

# THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



**Founded in 1893**

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

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**Royal Botanic Gardens**  
**Kew**

Cover: The Temple of Arethusa at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is the home of the War Memorial commemorating the loss of Kewites who had served and sacrificed their lives in the First World War. On the plaque are the names of 37 men who died during WW1, which was extended in 1951 to include those who died in WW2. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2014journal>

Photos © Richard Ward

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## The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

### The Kew Guild Committee 2014-2015

#### Officers:

President: David Hardman  
 President Elect: Tony Overland  
 Vice President (elected 2014): Alan Stuttard  
 Vice President (elected 2013): Tim Upson  
 Past President: Bob Ivison  
 Acting Secretary: Sara Arnold (non-Committee post)  
 Honorary Treasurer: Jennifer Alsop  
 Honorary Membership Secretary: Ian Hudson  
 Editor: Alexandra Partridge (non-Committee post)  
 Editor (from 2015): Sparkle Ward (non-Committee post)  
 Events Officer: Pamela Holt  
 Publicity and Promotions: Jean Griffin  
 Website Editor: Jonathan Rickards  
 Website Manager: Bob Ivison  
 Archives Officer: Kiri Ross-Jones

#### Committee Members:

<i>Retire 2015</i>	<i>Retire 2016</i>	<i>Retire 2017</i>
William Bessler	Bryan Howard	Peter Styles
Graham Burgess	Adrian Lovatt	Jim Mitchell
Terry Sunderland	Sylvia Phillips	Stewart Hench
Richard Ward	Clive Popham	Susan Urpeth

#### Ex Officio Members:

Kew Guild Medal: David Cutler  
 Awards Scheme Chairperson: Chris Kidd  
 Kew Gardens Representative: Richard Barley

#### Student Committee Representatives:

Year 2: Paul Eguia    Year 3: Aaron Marubbi

#### Advisors:

Professor David F Cutler BSc PhD DIC PPLS  
 Professor Sir Ghillea T Prance FRS MA DPhil FilDr FLS VMH  
 Dr Colin Hindmarch PhD DipLD ( Newcastle) Dip Hort Kew  
 Martin J S Sands BSc FIBiol FLS FRGS  
 John B E Simmons OBE MHort (RHS) FIHort CBiol FIBiol VMH  
 Richard Ward, Honorary Journal Advisory Editor

## Editorial

Dear fellow Guild members,

This year's Journal is packed with articles. From interesting stories about your fellow Kewites across the globe, to events and activities that have been happening at Kew to mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War, and adventures that our Award Scheme recipients have been on. Please enjoy!

Having been Editor of this Journal since 2007, I have decided that now is the time for someone else to have a go. It has been a challenging but very enjoyable role, and I must thank everyone for their help and support over the years. My sister, Sparkle Ward, is in place as the next Kew Guild Journal Editor from January 2015. The skills required to be an Editor must run in the family - our father, Richard, held the role too, for over 25 years!

If you have some news of your own that you would like to share in the next Journal, please do email it in to us at [editor@kewguild.org.uk](mailto:editor@kewguild.org.uk) Perhaps you have recently received an award, been married or had a child, have got a new job, been on an extended holiday or have met up with fellow Kewites? We would love to hear from you!

Finally, thank you to all who have contributed and coordinated those contributions this year, as well as to David Cutler for his help with proof-reading.

Floreat Kew.

Alexandra Partridge  
Richard Ward

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Advisory Editor

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David Hardman  
Sara Arnold  
Jennifer Alsop  
Ian Hudson  
Pamela Holt  
Jean Griffin  
Chris Kidd

**David Hardman DMS, Dip Hort Kew, FLS**  
President 2014/2015



David was born in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire in 1953, to mother Iris and father Jack (John) who could trace back several generations of gardeners across both families. So it was inevitable that David might carry the 'genes' for horticulture, and which in fact showed up early in his life. He enjoyed helping his father in the garden and later went on to preparation of sports pitches where with brother Brian they spent many happy hours playing cricket, football and even tennis in Wimbledon fortnight despite the fact the garden was not very large. Sport played a large part in David's early life; he was a member of different teams and was always ready to play when the opportunity arose.

David's family live in the Manchester area. His daughter Elizabeth works in leisure and hospitality management, Brendan is a qualified carpenter/joiner and then qualified as a golf course greenkeeper. Perhaps it's those genes reappearing again! His eldest son Gregory is a commercial pilot; he has a young son, Noah.

Having left Moseley Hall Grammar School, Cheadle in 1970, he entered into a four year apprenticeship with the County Borough of Stockport's Parks Department. This provided valuable experience learning about horticulture and life in general as it meant working with all sorts of people with their different perspectives on life, preparing him for the transition to being a student on the Kew Diploma course in 1974.

As a student at Kew, David enjoyed working in all sections learning more about the different plants and their growing requirements and gaining knowledge from the learned staff, whilst enjoying the experience of being a student. At that time, many of the great glasshouses in the visitor area of the garden were in disrepair, the Temperate House was closed to the public, the Palm House needed much attention and the old T-Range was also

nearing replacement but it was still possible to work in them and enjoy the plants. There was always time to socialise with other students, at lunchtime in the Jodrell Common Room or at the regular cheese and wine parties. David was awarded life membership of the Students Union for his work as Treasurer, Printing Secretary and cricket promoter.

Returning to the now Metropolitan Borough of Stockport's Leisure Department, he progressed from Assistant Horticultural Officer to Principal Horticultural Officer, fortunate to be involved in several major successes whilst there. These included Britain in Bloom winners for large towns and cities, which was a major achievement for an industrial town although this was truly deserved. Stockport had a good horticultural reputation for its parks and garden displays and so he assisted preparations well in advance with a 'Daffodil Bonanza' (1979) by planting 300,000 bulbs (one for each resident) and then a 'Crocus Cascade' (1980) before entering the competition.

He has designed and implemented the construction of prize winning show gardens; 'Lunar Landscape' at the 1984 International Garden Festival with a large replica of a moon landing craft elevated above the floral carpet of craters. Then at the Stoke National Garden Festival in 1986, 'Butterfly Garden' was depicted with carpet beds of large butterflies, large steel sculptured butterflies hovered above, whilst beds of butterfly attracting plants were presented nearby to encourage visitors to appreciate and use them to support butterflies.

Concurrently, Stockport was preparing plans to rebuild its nursery facilities and 'Greenhouse 2000', the 'Serac' house at Stoke was a model that had many energy saving characteristics that would provide the right structure. Adding highly efficient gas-fired condensing boilers provided air heating, recovered heat from flues provided under-floor heating and heat for the irrigation holding tanks to take the chill off rainwater collected off the large roof area. The no-glass greenhouse was built on time and within budget and won awards for energy management and team working between client and contractors. Considerable savings and efficiencies were achieved as predicted in the original proposal to the Council.

David became a member of the Institute of Parks and Recreation (IPRA), joining the regional committee before it became the Institute of Leisure and Amenity Management (ILAM). In 1986 he became Chairman for the North West and North Wales region and was later elected a Fellow. He held various posts for the ILAM National Seminars organising committee between 1984 and 1987.

At Stockport, David's duties included purchasing all plants and materials, nursery production and civic functions and carpet bedding displays. As Training Officer he represented the authority as the Vice Chairman of the Local Government Training Board centre at Heaton Park and at the South Manchester College Horticultural Advisory Board, which coincidentally he had attended as a City and Guilds student. During reorganisation caused by competitive tendering, David became the Principal Parks Officer at Stockport Leisure DSO responsible for the nursery unit, purchasing, training and recruitment undertaking most of his previous duties.

In 1990 he was appointed as Principal Parks Services Manager at Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council in charge of the Client Section, managing the four contract areas with an annual budget of £3.5 million. These contracts included 36 parks, 50 playgrounds, two 18-hole golf courses, 37 bowling greens, 91 recreation grounds, four athletic stadia, 91 sports fields, 119 school sites, 258 housing, 830 council house gardens and 55 hectares of highway verges. In addition he had management responsibility for the Client Services office staff, management of the five Client Contract Managers and both the Landscape and Arboricultural Officers.

In 1992 he was appointed Deputy Curator to John Simmons at the Kew site working with the five Assistant Curators: Stewart Henchie (Services), Charles Erskine (Arboretum), Hans Fliegner (Temperate), John Woodhams (Tropical) and Mike Sinnott (Alpine and Herbaceous). During a busy period he was involved in a range of roles in garden projects including the new nursery structures in the Melon Yard, the restoration of the Japanese Gateway, and the conversion of the Australian House into the Evolution House. Using his experience in modern greenhouse design and construction he was heavily involved in planning and design of the new Lower Nursery. Working with John Simmons, John Lonsdale and John Woodhams they successfully initiated the first Orchid festival which has since developed into a major annual festival.

David enjoyed working with Ian Leese not only on the School of Horticulture Advisory Panel and introduction of Kew's International Botanic Garden Management course, but when they interviewed the Diploma students regarding their garden work placement reports.

