear in the trade due to over-harvesting of the correct ones. Examples of the latter include various *Fritillaria* species (Liliaceae) such as *F. cirrhosa* (Chuan Bei Mu) whose bulbs are the source of one of China's most popular cough and cold remedies, and species of *Notopterygium* (Apiaceae) such as *N. incisum* (Qiang Huo) whose roots are used to treat cardiac arrhythmias. The medicinal parts of these species fetch high prices in the market so the incentive for cheap look-alikes or counterfeits is considerable; the occurrence of the latter in plant medicines can at best render the medicine ineffective or, at worse, harmful or life-threatening. In 1992, the inadvertent use of certain toxic herbs such as species of *Aristolochia* in Chinese herbal prescriptions in the UK resulted in cases of kidney failure, highlighting the need for improved quality control. Herbal supply routes in China routinely undergo inspections, but those entering international trade tend to escape quality control checks putting patients' lives at risk or presenting identification challenges for those researching natural products. The CMPACC resource aims to help address such needs and many others.

As CMPACC project manager, this work has involved me in extensive fieldwork across China with my Chinese colleagues at IMPLAD (20 provinces over 14 years) amassing some 4,500 reference herbs from wild or cultivated sources, now housed in the Sir Joseph Banks building of Economic Botany. The reference collection is actively used by myself and other Kew colleagues in the Jodrell Laboratory to research identification and quality control characters be they morphological, chemical or more recently DNA-based, to help establish quality control standards at national and international level in the interests of patient safety and improved plant-based medicines from sustainable sources.'

Christine Leon was awarded an MBE for services to the UK-China Science Relationship. The Kew Guild offers Christine congratulations on such a well-deserved award.

Advisory Editor **Richard Ward** (1963) was elected to the Guild Committee in December to fill a vacancy. Due to their proximity to Kew, Wienaw and he have hosted various Committee and other Guild members after various events at Kew during the year. (Email [wienaw@aol.com](mailto:wienaw@aol.com) if you are stuck!)



Richard continues support of Richmond in Bloom, particularly in the Kew area, and helping the Rotary Club of Kew Gardens with varied social and service oriented fund-raising events throughout the area. His sponsored head shave at the Kew Horticultural Society summer Show in August raised £2160 for charity – see ‘before’ and ‘after’ photo!



[Other Kew Guild members might write in to the Editor to tell us what they have done for charity during this year?]



Richard received a Christmas card from **Winnifred** and **Bob Hebb** (1965) saying that Winnifred had had two knee replacements last December and Bob had had kidney stones. Bob's worst attack was in Connecticut whilst he was photographing Kalmias. After his recovery they travelled extensively to New England, New York Botanical Garden, often to Longwood Gardens, and to Raleigh, North Carolina.

Winnifred sketches and belongs to a botanical illustration group. Much of their time is spent visiting their three grandchildren nearby.

**John (Log) Whitehead** (1972) and Bren explored a wide range of botanically interesting areas in 2012.

‘In early spring we saw masses of colourful azalea and forsythia flowering on the steep mountain slopes in North Korea. During May we ventured south into the elephant inhabited jungles of tropical China.

In November, near the Oasis Talha, Morocco, were dramatic examples of sand blasted and wind-pruned, horizontal crowns of *Prosopis* trees, 45 km east of Laayoune in Western Sahara. On Djebel Imzi in the Anti Atlas mountains we found a 300-year old specimen of the Ajgal or Moroccan Dragon tree. In the western Atlas, the antics of the

Moroccan tree-climbing goats, feeding on the endemic *Argania* trees are an amusing arboreal ‘must see’ for any adventurous travelling tree surgeon.

## OBITUARIES

by Graham Burgess

### ALEXANDER GEORGE DIXON

The Kew Guild received notification from Mrs G M Dixon that her husband Alexander George Dixon sadly passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2013. He had been at Kew in 1958 and was a Kew Guild member – a full Obituary will be printed in next year’s Journal.

### MARY GRIERSON

Mary Grierson, Kew’s distinguished botanical artist, died on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 aged 99 years. The youngest of three children of Scottish parents, Mary Anderson Grierson was born on September 27<sup>th</sup> 1912 at Bangor, north Wales. Her mother painted in oils, and encouraged her daughter from a young age; Mary came to prefer the medium of watercolour however, insisting that she hated the smell of oils.

At Bangor County School for Girls she enjoyed art and botany, but had no interest in going to university; instead she went to Germany where she taught English, then came home to study domestic science at Battersea Polytechnic. In the 1930s she worked briefly as a confectioner in Llandudno and managed a restaurant in Scotland.

In 1960 she applied for the post of Exhibitions Officer at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. She didn’t get the job, but was able to show her interviewers her portfolio of flower paintings, and was engaged instead as an artist in the herbarium. Once established at Kew, Mary Grierson found herself offered many outside commissions. Her first big project was from the publisher Paul Hamlyn, who invited her to illustrate a series of volumes on Orchidaceae, with P Francis Hunt (Head of the Orchid Herbarium) writing the text. In the event, only one volume – which took 10 years to produce – was published, in 1973, but she regarded her illustrations as “the most spectacular of my work”.

A large number of friends and Kew colleagues assembled in the Reading Room of the Library, Art and Archives on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012, for a memorial gathering to celebrate the life of Mary A. Grierson, VMH.

All present were welcomed by Professor Stephen Hopper, Director (CEO & Chief Scientist), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The four speakers were introduced by Christopher Mills, head of LA&A.

All guests were handed a programme leaflet with a photograph of Mary painting a tulip at her desk in the Herbarium on the cover (below), while on page three were the following personal notes recently found by her niece-by-marriage Penny Grierson among Mary’s papers:

“1997. All my work has been done in the cause of plant conservation – this is the reason behind all the hard work which has taken so much of my time throughout the years and I have tried to express this faithfully in my own way.

Apart from my serious botanical work I have never knowingly collected any rarities – and have concentrated on plants that everyone can recognise and enjoy.

One of the most rewarding was the series on ‘Hedgerows of England’ which was commissioned by Anthony Spink and became the core of my exhibition in his gallery in 1979. To my great satisfaction the whole set was bought in its entirety by a private collector.

I have always enjoyed my work – never taken my gift for granted – and hope this has shown through in my paintings. I don’t wish to sound sentimental but I think my mother would have been pleased to know what happened to her dunce of a daughter!

I have been so fortunate in being invited to so many beautiful places, meeting people and making such good friends. In a strange way I have never had to seek work – it has always come to me and it all started from that first visit to Sir Cedric Morris’ garden in 1958. So I have much to thank him for and for the encouragement of John Nash who has been my inspiration.

The Chinese have a saying – in order to draw you need three things – your eyes, your hand and your heart.”

### **Appreciation by Ray Desmond, retired Librarian at RGB Kew**

I first met Mary when I came to Kew in 1961. Over the years a friendship developed with regular visits to her flat at Charmouth Court in Richmond. She had intended this flat to be a temporary abode until she found the ideal cottage with a garden. Relentless pressure of her work, however, prevented her ever realising that dream.

For those who never saw the flat let me describe it because it reflected her personality and interests. The walls of the small but very snug sitting room were covered with pictures. Amongst her own works on display I specially admired four miniature landscapes exquisitely painted on small tablets of ivory. Her nimble fingers and infinite patience produced an embroidered panel of Richmond’s almshouses, and another one of part of the Marianne North Gallery. A small room behind the sitting room housed an instrument that enabled her to read her correspondence. You may remember that her



eyesight suffered from macular degeneration. Opposite was a little kitchen and next door a small bedroom converted into a studio.

A routine evolved during these visits. I would usually bring some chocolates and she would have a bottle of sherry and two glasses ready. Coffee and biscuits followed. Comfortably seated, we talked about exhibitions we had seen, places that we both knew, and of course, the latest Kew Gardens gossip. Kew was always her abiding love and it gave her great pleasure to be told that a special archive of her work had been set up in the Library there.

Since we both came from Wales she would often reminisce about growing up in Bangor. As we get older we remember the past in greater clarity than we do later events. On my later visits she would invariably talk about John Nash and Sir Cedric Morris. Both these men influenced her when she was in her forties and undecided about her future. John Nash who called himself an artist-plantsman made a notable garden at his home in Bottengoms in the Stour Valley. He painted landscapes and flowers and illustrated books. He also taught flower painting at Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre. He became her mentor and was one of her referees supporting her application for her post at Kew.