On the retirement of Hans Fliegner, David was invited to join the Chelsea Physic Botanic Garden's Advisory Panel which he retained until 2013. He was encouraged by Professor David Cutler to apply in 2005 to join the Linnaean Society and was proud to be elected a Fellow soon afterwards. In addition he is a member of the Borde Hill Garden Council having served for several years as a Director of the Garden Company.

In 1993 David led the Kew consultancy team to the Kadoorie Botanic Garden in Hong Kong where they prepared a report reviewing the value, potential and future direction the Garden should consider in advance of Hong Kong's return to China. Professor Sir Iain Prance presented the report to the Kadoorie board, which received it favourably in advance of preparing their own documents for the Legislative Council to secure the Garden's future for the next 50 years under Chinese rule.

In 1997 David was appointed Head of Collections at Wakehurst Place, although his job title changed when public education was incorporated and then again upon further reorganisation when he finally became Head of Horticulture and Estate Management. On arrival at Wakehurst the plans were on track to build the Millennium Seedbank which became a reality and is now a visible statement of success. The horticultural team worked tirelessly to support the design and construction and restored the barren landscape upon completion of the building for the official opening in 2000. Other major projects were completed and have been reported in the Wakehurst reports in previous Journals.

David has been a member of the Kew Guild committee for many years, over which time he has undertaken a range of interesting roles. Possibly the most challenging was working with Kenwyn Pearson to provide floral decorations for the Centenary Dinner in the Dinosaur Hall at the Natural History Museum. This constituted obtaining foliage from the Garden at Kew then, with flowers purchased, preparing the displays in his potting shed at Cadogan Gardens. Installation after the museum closed just before the event was a mad rush across London!

As Archives Officer he worked with Kew's Archivist to resolve difficulties of filing and access which led to contracting a recently qualified archivist for six months to work with Kew's Archivist. Working with them both and regular reporting to committee about costs and progress, the project was completed successfully. He was next asked to consider taking on the role of Website Manager which came with a full set of Journals that needed scanning to the website. Realising this needed professional help, he approached the committee for permission to appoint a company capable of undertaking this work. With Bob Ivison they determined a new website was essential to handle the vast number of pages and present

the Kew Guild professionally so the process commenced with the 119 years of Journals becoming fully accessible.

David retired from Wakehurst in 2013 and has taken time travelling with his partner Jan. They met up with Stewart and Pat Henchie in Penang, and Jim and Valerie Mitchell in Sydney. Dragon boat racing is a new part of his life and travel is essential when he supports the Ladies of the Pink Champagne Breast Cancer Survivors team in Christchurch, Dorset - their endeavours are inspirational and their commitment admirable. Racing all year round, he has seen the team competing in Florida, Venice, San Javier in Spain and other UK locations. He is also allowed in the boat when needed to make up the numbers and has raced against other supporters' teams at the meeting in Florida.

Working with other Trustees, David hopes that a more streamlined approach can be adopted to fully utilise their valuable skills and knowledge during business meetings. He spent time on Guild business in readiness for his Presidential year, working with the Events Officer, Pamela Holt, to provide a full calendar of events for members. He lives in hope that members will meet up more often around the country and the programme will inspire greater involvement and encourage new members to join the Kew Guild.

### **Alan Stuttard**

Vice President

*Elected 2014*



Alan started his horticultural career as a garden apprentice with the Borough of Accrington in his native Lancashire in 1966. Over the next five years he learnt the necessary practical skills working in the local Parks and Estates and this was supported by studies with the Burnley Municipal College and the Lancashire College of Agriculture.

In 1970 he moved South to attend the student course at the Royal Botanic Gardens and found that the mix of life in Kew Gardens and the opportunities of being so close to London much to his liking. On leaving Kew in 1973 he remained in London working for the London Borough of Haringey, firstly leading the work of the Landscape Group and then becoming the Head of Operational Services before finally becoming the Head of the Parks Service.

The horticultural world in the public sector of the early 1980s was fast changing and many Parks Services were being swallowed up into the broadening Recreation Services Departments. In recognition of these changes Alan moved to the Midlands, taking on the responsibility for the Parks Service, Museums Service and Tourism Services for Worcester City Council. The plan was to stay for three to four years as a halfway stage on a journey back 'up north', but like most long-term plans, they rarely go as expected.

Alan was drawn into these times of change for local government and saw his remit continue to widen through the development of the Recreation Departments and Cultural Services which he headed up. His training and belief that horticulture plays an essential part in improving the lives of communities involved him in the development of programmes of major parks and open space improvements, which also required accessing significant external capital funding and designing improved service management

arrangements. It was amazing to see the enthusiasm that the local communities showed for their improved Parks and Open Spaces and their willingness to become involved in joint future management arrangements.

These new ways of providing improved public services against a background of reducing resources became the way forward for the authority and Alan became part of the Council's Senior Management Team that oversaw a whole raft of changes, as the authority grappled with the ever reducing funding arrangements from Central Government. His belief in the benefits of horticulture to the lives of Worcester's citizens, however, always ensured that the Recreation and Parks Services maintained their fair share of the Council's purse.

After over 20 years working with Worcester City Council, Alan finally retired in 2010 as the Council's Head of Paid Service (Chief Executive) and continues to live in rural Worcestershire. Since his retirement Alan has had the time to get his hands dirty again, working on his own garden where he has also acquired extra land allowing him to create a kitchen garden and an orchard stocked with many of the more historic fruit varieties. He has recreated his links again with the Royal Botanic Gardens through the activities of the Kew Guild and is keen to see Kew students receive increased support through that body.

Outside his horticultural interests, Alan has been involved in a Government sponsored project to improve local authority services in Adentan, a small township on the outskirts of Accra in Ghana, which has required a number of visits to that authority. After nearly forty years he has taken up golf again, he remains a lifelong fan of Burnley Football Club and is a board member of Worcester Live, an organisation that manages arts provision and the Swan Theatre and Huntingdon Hall, in Worcester. However, it would appear that he has still failed in his original plan to make it back to the North West!

## New Committee Members

### Susan Urpeth

Susan studied English Literature at the University of London between 1981 and 1984. After graduating she worked as an editor for various publishers before gaining an MA by Research in Humanities from the Royal College of Art in 1990.



For most of the 1990s, Susan worked as a Project Manager and Editor in distance learning education for South Bank University by day, and by night, was a part-time Lecturer in Philosophy at various London universities having enrolled for a DPhil in Philosophy at the University of Sussex in 1994.

In 2000 Susan got married to Jim, a Philosophy Lecturer at the University of Greenwich and took a career break for five years following the birth of their daughter Phyllis. During this time her interest in growing food and professional horticulture developed and she began volunteering with English Heritage at Eltham Palace, followed by a HBGBS Traineeship at Eltham Palace and Down House jointly. This crucial break led to a further traineeship under glass at Kew and admission onto the Kew Diploma in 2011 on Course 49. While at Kew she was generously funded to travel to New England to look at salt marshes, including a key bursary from

the Kew Guild, and with fellow Course 49 students, enjoyed two unforgettably instructive and enjoyable field trips to North Wales and the Iberian Peninsula.

Susan now works as a botanical horticulturist at RBG Kew in the team that looks after the Queen's and Duke's Gardens and the areas around Elizabeth Gate including the Herbarium and the Banks Building.

### Stewart Henchie

Stewart started the RBG Kew stage of his career in September 1970, joining the three Kew Diploma Course and working in various Sections and eventually retiring from Kew in September 2010, leaving the house on site at Kew and moved to Teignmouth, Devon. A more detailed description of his career can be found in the 'Events of 2011' Journal.



Retirement did not last long!

Soon, Stewart and his wife Pat were off to Penang, Malaysia. The challenge there was to get a Botanic Garden that had been established in 1884, which needed a lot of 'tender loving care', to be a Botanic Garden rather than just a loved public park. After nearly two years much was achieved on the site and now Stewart has returned to Teignmouth and the cold, much enriched by the experience of working in a tropical country. He has restarted involvement with local organisations in the Teignmouth area and surprisingly not all of it is horticulture!

Stewart served as Kew Guild President from 2011/12 and before that served as Vice President and a number of years as Membership Secretary. Even though Stewart has served on the Kew Guild committee before, he hopes that his experience will be of benefit to the committee and members for the next three years.

### Peter Styles Dip Hort Kew; Dip LA; FLI; FRSA



Both Peter and his partner Liz are currently enjoying a full working life with no plans for retirement just yet. Peter left Kew in 1968 followed shortly by Liz who was a grade 1 gardener working with Bert Bruty in the Old Ferneries. Peter went on to take a position as landscape assistant at the GLC in Cavell House just off Trafalgar Square, enrolling on a part time course in Landscape Architecture at Thames Polytechnic at the same time. Thames eventually became Greenwich University. A number of Kewites lectured on the course including Leo Pemberton, Peter Hunt and Ben Jacobson. It was the inspirational John Brookes landscape design course at Kew which gave him the impetus to pursue a career in landscape architecture so he will always be grateful to John for that mentorship. The time at GLC was a significant period in London's development when great swathes of Victorian terraces were being demolished and replaced by homes in the sky. Some on these estates are now listed. Trelick Towers was one and Peter remembers a meeting with the architect of the estate Arno Goldfinger, where he announced that the proposed trees were ruining his architecture. Many, now famous, architects were involved in that development period. At the weekends during this period Peter was also working with Peter Clothier, Roger Storr and John Lawrence in their landscape business. Richard Attenborough on Richmond Green was one of the clients.

A move to the London Borough of Ealing followed and, after a short period, on to the London Borough of Wandsworth where Peter set up the first team of landscape architects in the architects department. He recalls that a number of other Kewites had also pursued careers in these two Boroughs. Peter's first office in Wandsworth was in Lavender Hill in Battersea followed by relocation to Putney and finally a move to the new town hall opposite the old Young's Ram brewery, which is now closed. At the same time he was also working with David Stevens the garden designer and Land Use Consultants.

Peter was pleased to achieve Associateship of the Landscape Institute in 1975. John Beswick and Peter attended the final part of the professional exams together in Manchester. After seven years in local government, the time was ripe for moving into private practice in 1976 to a new landscape architectural company called Ecoscape, based in Pall Mall. Projects included housing developments in Southwark, Hampshire and North Wales. An opportunity arose in 1977 to move the family to Newtown in mid-Wales with the company, and a change of name to The Ecology and Landscape Design Company. The early work of the practice included lecturing in landscape design for the Kew Diploma Course and developing the business in Wales. At the time, Newtown had new town status which created opportunities in housing, business development and public amenities. The first years in Wales included a number of special events. A chance to meet Sir Clough Williams Ellis at his great masterpiece in Portmeirion was one favourite and an invitation to the 25th anniversary of the Investiture of HRH Prince of Wales at Caernarfon Castle was another favourite.

The company changed its name in 2001 to Lingard Styles and this year sees its 40th anniversary. Still based in mid-Wales with a further office in Shrewsbury, the company has currently expanded to deal with an increasing workload. They have landscape design projects all over the UK - too many to mention here but they include projects in London; gardens at Tatton and Chelsea; substantial projects in Wales; gold medal gardens at the Glasgow and Stoke on Trent Garden Festivals; and a garden in the City of London for the Drapers Company, which received an award from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners. The design of a community farm at Surrey Farm in London Docklands is also worthy of mention. In 2005 Peter was honoured to receive a nomination from the Landscape Institute for the landscape architect who has done the most for landscape architecture in Wales during the last twenty five years.

Projects overseas also feature in his workload including schemes in Florida, Frame and Turkey. In 2008 they set up a company in South Africa with an African colleague to develop public works projects in Johannesburg. Trips there enabled meeting up with old Kewites. Current work in the UK includes schools, housing, health care projects, and commercial and renewable energy projects. The company devotes time to other areas of work including mentoring students and work with the Princes Trust. Peter is also part of the Welsh Governments Dynamo project which allows him to visit schools and colleges to inspire students and young people to follow a career in landscape architecture and horticulture. Until recently he was senior lecturer in art, design and landscape at Glyndwr University and lecturer at the Welsh College of Horticulture where he set up the Diploma in Garden Design course. Other current positions include external examiner in landscape design, construction and land surveying at Kew, deputy chair of the Board of Trustees at the Oriol Davis art gallery, guest lecturing and talks to local community groups.

Liz and Peter enjoy their family life in mid-Wales with their daughters who live locally with their families. They live opposite Powys Castle and welcome visitors, although the garden needs more work! Peter is looking forward very much to working with the Kew Guild in 2015.

### Jim Mitchell

After six years on the Kew Guild committee, Past President Jim continues on as the overseas representative. During the last 18 months Jim has taken a rest from the hectic period of celebrating Kew's Contribution to World Horticulture on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Kew Certificate and the introduction of the Kew Diploma in 2013.

He has been concentrating on organising a major renovation to his cottage at the Sydney Harbour Village of Manly which is now finished and more suitable to accommodate his friends who like to come and enjoy this idyllic holiday environment.

During his period on the committee he wants to concentrate on reinforcing the initial objectives of the formation of the Guild, eloquently proposed by Curator Watson in a letter to the then Director WT Thiselton-Dwyer printed in the first Journal in 1893: "to enable Kewites to keep in touch with one another particularly overseas Kewites" (the introduction is well worth reading and available on the Kew Guild website).

## Minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting of The Kew Guild held on Saturday 6th September 2014 Jodrell Lecture Theatre, RBG Kew

### Those present

#### Committee:

Bob Ivison  
David Hardman  
Tony Overland  
Graham Burgess  
Martin Staniforth  
Alan Stuttard  
Sylvia Phillips  
Jennifer Alsop  
Alexandra Ward  
Richard Ward  
Jonathan Rickards  
David Cutler

#### Members:

Tammy Woodcock  
Kathryn Kidby  
Jenny Grundy  
David Taber  
Sue Thorne  
Judy Hancock  
Richard Barley  
Olwen Grace  
Colin Hindmarch  
David Morgan  
Tom Wood  
Simon Creed  
Mike Wilkinson  
Wendy Staniforth  
Tommy Edmonds  
Jill Marsden  
Mary Thorp  
H G Heywood  
Colin Jones  
Julian Heywood  
Clifford Iles  
Brian Pitcher  
Anthony Ross  
Jim Handley  
Jean Griffin  
Martin Sands

#### **01.14 Welcome by the President, Bob Ivison**

The President opened the meeting by welcoming all members and guests and thanked them for attending what was to be a special occasion for the Guild with the presentation of the Kew Guild Medal to Sir David Attenborough. He also thanked Clare Carter and the Jodrell Team for an excellent tour of the laboratories as part of the pre AGM activities.

The President took the opportunity to apologise for the administrative technical problem that resulted in some agenda papers and reports not being sent out to members and noted that this would have an impact on the afternoon's proceedings and asked for the members' forbearance.

He reported that the Guild Secretary, Sara Arnold was unfortunately not able to attend the meeting and that Jean Griffin had volunteered to take the notes of the meeting.

#### **02.14 Apologies for absence**

Pamela Holt; Ian Hudson; Sara Arnold. Without the Secretary being present there was no record of apologies to report.

#### **03.14 Notice of death of members**

The President asked for all members to stand and have a minute's pause to remember those members who had passed way during the past year who included Anthony Dunball, Brian Halliwell, Edward Rolls and Dick Brummitt.

#### **04.14 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 7th September 2013 printed in the Journal, Volume 16 Number 118, at page 285**

There was one correction made that the substitution of Mike Cliff's name be made for Granville Turley's, noted under Any Other Business. Proposed by C. Hindmarch and seconded H. G. Heywood. The Minutes were then approved and signed by the President.

#### **05.14 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

There were no matters arising.

#### **06.14 Acting Secretary's report – Sara Arnold**

In the absence of the Secretary the President reported that the main Committee had met on five occasions during the year and there had been a variety of subcommittee meetings looking at finance, legacy funds and rules of the Guild. All had conducted business in a thorough and professional manner and he thanked the Committee for their hard work during the year.

#### **07.14 Honorary Treasurer's report – Jennifer Alsop – Financial Statements printed in the Journal at page 389**

The Treasurer, Jennifer Alsop, presented her report and outlined the healthy state of the Guild's finances in both the restricted and unrestricted funds, both of which have increased during the past year.

The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2013. The restricted funds increased by £6,152 and the unrestricted funds increased by £33,007.

Income in 2013 totalled £32,304 of which £6,983 was from subscriptions, £20,557 from our investments and £1,003 from donations. We are very grateful to the Philip & Granville Trust for their kind donation of £1,000.

Awards and prizes of £8,472 were made. £5,913 was spent on production of the Journal, which was of an excellent standard.

Governance costs were £7,371 this year which includes £3,507 for secretarial costs.

There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £54,957.

The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units.

£106,156 in the endowment funds, £75,135 in restricted funds, £345,504 in designated funds and £64,629 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2014.

The accounts were put forward for approval. Proposed by D. Hardman and seconded T. Overland, and the accounts were duly approved. Jennifer also asked for approval for the appointment of an Independent Examiner. The membership voted in favour.

#### **08.14 Annual Subscription**

The Treasurer having outlined the healthy overall state of the Guild finances did continue with a word of caution as the running costs of the Guild were more than was currently covered by regular subscriptions. She noted that in the coming year a review of the current subscription will be made and it is likely that an increase in members' subscription would be brought to the next AGM.

#### **09.14 Membership Secretary's report – Ian Hudson**

Ian was unable to attend the meeting therefore no report was available to present to members. The President thanked Ian for all his work this past year particularly in introducing the new membership database.

#### **10.14 Events Officer's report – Pamela Holt**

As Pamela was unable to be at the meeting the President recounted the events of 2014 and thanked Pamela for the sterling work she had done in bringing these events together. The turnout at the various events was encouraging and showed that the membership still valued these opportunities to meet and socialise.