Through him she was introduced to Sir Cedric Morris, a painter who had established the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawings during the 1930s. Lucian Freud was briefly one of his pupils. After the last war he closed the School and created a notable garden at Benton End in Suffolk. He filled his garden with plants which he had collected while painting abroad. Nash would bring his students to his garden and Morris would generously allow them to take some flowers back to Flatford Mill for them to draw. The well-known nurserywoman, Beth Chatto, was a frequent visitor to Morris's garden.

When he was eighteen Lucian Freud painted Morris's portrait. It is now in the Freud retrospective exhibition in the National Portrait Gallery. I am sure that Mary would have been absolutely thrilled to see it.

When she became too frail to remain in her flat she moved to the Lynde House Care Home in Twickenham. Her room had space only for her ivory miniatures, her embroidery and a copy of a poster she had designed for the Iron Bridge Gorge Museum Trust. There was always a regular display of flowers near the window. She chose to take her meals in her room rather than in the communal dining hall. Much of her time was spent listening to talking books tapes. Since I lived in the vicinity I tried to visit her every week. She was always mentally alert. There were no signs of the meandering thoughts that frequently afflict the elderly. Her sense of humour never deserted her.

She once told an interviewer that she "attributed her success to a series of coincidences". Certainly luck or chance played a part in her life as it does for all of us, but she took advantage of any opportunities and seldom declined commissions. She was blessed with extraordinary stamina and, even as she worked an eight-hour day with just coffee breaks, she never compromised these high standards that she set herself in all her work.

I think she was a private person – I suspect she was rather shy – and I could see that she was comfortable in her own company. This does not mean that she did not enjoy the presence of others. On the contrary, she had many friends and admirers of her talents

and I am proud to include myself among them. She viewed her achievements with well-deserved pride. Having been successful herself perhaps prompted her to help others. For instance, she taught and encouraged many aspiring flower painters.

Let me finish with Mary's own concise comment on her life. This is what she said with typical modesty: "it's been a great life, but I haven't sought it. It has just happened."

**Professor Sir Ghilleen Prance, retired Director of Kew,** writes:

It was a great pleasure to speak at the memorial event for Mary Grierson held in the Library of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2012: Apart from her family I am probably the person here who has known Mary for the longest as I have known her since I was ten years old. That is for 65 years. When I was a boy at least once a year during holidays I use to stay with an uncle who lived in Bushey Heath. Almost every time Mary Grierson was also a visitor and I soon got to know her well. She even played cricket with me and my cousin from New Zealand, Christopher Tomlinson, on Uncle Edric's lawn. Mary was friendly and told me to call her Mary and to stop calling her Miss Grierson as we did things together. I was severely told off by Uncle Edric when I called her Mary at dinner that night!

A real highlight of our friendship must have been when I was about 14 and she arranged for me to go with her to her office at Hunting Aero Surveys in Elstree. I was fascinated by her work on the interpretation of aerial photos and left the visit convinced that we had won the war because of the work of people like Mary with aerial photos.

As I grew up I lost touch with Mary after my uncle died. I was amazed to meet her next on one of my weekly visits to the herbarium at Kew with my doctoral supervisor Frank White. While I was a post-doctoral student we made frequent visits to Kew between 1961 and 1963 and Mary Grierson had joined the staff of Kew as a botanical artist in 1960 after she had applied for a job to organise exhibitions. For many years I occasionally saw Mary on visits back to Kew while I worked abroad for The New York Botanical Garden, but even more frequently I came across her beautiful art work in books, papers and exhibitions. It was after I became the Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew that Mary told me that one evening after I had gone to bed my uncle had said "I can't think what will become of Iain, all he is interested in is plants." The view of a former civil servant in the Treasury!

After I retired from Kew I held the McBryde Chair at the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) in Kauai in Hawaii for two years, and I still return there for two months each year. I was soon asked if I knew Mary Grierson because she is much respected in the Hawaiian garden to which she made several visits and produced her beautiful *A Hawaiian florilegium*. I had returned from a visit to Hawaii just before this memorial event at Kew. While I was there I had mentioned that Mary had died and I heard many tributes and memories of her time in Hawaii – so this is what I mainly want to mention here because Mary was greatly loved and respected there as well as in the UK. Her friends and colleagues in Hawaii particularly wanted me to bring their respects to this gathering.