The visits included a trip to Gravetye Manor in Sussex in April, an excellent weekend on the Isle of Wight in May visiting Ventnor Botanic Garden with Chris Kidd, Osborne House with Toby Beasley, the head gardener, and finally North Court, at Shorwell. In June a visit to Reveley Lodge and Bushey Rose Garden in Hertfordshire was led by Nick Boyes.

#### **11.14 Editor's report – Alexandra Ward**

Alexandra reported that an 'on-time' and 'on-budget' journal was produced during the year and thanked all contributors. She reminded those writing for the new edition that the copy deadline was the 31st January 2015. Sadly, Alexandra reported that she will be retiring from her role at the end of the year after being Editor since 2007. She will be producing 'Events of 2014'.

In a special vote of thanks made by the President, he said how much she will be missed for her guidance and editorial skills which have ensured a professionally produced edition each year. We wish her well in her future career.

### **12.14 Award Scheme report – Chris Kidd**

Chris Kidd described the job of Award Scheme Chairman as one of the best going, in particular contributing to the many botanical projects to which Guild monies were awarded in 2013. The Awards Committee meets twice, in March and July each year and the awards are made to any member of the Guild with a project to pursue - not just students. Due to a re-arrangement of the students' allocated overseas time during the study course, just two applications were received on the 6th March from Katherine Braithwaite and Grace Shaw. These were both awarded, with Susyn Andrews receiving the George Brown Award.

At the July meeting, Chris reported receiving 10 applications and all were awarded their funds. They varied from Wesley Shaw's cacti studies in the United States to work in Cambodia carried out by C. Ryan on orchid collection. Closer to home, amongst the awards included funds to Steve Robinson for attendance at Ray Mears' school of 'Bushcraft' and Lucy Wenger's work at the Eden project. In all, over £7,500 was awarded in discretionary fund applications.

### **13.14 Result of Prize Day**

The President had the pleasure of attending the Student Diploma Prizegiving for Course 49 held the day before the AGM and he reported how impressed he was with the standard of the students passing through the School of Horticulture. As part of those proceedings the Guild awarded prizes for exceptional work to:

Martin Deasy – The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize for highest marks in Systematic Botany Project. The Proudlock Prize for highest mark in plant propagation essay. The C P Raffill Prize for KMIS student lecture competition winner, and The Kew Guild Cup for best vegetable plot in the first year.

Amy Moffett – The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize for best practical student overall and the George Brown Prize for the top student in Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section.

David Richter – The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology.

The President extended warm congratulations to all the award winners and Diploma recipients of 2014.

### **14.14 Changes to the Kew Guild Rules**

The President outlined the need for changes within the rules of the Kew Guild. The President explained that the Trustees had considered two aspects of the Guild's constitution for amendment, related to firstly 'aims', and secondly 'operational changes'. A set of these proposed changes had been drafted but due to technical difficulties, these have not been circulated. It was therefore proposed and accepted by members that if sufficient names were recorded from members calling for a Special Meeting of the AGM, these would be discussed at the special meeting to be held within 42 days of the AGM.

This would then allow for the new Rules to be submitted to the Charity Commission for approval and the Guild to implement without delay. Further action was for the Committee to progress the arrangements for a Special Meeting.

### 15.14 President's Report – Bob Ivison

Bob remarked that it has been a great privilege to serve as President during the past year and to be part of a committee that is so much into the furtherance of the Guild.

There had been some notable achievements during the year not just by the students as reported above but also by other Guild members across the globe. Two notable achievements to be recognised, firstly by Sir Peter Crane, awarded the 2014 International Prize for Biology Administration by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for his work on the Evolutionary History of Plants and secondly Tom Wood for his Lifetime Achievement Award from UK Growers Awards 2014.

He was also pleased to report that the Guild had granted Honorary Fellowship to Piet Oudolf, the world renowned landscape architect.

The 2014 Annual Dinner was an excellent evening, although numbers were down, and the Guest of Honour Dr Philip Askew, the principal landscape architect for the 2012 Olympic Park and subsequent Queen Elizabeth Park, gave an interesting and humorous talk on his experiences in the preparation for the Olympics. The president thanked Richard Ward and Jennifer Alsop for all their support and hard work in preparing for the night.

The president thanked again those who contributed to the visits during the year including Nick Boyes, Chris Kidd and Pamela Holt. He also recognised Graham Burgess's hard work in bringing together the seminar last September on Kew's Contribution to World Horticulture and those who made presentations.

The President gave thanks to the committee particularly those who would be standing down at this AGM.

### 16.14 Retiring Members of the Board of Trustees 2014

Charles Funke    Jim Handley    Tony Overland    Alan Stuttard

### 17.14 Board of Trustees 2014/15

President	David Hardman
Immediate Past President	Bob Ivison
Vice President Second Year	Tim Upton

Ordinary Members:

To retire 2015	To retire 2016
Bill Bessler	Bryan Howard
Graham Burgess	Sylvia Phillips
Terry Sunderland	Adrian Lovatt
Richard Ward	Clive Popham

Election of Trustees:

President Elect	Tony Overland
Vice President First Year	Proposed Jim Mitchell, Seconded Jennifer Alsop
	Alan Stuttard
	Proposed Bob Ivison, Seconded David Hardman

Honorary Secretary	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer	Jennifer Alsop (vacant from 2015)
Honorary Membership Secretary	Ian Hudson
Honorary Journal Editor	Vacant

Ordinary Members (4) to be elected for three years to retire 2017

Peter Styles  
Jim Mitchell  
Stuart Henchie  
Susan Urpeth

Officers:

Award Scheme Chairperson	Chris Kidd
Kew Gardens Representative	Richard Barley
Events Officer	Pamela Holt

Co-opted Officers: (not Trustees and non-voting)

Publicity and Promotions	Jean Griffin
Website Manager	Jonathan Rickards
Archives Officer	Kiri Ross-Jones

Ex officio:

Head of the School of Horticulture	Martin Staniforth
Student Representative Year 1	Aaron Marubbi
Student Representative Year 2	Paul Eguia
Student Representative Year 3	Joe Clements

Consultants

Kew Guild Secretary	Sara Arnold
Kew Guild Journal Editor	Alexandra Ward (vacant from 2015)

As there were no competing nominations the vote was taken en bloc, this was proposed by Martin Sands and seconded by Martin Staniforth. The Motion carried.

The president welcomed the new Trustees and Officers and wished them well for the forthcoming year.

### **18.14 Award of the Kew Guild Medal**

The President then introduced Sir David Attenborough to whom he then presented the Kew Guild Medal. In accepting the Medal, Sir David expressed how much Kew meant to him and how his attachment to Kew, cemented as a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens for 10 years, began at a much earlier time when he was married in St Anne's church on Kew Green where the Hookers are buried. His wife's family are from the area and as a resident he became a frequent visitor to the Gardens in the days when they charged just 1d.

During his career, a bigger influence decided his move from a high administrative position in television to once again record wildlife for the BBC as he had done when he started out in 1948. He described it as a momentous decision but not a difficult one, brought about after a trying day at the office desk in London when he went into the Palm House and ‘bared his nostrils’ to the warm and humid air which brought back the memories of Borneo. The decision was taken then to return to his first love of exploring and film making for which he is famous today.

He spoke of his immense pride in his association with Kew which he described as the foremost botanical garden in the world of modern times during the great period when much plant exploration took place, and is the only botanical garden to have developed a seed bank for endangered species, a project initiated during his time as a Trustee. He said how much he would be treasuring the Kew Guild Medal as he did all his connections with Kew and thanked the Guild for their award.

A book of Century of Kew Plantmen: Celebration of the Kew Guild was presented to Sir David by Tammy Woodcock, course 33. Tammy received her Diploma from Sir David in 1998.

#### **19.14 Any Other Business**

No other business was tabled.

#### **20.14 Inauguration of the new President, David Hardman**

Bob Ivison called forward David Hardman to receive the Chain of Office for the new Presidential year of 2014/15.

David thanked Bob for his valuable work throughout his year and presented Bob with his Past Presidents Medal.

The President then outlined his aspirations and referred to the programme of events for the coming year published on the Kew Guild website. He recognised that there was a lot of work to be done and thanked all those members who were prepared to be Trustees and members of the Committee. He looked forward to working with them all. He then closed the meeting and invited members to join him at the Coach and Horses to continue the social event and enjoy some refreshments. It was also announced that Sir David would be able to stay and enjoy the Guild’s company.

#### **21.14 Date of next Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 5th September 2015



**School of Horticulture**  
**Presentation of Kew Diploma and Prizes 2014**  
Course 49

5th September 2014

The Director, Richard Deverell, welcomed guests and everyone present today. He commented that a lot had happened at Kew during the three years the students had been on the course. He was particularly pleased to have taken on senior management specialists to strengthen Kew's senior staff structure. He mentioned the excellent work that the students had carried out at Kew, several of them foreign students, and the wide breadth of knowledge gained by their extensive travels during their course. He also thanked all staff of the School of Horticulture for their great support.

Martin Staniforth, acting principal, welcomed Professor James Hitchmough. Each year the graduating students may suggest their guest of honour. James is Head of Sheffield University Department of Landscape. Since the 1980s he has concentrated on research into the ecology, design and management of herbaceous plantings. This has progressed into using various; non-native meadow, steppe and prairie vegetation from seed to produce ecologically sound attractive plant displays. This type of planting has become more popular and formed the backbone of displays in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park during the Olympics.

Martin went on to say:

‘Graduation day is very much about celebration of the students’ achievements with the support of their friends and families and an acknowledgement of their hard work to obtaining a valuable qualification. I have a special affinity with Course 49, because shortly after they started, I took on the role of Acting Principal and have seen them through most of their Diploma. Happily, this is my third Prize Day and it is wonderful to celebrate with a truly committed and good natured group who have thoroughly enjoyed their time at Kew and gained much from their experiences. They have supported the school by being excellent ambassadors on external visits and field trips and given much to Kew in supporting and improving horticulture. They have engendered a great learning environment and the staff have gained from this and learnt much to improve the course for the future.

2014 has seen an independent review of the school and Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture Kew Gardens has initiated a restructure of the department. For the future, the headlines are that the School is to become its own section under a Head of School reporting to Richard. The Kew Diploma will continue in the same successful format as salaried employment and retain its independence by not being accredited. Over the next few years, Kew will work to grow student numbers slightly. The apprenticeship and staff training will move to the school and a one-year qualification will be developed for international applicants presently excluded from employment in the UK. This will re-establish the international training commitment that has been lost in recent years due to Home Office regulations. The School will also investigate other gaps in the market and develop further courses to raise its profile.

The future for some of our graduates marks the end of a chapter and the start of a new career beyond Kew; the immediate progression for some of today’s graduates include that of **Matthew Brewer** who will be taking up a position of gardener with the National Trust’s property Chartwell, Kent, once home of Sir Winston Churchill. **Ashley Edwards** will be moving to Pennsylvania, USA to take up a one-year inter-studentship at Longwood

Gardens supported by the Garden Club of America. **Thomas Freeth** will be joining the landscape design and detailing team of Kew graduate John Sallis-Chandler's Landscape Designers and Gardeners business. He will be in good company as John employs several graduates already. **Corin Golding** will be joining the Kew staff as a horticulturist with a permanent position in the Temperate House team, but initially in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. **Hans Mackrodt** has a six-month scholarship lined up with Jerusalem Botanical Gardens. **Tom McCarter** is also taking up a permanent position at Kew as a horticulturist in the Tropical Nursery. **Susan O'Brien** will be moving back to Ireland with her family to seek employment. **Suzanne Patman** has accepted a position as Team Leader / Trainer with Streetscape, a landscaping social enterprise. **Katriina Rautala** is going on a tour of British gardens then returning to the Finnish Museum of Natural History, Botanic Gardens in Helsinki, where she will be involved in a major landscaping project of the Garden established in 1829. **Susan Urpeth** will be taking up a permanent position as a horticulturist at Kew in the Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services Section. **Martin Deasy** and **Amy Moffett** have yet to make long term commitments, but it is early days and we wish them well with their future careers.

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.

Finally, I would like to thank the commitment of Kew staff, visiting lecturers and examiners who continue to give outstanding support to the School of Horticulture. These people make the Kew Diploma a unique educational experience.'

Martin then invited the Guest of Honour, James Hitchmough, to make the presentations.

### **Matthew Brewer**

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Martin Deasy**

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 1st year vegetable plot project;

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

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

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

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Ashley Edwards**

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize, (and I am delighted to have two of the

Rotarians with us today) - a joint award to the student who has made the biggest contribution to the voluntary or charity sector during their course. This year's joint recipient has donated his time to a National Garden Scheme open garden raising funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital;  
Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Thomas Freeth**

The Dummer Memorial Prize sponsored by the Kew Guild for the joint, best Herbarium project;  
The Squire's Garden Centre Prize donated by Squires Garden Centres for the best overall performance in landscape studies;  
The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens Scholarship for a final year, four-week placement at the garden in Jerusalem;  
Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Corin Golding**

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Hans Mackrodt**

The Alitex Glasshouse award, sponsored by the greenhouse manufacturing company, awarded to the student who has demonstrated the best practical performance during their work placements under glass;  
The Dummer Memorial Prize sponsored by the Kew Guild for the joint, best Herbarium project;  
The F Nigel Hepper Cup presented in memory of the Kew botanist in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments;  
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;  
Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Tom McCarter**

Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Amy Moffett**

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 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 book 'The Pruning of Trees, Shrubs and Conifers', the original version being written by George Brown – this revised edition is available from Amazon UK;  
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;  
Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Susan O'Brien**

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Suzanne Patman**

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 Ashley Hughes Memorial Prize in memory of a former horticulturist in the Tropical Nursery for the student showing most support and congeniality to their course colleagues;  
 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 Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize, awarded by the City of London Livery Company to the student attaining the top marks in the final year dissertation;  
 Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Katriina Rautala**

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Prize, this joint award to the student who has made the biggest contribution to the voluntary or charity sector during their course. This year's joint recipient has donated her time to a National Garden Scheme open garden raising funds for Great Ormond Street Hospital;  
 Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Susan Urpeth**

Kew Diploma with Credit

## **Other Awards and Prizes**

### **Alex Hoyle**

Gardens Illustrated Prize awarded by the magazine to the student attaining the highest marks in first year practical subjects.

### **Beth Newman**

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

### **David Richter**

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

### **Will Burridge**

The Metcalfe Cup donated by the late Dr Metcalfe, a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, to the student attaining the highest second-year examination marks.  
 The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize is given by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor and augmented by a cup donated by Mrs Hazel Hyde, former School of Horticulture Administrator, in recognition of the work carried out by the Chairman of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society.

### **Alex Hankey**

The Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize is presented to the student who has done the most to organise the lectures and support the Chairman. Alex is presently on his travel scholarship.

### **Ashleigh Davies**

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory to the person or people who have given the best 'item of interest' talks to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. For her item "Fertilisers. What a load of shit!"

## Travel Scholarship Prizes

As an assessed element of the Kew Diploma our students are required to write a two week travel scholarship proposal, 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, **Will Burridge**, was able to visit Mexico to study and observe cycads and forest habitats.

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 **Jamie Innes**.

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.

**Ruth Calder** is currently on her travel scholarship to Oaxaca, Mexico to study local flora and work at the Jardín Etnobotánico de Oaxaca.

**Alex Hankey** is also abroad conducting a journey through the Western Cape, South Africa exploring wild flora and botanical gardens.

**Chris Hudson** travelled to Sri Lanka to study the native and endemic flora.

Another second year student with a particular interest in forests, **Jamie Innes**, travelled to Northern Turkey, to study the cultivation and conservation of the flora.

**Aaron Marubbi** travelled to the Balearic and Canary Islands to discover hotspots of endemism across the Spanish Islands.

Our final second year student, **Matt Parker**, undertook a study tour of Sikkim, India, following in the footsteps of Sir Joseph Hooker to explore the diverse flora of the region.

## Staff Travel Prizes

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

The first of our John Scott-Marshall prizewinners is **Duncan Brokensha**, a third year apprentice working in Kew's Hardy Display Section. He visited Virginia, USA last spring to undertake habitat restoration to benefit *Sarracenia* spp – trumpet pitchers.

Our second recipient, **George Douglas**, is also a third year apprentice working in Kew's Hardy Display section. He plans to visit Romania to the Carpathian Mountains and Danube to look at endemic flora.

Our third recipient, **Scarlett English**, is also a third year apprentice working in Kew's Hardy Display section. She undertook a study trip to Morocco to look at native conifers *Cedrus atlantica*, *Juniperus oxycedrus* and *Abies pinsapo* subsp. *marocana*.

Our next recipient is **Rebecca Hilgenhof**, a Kew Diploma graduate working in the Tropical Nursery. She visited Hawai'i to study the threatened flora and learn about conservation efforts.

Our next recipient, **Andrew Luke**, is also a Kew Diploma graduate working in the Arboretum Nursery. He will be undertaking a plant-collecting trip to Northwest Vietnam this October.

Our penultimate winner, **Paul Rees**, is another Kew Diploma graduate working in the Tropical Nursery. He will be undertaking *Crassula* research, with Jodrell science colleague Olwen Grace, linked with Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, South Africa.

Our final winner, **Marcelo Sellaro**, also works in the Tropical Nursery and carried out a work placement at Utrecht University Botanic Gardens, Netherlands, he returned with a donation of 100 *Tillandsia* species new to Kew's collections.

The Harcourt Scholar Travel Award is supported by Mrs Boyce whose grandfather worked at Kew. It is awarded to the Harcourt Apprentice for travel in the 2nd year. This year's recipient, **Tom Pickering**, is currently visiting Madagascar.