This extract from the Bulletin of NTBG says a lot: 'The members and friends of the garden were sad to see the departure of Miss Mary Grierson, noted British botanical artist. She had arrived four months earlier and had spent most of her time preparing beautiful watercolor paintings of some rare and endangered species of Hawaiian plants, as well as common, beautiful garden ornamentals, unusual garden ornamentals, plants



of ethnobotanical interest (see cover). And some of the unusual, native Hawaiian species. She was always a pleasure to have around and never seemed to stop working. During her stay she nearly completed some 30 plates, as well as several sketch books... On her return Miss Grierson will be visiting Australia, Singapore, Thailand, India, Nepal and Iran. Hopefully, she will be rejoining us sometime this summer for another extended stay' – from *The Bulletin, Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden* 6 (1):13, 1965. The 'see cover' refers to the cover of the magazine which is an attractive Grierson painting of the breadfruit.

To make her paintings of Hawaiian plants Mary went out in the field with plant collectors such as Steve Perlman, and Tim Flynn who remember her well and told me various anecdotes. She was also friendly with the librarian, Rick Hanna who spoke fondly of her. They all remembered her painting of *Pleomele aurea* (H. Mann) N. E. Brown in the Agavaceae. The description in the Hawaiian Florilegium by Peter Green states that this plant 'can grow into a tree 15-25 feet tall and perhaps is the most attractive of them all'. For Mary this was a problem because she did not have a flower vase to suit it. The resourceful Mary kept it in the loo of the guesthouse in the garden.

Mary was a remarkable lady and such a nice person. I am happy to have the thoughtful momento that she painted for me when I retired from the direction of Kew. It is two of her miniatures, one of the Palm House at Kew and the other of the ruins of a church in Dorset near to where I was then moving. Such thoughtful gifts from a person who I will never forget.

**Dr Shirley Sherwood, OBE**, writes:

I first met Mary Grierson as a member of the RHS Picture Committee in the mid-1990s. She was a member from 1991-1997. I had bought three of her paintings from Spink in 1990 and two more from Kew in 1993 so I was interested in the way she judged. She went round the exhibits before the judging began and 'set a standard' for a gold medal in her mind. I followed her round, listening to her remarks. As she had painted so many plants in her career she was a good judge of whether a plant was correctly recorded and very sound on techniques. She gave up judging after she felt her eyesight was deteriorating, when she must have been in her mid-eighties.

I was interested that she was occupied in the War at a Photographic Reconnaissance Unit analysing aerial photographs. This must have been a great training for the observation she showed in her work. When I was at Oxford I met a number of dons including Hef Warburg (of Clapham, Tutin and Warburg) and Asa Briggs (the historian) who did similar jobs. Most botanists are extremely observant and like them I am sure she had a different 'take' on a hedgerow or a tropical forest to an ordinary person.

I spent this last weekend engrossed in the magnificent book on 'Orchids' she illustrated with P. Francis Hunt writing the text. It was published in 1973 and the 40 plates must have been painted during her period here at Kew from 1960. It is fascinating to see the many different approaches she had to painting the 32 orchid plates. There are single specimens unadorned, complete dissections, background sketches suggesting the habitat and yet other paintings showing close-ups. Each plate has a different and often inventive composition wonderfully appropriate to each plant portrait. That book alone should assure her a place in the pantheon of great botanical artists.

On another level I found her the most warm and yet serious person. She seemed like a favourite grandmother and I discovered after my talk that indeed she was a much-loved aunt to the many relatives and friends at the meeting.

**Anthony Spink** also spoke in admiration of her life of botanical art.

Many examples of Mary's wonderfully accurate drawings, paintings and needlework, were on show for the visitors to inspect.

### **Other comments**

Mary surprised everyone with her vigour and commitment. John Simmons recollects 'back around 1968, when on a study tour, staying on for a few days at a Kkbbutz south south of Ber Sheva, and much to our mutual surprise, meeting Mary at breakfast there, where she was working on the flora'.

Caroline Susa of The Royal Horticultural Society echoes the memories of the quality and range of Mary's work.

Mary was a member of the Picture Committee from 1991 to 1997; she received the Veitch Memorial Medal in 1984 and the VMH in 1997. Mary was also the artist for such books as *Orchidaceae* (1983), *The Country Life book of orchids* (1987), *An English florilegium* (1987), and *A Hawaiian florilegium* (1996). Her drawing of *Eccremocarpus scaber*, in the Lindley Library art collections, was used in the *Treasures of the Royal Horticultural Society* exhibition and book back in the 1990s.