Guest of Honour James Hitchmough then congratulated all the outgoing students and said that his right hand would never be the same again! He felt he was here today to try to make everyone happy and feel good - something he isn't always able to do during his day to day work. At the same time he emphasised it was important to recognise that professional horticulture was becoming marginalised in the world of Urban Sustainability. He urged the students to engage in diverse aspects of Horticulture at large and develop multi-disciplinary contacts and experience, and to develop their careers as widely as possible as they go out in to the world. And finished by wishing 'good luck to you all'!

Trustee George Loudon thanked Kew generally and wished the students well in the future.

Outgoing student Ashley Edwards provided a splendid and humorous captioned photographic presentation showing many aspects of the three year course, and afterwards presentations were made to the four School of Horticultural staff.

Afterwards everyone strolled over to the School of Horticulture to enjoy tea and cakes where old friends mingled, and new contacts were established.





**Chris Brown**  
5387

**Joe Clements**  
5385

**Solène Dequiret**  
5216

**Ben Dispirito**  
5389



**Luke Gunner**  
5298

**Miranda Janatha**  
5211

**Misako Kasahara**  
5388

**Jess Lee**  
5210



**Nicola Lloyd**  
5386

**Tom Pickering**  
5024

**Kate Rzepinska**  
5214

**Will Spoelstra**  
5391



**Anna Tack**  
5390

**Course 52**

## Student Report

by Paul Eguia



In September 2014 the School of Horticulture welcomed 13 new students to Course 52, just one month after Course 49 graduated and became 'ex-Kew Diploma students'. As part of the tradition, the 'newbies' had to go through the inevitable two weeks of induction where Judy Hancock, Pam Black and Martin Staniforth told them

all they needed to know about Kew, and started worrying about the Diploma workload. They visited all the brightest most prestigious buildings and areas of Kew and the darkest most hidden ones, guided by members of staff. But we all know that going through the induction is not enough - no one is really considered a Kew Diploma Student before they have run the clog and apron race. After an epic finish where he over took Ben Dispirito in the last five metres of the Broad Walk, Will Spoelstra had the honour of having his name written on the winners' cup. Course 51 organised the after-race barbecue in the Grass Garden which gave everyone the occasion to welcome the new students and let them relax before they started in their first practical placements.

As Course 52 settled in and got used to their new status of Kew Diploma Students, Course 51 became the new 'Second Years'. We started our second year by submitting our travel scholarship proposals, hoping that we would be one of the seven rewarded with the approval to travel from the School of Horticulture. After a few months of waiting, Iain Middlebrook was informed that his travel to South Africa was accepted, Kasia Babel was allowed to travel to South Korea, Beth Newman will botanise in Scotland, Gareth Porteous will be in New Zealand in April, Alex Hoyle will fly to the United States of America, Rupert Harbinson was allowed three weeks for his travel to Australia and as the seventh lucky one I will explore Madagascar. January 2015 was for us the start of the second lecture block and the important academic projects such as the systematic project or the design detailing portfolio. Luckily for us, not everything can be taught in a classroom and John Sallis-Chandler took us to the London Olympic park as part of our design lessons (see photo). The next big step for us will be the exams at the end of March 2015 when we will be tested on the knowledge we have acquired during the last three months.



While we prepare and build up the stress for the exams, the 'Third Years' have been through their last lecture block which finished in December 2014 and are back in practical placements around the Gardens. The seven of them who went on their travel scholarship have given their KMIS (Kew Mutual Improvement Society) lectures in the Jodrell conference theatre. They are all now working hard on the most important academic piece of work for the whole of the course which is of course the

dissertation. After they have handed it in on the 2nd of March, they will have two or three more short essays and reports to write but nothing as work intensive as that which they have already achieved in two and a half years at Kew. They will, in May 2015, go to Spain for two weeks for their conservation project and spend all the money they have raised so far from selling their vegetables in the first year and organising fund raising lectures and raffles in their second year. All are looking forward to the Spain trip, which is a symbolic 'end' to their academic work.

## **Kew Guild Events in 2014**

### **Gravetye Manor, West Sussex**

12 April 2014

This 1,000 acre estate was once owned by William Robinson (1838-1935) who spent fifty years of his life (the last 30 wheelchair bound) putting his opinions on natural informal plantings into practice. Irish born Robinson went from a municipal gardener in Regents Park to Times correspondent and representative of the renowned firm Veitch, then elected to the Linnean Society in 1866. Over the years his opinions on gardening and horticulture changed from the formal creations of the day to a more naturalistic style of planting. He moved to the 16th century Elizabethan Manor of Gravetye in 1884.

Now a luxury 17-bedroom hotel, the current owner Mr and Mrs Hoskings are keen to restore the estate to its former glory. Tom Coward (Course 38) has been given a free hand to do just that. Five full-time gardeners, three students and a couple of volunteers now and again make up the workforce on this 35 acre garden.

A keen party of Guild members met Tom for a guided tour starting with the flower garden, a colourful terrace garden close to the house. Tulip 'Purple Dream' made a wonderful splash of colour belying the fact that this area has been quite a challenge with mare's tail and ground elder. Later Annuals predominate to allow the ongoing digging out of the perennial weeds before reinstatement of the mixed borders. The next terrace up has a lawn used for weddings surrounded by Azaleas with under plantings of species Tulip, *Leucojum* and *Epimedium*.

The novel two acre circular sandstone walled kitchen garden slopes gently south and is very productive involving quite close collaboration with the chef for young succulent vegetables for the restaurant. Tom has picked up useful tips as a consequence and was ecstatic in his description of how he has been able to enjoy freshly harvested asparagus spears rushing to his nearby home and plunging them into a waiting pot of boiling water! A six bed rotation is practiced. Seakale, Rhubarb and Chicory are forced under traditional clay pots. Courgette flowers are another delicacy grown for the table. Morello cherry, Victoria plum, Greengage, Kiwi fruit, Pear, Mulberry, Tayberry, Loganberry, Blackberry, Gooseberry and Strawberry are just some of the fruit grown. Cut flowers for the hotel are also grown here, from Sweet peas to Roses. A spring supplies an original water cress bed at the southern end of the garden. Chickens in pens are moved around the walled garden to help eradicate bindweed and mare's tail.

Located outside the walled garden, Robinson's seven original glasshouses and traditional frames are steadily undergoing restoration using Iroko timber for durability. Peaches and vines were seen under glass with poly tunnels for courgettes.

Walking through the orchard we then viewed the wildflower meadows below the hotel.

*Anemone nemorosa*, *Scilla biflora*, *Galanthus* species, *Tulipa sylvestris* and other bulbs were much admired.

Tom explained his technique of naturalised spring bulb displays followed by summer flowering plants such as knapweed and oxeye daisy. In late summer a local farmer cuts the meadow once removing all the hay prior to the emergence of autumn crocus. In winter Romney Marsh sheep nibble the area. The lake beyond was once an iron quarry in the 1500s, now housing water lilies. At one end the Bamboo Sassa is being restricted by the use of membrane barriers. To the north of the entrance drive is the East Garden containing many original tree and shrub plantings.

The afternoon concluded with cream teas on the terrace and in the summer house next to the hotel. This event was actually oversubscribed so it was good to see so many attending this successful event.

Pamela Holt

### Isle of Wight Weekend

17-18 May 2014

The 22 acre Grade II listed Ventnor Botanic Gardens was originally the National Hospital for Diseases of the Chest which opened in 1869 when tuberculosis was widespread. The patients worked in this sheltered environment until medical advances made it redundant.

The local authority took over in the 1970s with Sir Harold Hillier planting many tender and exotic trees and shrubs from his collection which flourished in this sheltered garden with its south facing aspect and mild winters. Known originally as Steephill Pleasure Gardens visitors enjoyed free entry for many years, only paying to enter the glasshouse.

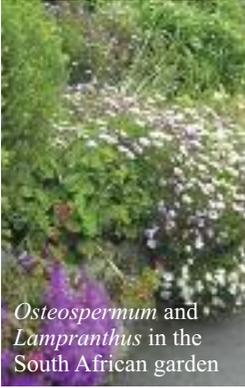


The Mediterranean Echiums provide a spectacular display

A Lottery grant in 2000 funded the visitor centre and created the post of Head Gardener filled by Chris Kidd (1979) then working for Lord Heseltine at Thenford House. Curator Simon Goodenough (1976) took redundancy as the Garden became a drain on resources and its demise began as funding was withdrawn over two years. Revitalisation came when an American philanthropic businessman John Curtis was able to create a Community Investment Company after the Gardens were transferred from the Isle of Wight Council in 2012.

On a beautiful sunny morning Curator Chris Kidd conducted our group around this gem situated above the sea nestling in the microclimate of the undercliff. He explained novel ways in which he tackles the challenge of running the Gardens as a private enterprise - from creating realistic natural landscapes to private hirings, restaurant, gift shop and holiday lettings of a recently renovated house (Allan and Joan Hart, with their friend Dennis McGlade, were the first to use the apartment during that weekend).

‘Throughout the tour we were entranced by the spectacular range of plants on show, starting at the South African terraces. Chris talked about the success of the annuals and short-lived perennials being well established at Ventnor, and there are large expanses of both, sweeping down over hot south facing terraces. The colourful displays last well into winter. Among the highly coloured *Lampranthus* spp., are Birds of Paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*), rare proteas, red hot pokers (*Kniphofia* spp.) and reed-like restios.



*Osteospermum* and  
*Lampranthus* in the  
South African garden

This part of the Garden was developed thanks to a Living Spaces grant awarded to the Friends of Ventnor Botanic Garden.

Next is one of the hottest parts of the garden in summer. The Australian garden has very poor, stony soil. To take advantage of this, the steep south-facing bank is planted with Eucalyptus to form a patchwork mosaic of foliage through which a rock face is visible. This rock is man-made and Chris explained details of its construction and the stories behind the complications of establishing the sub-base using old double-deck buses which were used to stabilise the shifting bank. Bottle Brushes (*Callistemon* spp.) and Tea Trees (*Leptospermum* spp.) are planted densely in the valley to resemble the scrubby habitat of these plants. Deep in the valley is a soakaway remaining from Victorian days, planted with ferns that leads towards a dell of tree ferns.

A bridge spans this glade towards the New Zealand garden which was a development started in the spring of 1989 in the wake of the total destruction caused by the storm in 1987. The original plantings were made to represent a thicket of New Zealand bush. Some cultivated varieties have been introduced latterly. Many of the plants here are of unknown hardiness but are potentially useful for British gardens. The flora of New Zealand is rich and unique having evolved in isolation for millions of years and because of this it has a distinctive look about it. No fewer than 80 per cent of New Zealand's native plants are endemic. Although few have showy flowers, the variety of foliage colour, texture, and shape is unsurpassed. So many commonly grown garden plants herald from New Zealand: *Brachyglottis* (formerly *Senecio*), *Hebe*, *Olearia* and *Phormium* to name a few. Seldom are they grown in association with other natives of New Zealand, but here the opportunity to see them as a geographic entity creates an impression of the flora of that far distant land.

Climatically New Zealand is more akin to the Mediterranean than Britain, but the numerous microclimates caused by the topography there means that there are many plants that cope well with our northern temperate climate. Many of New Zealand's plants that we grow come from areas of high rainfall. These plants thrive at Ventnor not so much because of rainfall but due to the relative humidity that is kept high by close proximity to the sea. Mist and fog being frequent in the spring and autumn months play their part in maintaining good growth on the New Zealand collection.

The first ten years development of the New Zealand collection has been surprising; primarily in the speed of growth of many of the plants and also the huge diversity of species that it has been possible to cultivate. It was anticipated there would need to be a cycle of removal and rejuvenation to maintain a diverse and active collection. However, the time frame in which this cycle needs to be undertaken has proved to be considerably shorter than expected. It must also be stressed that the experimental nature of much of this planting does sometimes lead to unexpected results. One of note was the way a *Coprosma* was entwined within another large shrub.

Spectacular displays of *Echium wildpretii* spikes towering above us were in glorious flower as we walked through the south facing Mediterranean terrace backed by steep rocky banks. The actual feel of natural Mediterranean scenes with dry gullies and rock-strewn ground have been recreated typifying many parts of the Mediterranean, the sharply drained soil being ideal for these plants. More densely planted areas display aromatic herbs and shrubs of the 'Maquis' (the name given to the vegetation typically found in the Mediterranean) filling the air with the heady aromas caused by the volatile oils they produce.

The nature of the Mediterranean weather system determines that the majority of flowering coincides with the moist spring. The collections of *Cistus* make a fine display along with *Echium* and spiky thistle against the foul smell of Dragon Lilies at odds with the honey scented *Mignonette*. The western end of the terrace has an olive grove next to vines covering an archway. The biodiversity essential for a productive olive grove have nearly all been recorded and this area is set to develop further.

Then for a dramatic change of environment on this warm sunny day, a walk into the conservatory. Built in 1986 and opened in 1987, the house is designed to reflect the curvilinear conservatories of the Victorian era. The use of twin skinned polycarbonate sheeting removes the problem of glazing a curved surface and adds the additional bonus of energy efficiency having less heat loss than glass. During the past 15 years the opacity of the polycarbonate has increased and therefore light transmission has been much reduced. The original plantings inside had also reached a point in time where major rejuvenation was required. During the summer of 2002 it was decided to completely re-landscape and re-plant. A bold and contemporary theme was decided upon, combining many environmental issues and portraying a story of nature's triumph over the worst excesses of mankind.

We entered the house through a derelict mineshaft that opens up to tropical heat. Plants are growing everywhere in the high humidity produced by running water. Climbers hang from the superstructure and further in, a pool of water containing 22 tonnes of heated water a young Giant Water-lily was developing.

Our thanks to Chris for giving us such a wonderful insight into the changing face of the Ventnor Garden and its financial challenges. Before leaving, some of us took advantage of the sale of many varieties of exotic and rare plants which are propagated on site and which provide continued funding for the garden.'

David Hardman

The group ate at the excellent restaurant there before going on to the historic gardens at Shorewell in the afternoon:

'We were given yet another treat, arranged by Pamela Holt, of a visit to the gardens surrounding a Jacobean manor house, home of Mr and Mrs J Harrison. Northcourt Gardens have been developing for nearly 400 years and further enhanced over the last 30 years by the present owners planting many shrubs and young trees. A wide range of microclimates and a relatively warm maritime climate is aided by shelter from the woodlands and the changes in topography, with rises of 25-30 metres from the chalk springs in the valley to the edge of the greensand downs.

The surrounding parkland was landscaped circa 1800 by Elizabeth Bull, daughter of the owner, with temples, summer houses and serpentine walks, inspired by the Rococo style of gardening. The walled garden was developed around 1840 - the estate at this time was 688 hectares. A sale in the 1930s resulted in the house being left with just 6.07 hectares.

The owners have reduced maintenance costs by using their own labour and fourteen hours paid help per week, with a programme of naturalistic planting, lots of mulching, together with selecting the right plants. The walled garden, partly cultivated, has been badly affected by Box Blight, which is being removed. Apple trees, mainly espaliers over 100 years old, line the footpaths.

Terraces on the cool greensand provide ideal locations for the extensive collections of

Camellias and Magnolias. The chalk stream is lined with *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Shuttlecock Fern) and candelabra primulas in a wide range of shades with Rogersias and *Arum* Lilies thriving on the island. Botanical highlights include *Tetrapanax papyrifer*, *Echium pininana*, *Cornus x Norman Hadden*, *Euphorbia pasteurii*, *Melianthus major*, *Crinodendron hookerianum* and *Beschorneria yuccoides*.

Allan Hart

Saturday evening was spent at the Art Deco Rex's Piano bar where we enjoyed aperitifs on the balcony overlooking Ventnor harbour below followed by an excellent evening meal. Some people even took to the tiny dance floor!

The next morning, Sunday 18th May, we were treated to a tour of the garden of Osborne House lead by Head Gardener Toby Beasley. Osborne House was purchased by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert as a private retreat where they could enjoy family life with their nine children away from public scrutiny. On first viewing the site, Queen Victoria exclaimed "it is impossible to imagine a prettier spot", a sentiment many of today's visitors will appreciate, with the house set above extensive grounds which run down to the sea. Toby explained that Prince Albert was much involved in the design of both house and garden, the original Georgian house being demolished and replaced with the present splendid building in 1845. He wished his children to appreciate nature and taught them how to plant trees and grow vegetables. The estate was taken over by English Heritage in 1984, and work is now underway to restore original features, including the removal of some Forestry Commission plantings.



Left to right front row: Allan Hart, Jean Peach, Joan Hart, Head Gardener Toby Beasley, Pamela Holt (in straw hat) David Hardman with Jan, Bob Ivison with wife Theresa, Jan Overland, Tony Overland. Back row: Rod Peach, Brian Phillips, Dennis McGlade.

Prince Albert planted many trees and shrubs which have now grown into fine mature specimens, including cedars, holm oaks and rare specimens, some sent by Kew. Many of these trees are 'memorial trees', which Toby explained commemorate events such as royal weddings. The main driveway is curved at both ends to obscure the house from view, and at its end stand two large cork oaks (*Quercus suber*) planted by Prince Albert and his daughter Princess Alice in 1847. The recently restored walled garden dates from the original Georgian house, but the walls were heightened and embellished by Albert. It was mainly used to supply Queen Victoria with a supply of cut flowers for the house, and is being replanted to follow that traditional use. Varieties are also included to commemorate Victoria and Albert, for example Victoria plums and Prince Albert rhubarb.