Our thanks go to Nigel Hepper for editing this wonderful record of our care for Mary. Nigel and Helen used to visit Mary in her flat and care home with similar experiences Ray Desmond describes above – and we miss her warm welcome and interesting conversation.

## **LENA FERRARI**

So many valued pieces in the jigsaw of Kew life and one that was so important was the Penguin Café where students and staff of all ages could meet for food, drink and fellowship on the corner of Kew Green near Descanso House. There was always a welcome and she cared very much for students particularly in the early part of their studentship when many felt alone after moving from various parts of the country and abroad. Various people have been in touch and below we include some of their messages.

### **John and Joan Woodhams**

We have heard from Andi Ferrari that Lena (Penguin café fame) died on 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the age of 77. She apparently fell and broke her hip and with complications did not pull through after the operation. We have spoken on the phone and Andi asked us to circulate the information to those who should know. He is understandably very upset and feels quite alone.

Joan and I have always kept contact with Lena and looked forward to her phone calls each Christmas. We had so many meals in the Penguin and Vesuvio with her and Andi and always Lena was so friendly and welcoming, and the food was good too! The Penguin, though small, was always a hub of friendliness and rather a social place to chat with everyone. Even Joan's Dad went there for lunch. Lena was such a good kind

person and always had time for each student she fed – and even worked her magic in a Cupid way in getting students matched up! We are both very sad that her cheery voice will no longer be with us but we have some good memories of days past.

### **Stewart Henche**

Lena was such a character! I and others spent a lot of our money at her two places, the Penguin and Vesuvius.

I have informed Robin Bletsoe and Brian and Oona Stannard. Robin visited her a few years ago – it's in the Journal – and Oona worked at the weekends for Lena, and Brian and I spent all our money especially in the Vesuvius.

### **Tony Overland**

Sad to hear the news about Lena. During my time as a student we enjoyed many happy times at The Penguin Café (Mama's).

## **MARGARET STANT**

1921 - 2012



Margaret was born in Cheshire and educated at Castle Preparatory School and the Sir John Deane Grammar School with a short spell interrupted by the Second World War as an Open Exhibitioner at Christ's Hospital.

After passing her Cambridge Entrance Examination she was awarded a place at Girton College, the women's college set up in 1839. In 1944 she moved to University College, London, on a mathematics scholarship and then she moved promptly, changing to read Botany and Zoology.

In 1947 she graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Botany and won various additional prizes. She was so valued that she won a Post Graduate Studentship so she could stay in the botany department where she was engaged as a demonstrator. Her fully measured application of science to Nature led to a thesis 'The short apex in Monocotyledons' and this supported her gaining a Doctorate in Philosophy in 1950.

Her search for fruitful work led to her meeting Sir Edward Salisbury, the Director of Kew and in spite of job offers from Glaxo, ICI and Wye and Bedford College with higher income she chose to join Dr Metcalf in the old Jodrell Laboratory at Kew. In the 1985 Journal this was referred to as the beginning of her life-long love affair with Kew Gardens.

Her work in the very basic areas of plant study using electron microscopes explored the dynamics and possible application of light irradiation. This focus led to the setting up of a special department in The Transmission and Microscopy laboratory at 42a The Green. If you want to know more of this, look at page 993 of the 1977 Journal.

Whilst her brain led her into some very specialist and sophisticated areas Margaret invested in other parts of her body – Golf, croquet, walking and swimming were a key part of her life.

In 1984 she applied for early retirement. She left Kew on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1984 after 34 years at Kew and went to live in Sidmouth in Devon enjoying a 15<sup>th</sup> Century cottage, originally a monk's rest house. There she was able to enjoy her sporting interests as well as being involved in local planning development.

Margaret really did support The Kew Guild. She was Secretary from 1978-1984 and President 1985-86, our first peacetime Lady President. In 1993 she re-joined the committee to celebrate the Centenary of The Guild.

In 1990 she reported on the current Director Professor Brennan, an important insight into Kew management and the retirement of Stan Brookes, then Secretary to the Guild.

She was a Fellow of The Linnaean Society, The Royal Microscopical Society and a Member of the Society for Experimental Biology.

She passed away peacefully at the nursing home, Willow Ward, The Woodlands Sidmouth on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012, aged 91 years.

## THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2012

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2012	TOTAL 2011
INCOMING RESOURCES	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	2	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,750
Membership subscriptions		6,563			6,563	6,450
Investment income and deposit interest	3	13,789	6,735		20,592	20,388
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Annual Dinner		4,032	50		4,158	2,650
AGM Soiree		444	50		444	440
Other events and income		-			-	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	-		-	40
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>25,828</b>	<b>6,929</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,757</b>	<b>31,718</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		12,087			12,087	8,149
Journal of The Kew Guild		6,300			6,300	5,872
Annual Dinner		5,394	126		5,520	3,200
AGM Soiree		180	-		180	408
Presidents' name bars		-			-	242
Presidents' medals		-			-	-
Other events and membership activities		-			-	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	383	5,981		6,364	10,130
Prizes	5	605	25		630	630
Student fellowship		-	-		-	474
Diploma Student Cup		-	-		-	-
Kew Guild Medal		-			-	-
Joseph Hooker Celebration Grant		-	-		-	2,000
Governance costs		3,739			3,739	4,321
<b>Total resources expended</b>	6	<b>28,688</b>	<b>6,132</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>34,820</b>	<b>35,426</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before</b>						
<b>other recognised gains and losses</b>		<b>(2,860)</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,063)</b>	<b>(3,708)</b>
Other recognised gains and losses:						
Unrealised movements on investment	8	25,961	5,252	8,067	39,280	(25,780)
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>23,101</b>	<b>6,049</b>	<b>8,067</b>	<b>37,217</b>	<b>(29,488)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	354,026	62,934	86,802	503,762	533,250
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>377,127</b>	<b>68,983</b>	<b>94,869</b>	<b>540,979</b>	<b>503,7620</b>



## THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

		2011		2010	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	8		461,943		422,663
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		2,513		2,513	
Debtors	9	7,139		7,000	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	70,948		79,757	
		80,600		89,270	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	11	(1,564)		(8,171)	
<b>Net current assets</b>			79,036		81,099
<b>Net assets</b>			540,979		503,762
<b>Funds and reserves as restated</b>					
Unrestricted general fund	12		73,445		83,295
Unrestricted designated funds	12		303,682		270,731
Restricted funds	12		68,983		62,934
Endowment funds	12		94,869		86,802
<b>Total funds</b>			540,979		503,762

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 8 April 2013 following the completion of the independent examination. These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the Guild's financial affairs. For further information the full Annual Report and Financial Statements, including the Auditor's Report, should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, Honorary Treasurer, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB.

**RBG STAFF MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD**(as at 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013)

Alsop, Jennifer J	Gasson, Peter E	Phillips, Sam A J
Barnes, David M	Green, Paul W C	Rees, Paul E J
Bell, Sandra D	Hamilton, Martin A	Robinson, Steven P C
Bower, Rebecca M †	Hancock, Judy	Ross-Jones, Kiri
Brown, Robert D	Hardman, David	Sanchez, Michele D
Clubbe, Colin P	Harris, Timothy	Scott-Brown, Alison S
Corcoran, Marcella	Hilgenhof, Rebecca	Shaw, Wesley
Creed, Simon	Jarvis, Suvi K	Smith, Kathleen
Davis, Steve D	Jones, Matilda	Staniforth, Martin
Deverell, Richard	Kirkham, Tony	Tatham, David
Dolphin, Philippa M	Leon, Christine J	Tatzkow, Sophie
Edwards, Robert S	Luke, Andrew	Walmisley, Joanna E H
Edwards, Sam	Malmgren, Ginny	Wojtas, Slawomira E
Everson, Joanne M	Marriage, Helen D	Simmonds, Monique S J
Gardiner, Lauren M.	Nesbitt, Mark	

**RBG STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD**(as at 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013)

Bainbridge, Bertie	Dyer, Adele	Moffett, Amy
Braithwaite, Kathryn	Golding, Corin	Parker, Matthew
Burridge, William	Hankey, Alex	Patman, Suzanne
Calder, Ruth	Harte, Clare M	Rautala, Katriina
Clayton, Karen Marie	Hudson, Christopher	Ross, Maija
Clutterbuck, Jack	Innes, Jamie	Starkey, Nicola
Das, Sheila	Lopez-Rivera, Rama	Urpeth, Susan
Davies, Ashleigh	Mackrodt, Hans W	Edwards, Ashley N
Deasy, Martin	Marubbi, Aaron	
Dixon, Kate	Middleton, Beccy	



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