The house is complemented by large terraces of formal bedding plants and bulbs in the Italian style, and Toby explained that where possible varieties are used that were available

in Victorian times. Elsewhere, a circular bed contains a specimen of the palm *Trachycarpus fortunei* which was planted by Queen Elizabeth in 2004. The original *Trachycarpus* in this position was a present to Queen Victoria sent from Portugal. Seeds from that were grown in the Ventnor Botanic Garden, from where in turn the present plant originates. Finally we were shown the specimens of Osborne myrtle (*Myrtus communis*) growing against the lower terrace steps, sprigs of which have been incorporated in all Royal wedding bouquets since one was presented to Victoria by Albert's grandmother, including in Kate Middleton's bouquet on her marriage to William.



After a most enjoyable morning in glorious May sunshine, much enhanced by Toby's knowledgeable and entertaining discourse, we dispersed to visit the house and other parts of the estate. A pleasant track leads down to the beach where apart from purchase of locally made ice cream, the original horse drawn bathing machine used by Queen Victoria may be seen. It was recently featured in the film in which Judy Dench played the Queen.

Walking back through informal shrub areas, wondering at wildflower meadows, peeping into an ice house, admiring the mock fort, and visiting the Swiss Cottage, where one can only admire Prince Albert's determination to see that his children were brought up with inquiring minds. The Swiss Cottage houses many artefacts from educational toys and treasures collected by the family to scales where produce grown was weighed and market price calculated from the Royal Childrens' Garden. This has nine plots laid out for each child and replicas of the individually named wheel barrows. It sheds much light on this Royal family who came to Osborne House for relaxation away from the public eye.

Sylvia Phillips with additions by Pamela Holt

## Kew Guild Annual Dinner

20 May 2014

The Kew Guild enjoyed their annual dinner this year with guest speaker Dr Philip Askew fresh from a year in which the Queen Elizabeth Park (previously Olympic Park) was opened to the public, having been closed for transformation since the Olympic Games. Dr Askew, as a landscape architect, has been directing construction operations there for the last six years, in the four years of preparation up to the Olympic Games and then the two years afterwards. During that time he has overseen the development of a derelict industrial site into a new area of London, a legacy of which we can all be proud, both in the showcase of British horticulture which it exemplifies and in the field of landscape which he illuminated with numerous references to the involvement of top British names in the nursery trade.



Philip was guest of the President of the Kew Guild this year, Bob Ivison, who presided over a warm and enthusiastic audience of Guild members who made up the dinner guests at the Cambridge Cottage on Tuesday, following the opening day at Chelsea. An appropriate toast to the President was proposed by David Hardman who was able to uncover

things about Bob not previously known to us, going back many years and during his subsequent career. In his response, Bob Ivison stressed how much Kew meant to him personally, how inspired he was by those who had gone before and alluded to the responsibility it carried to enthuse future young horticulturists in the field. To this end he made reference to the challenging environment we now all faced and the ways we can make a difference. Those opportunities to embrace new technologies and engage with partners across the horticultural, botanical, conservation and scientific worlds as well as reach out to the wider community were something that the Guild needs to take advantage

Bob Ivison and his wife (talking to Jennifer Alsop, foreground) with Tony Overland and his wife during a pause in the meal



of and should take the chance to accept new ideas. (A full transcript of Bob's speech can be found on the Kew Guild website). His thanks to Jennifer Alsop and Alexandra Ward for their respective work in organising the Dinner and publishing this year's Journal was instantly recognised by the members and guests, and to Richard Ward for being MC for the evening.

Of the formal awards made by the Guild, the Kew Guild Medal was awarded to Sir David Attenborough who was delighted to accept, but with apologies for his absence on the evening since he was away filming (when does he stop!). He was, however, present at the Kew Guild AGM in September when a formal award was made to him, as reported earlier in this Journal.

An Honorary Fellowship was made to Piet Oudolf, the garden designer and nurseryman who has played such an important part of influencing the 'New Perennial' movement. He was unavoidably detained in New York whilst overseeing the opening of another section of the 'High Line' landscape but has been pleased to accept and we look forward to his visiting us in the future. Finally, for his work as Chair of the Kew Guild Awards Committee over many years, the George Brown Award was presented to David Barnes.

Aaron Marubbi, as Guild representative of the students at Kew, made a strong appeal to all present in his toast to Absent Friends which together with the Master of Ceremonies role, so rigorously performed by Richard Ward, particularly in the raffle arrangements, brought the dinner to a close. (A single auction specimen of *Davidia involucrata* was swept up by Jonathan Rickards under close bidding on the internet!)

## **Reveley Lodge Gardens and Bushey Rose Garden**

21 June 2014

Nick Boyes (1972) is Head Gardener at Reveley Lodge, a 2.5 acre garden which surrounds a Victorian house bequeathed by the last owner Mrs Eila Chewitt to Bushey Museum Trust in 2003. His remit on commencement of his post in July 2005 was to get the Garden up to a standard whereby it could be open to the public, a task he has achieved with the help of volunteers last year.

After several years of neglect the Gardens are a joy to visit from formal rose gardens, herb and medicinal garden, colourful annual and perennial plants, vegetable areas, glasshouse and informal parts with trees, shrubs and bulb plantings. A delightful conservatory runs along one side of the house with tubs, urns and hanging baskets displayed around the terrace. Laid out in the grass is a Human Sun Clock (an analemmatic sundial) thought to be the only stone one in Hertfordshire laid out in portland stone by Sarah Stewart-Smith,

a stonemason resident in Cornwall. A central stone plinth has the months marked out to make the user stand on a slightly different place each month of the year to give a precise reading. The person casting the shadow stands on the central stone on the appropriate month with arm raised. Two arcs of hour stones are arranged around the plinth - the outer measures the shadow in Greenwich Mean Time hours and the inner arc measures British Summer Time.

After an interesting tour, Nick arranged an alfresco lunch at a local pub followed by a visit to Bushey Museum which houses a permanent exhibition of Sir Hubert Von Hercomer's paintings and those of his school. He founded an art school in Bushey in 1883, in particular encouraging women to become career artists. Walking to the nearby Bushey Rose Garden, it is fascinating to note that this is on the site of the former art school where a beautiful Welsh red sandstone curve of cloisters from the art school now provide an attractive backdrop for musical and theatrical summer performances. A later addition has an attractive mixture of roses and herbaceous plants.

The Garden was designed by Thomas Mawson in 1912 for Herkommer receiving a portrait as his fee. The Garden was opened to the public in 1937. Hertsmere Borough Council later took control after much neglect. The Rose Garden recently received funding from the Heritage Lottery and Big Lottery Fund 'Parks for People' programme, Hertsmere Borough Council, and additional funding from Landsberg-am-Lech and the Rotary Club. This enabled restoration from 2009-10 to take place with official opening by the Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire Countess of Verulam on 23 July 2010. Many original Mawson features have been retained from a Bavarian tufa rock fountain and summer house to a pergola, rose temple and basket weave brick paving in the sunken garden.

We enjoyed a wonderful day which Nick personally conducted, making tea and coffee in his office whilst we enjoyed lovely home made cakes courtesy of one of his volunteers.

Pamela Holt

## **Hillier Arboretum**

1 November 2014

The Kew Guild organised a trip to the Hillier Garden, inviting us, the current Kew Diploma students, to join it. The weather was very pleasant, with the sunlight streaming through the branches of trees and wind gently moving grasses and bringing the sweet scent from the Scented Garden.

The site, which is now known as Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, is located near Romsey and covers over 180 acres. In 1951 Sir Harold purchased Jermyns House and its 41 acres. In 1953 he expanded the site by another 58 acres. Later, he bought more land around the Ampfield area, enlarging the site.

The first ploughed area in the garden is known now as Ten Acres. But before the site could be used, Harold needed to clean the ground of tree stumps. That was done by getting a sapper to blow them up with dynamite. At the beginning the ground was used purely to grow the nursery stocks. However, in 1961 Sir Harold decided to stop using it for this purpose and instead it became the heart of his arboretum.



Curator Wolfgang Bopp gave a talk about Hillier Gardens



*Enkianthus perulatus*, a true treasure at this time of year

It has become a home for thousands of plants that Sir Harold brought here from his nurseries, purchases and his plant-hunting expeditions. His devotion to plants created a unique landscape... or, as others may say, lack of it! This place was, and still is, at first a home for plants. Designing a beautiful garden was not something Sir Harold was interested in doing. It allowed the creation of a site which has developed into a beautiful garden we can admire now. The hilly topography has helped to form many secret pockets - you can walk from one to another one, discovering a new wonder. And the plant collection makes this garden a really exclusive place to visit.

My favourites plants on that November day were *Enkianthus perulatus* - this deciduous shrub from Japan with its leaves changing red in autumn is a true outstanding plant at this time of year. It is a slow growing shrub and it takes 10 to 20 years for it to reach its ultimate height of 1.5-2m. And *Liriope spicata* – the delicate flowers of this species bring a summery feeling. It is difficult to believe that it is November already when you see them. It is a semi-evergreen mat forming perennial with dark green leaves up to 25cm high and starts flowering in late summer. *Hippophae rhamnoides* is a rather common small tree has beautiful orange fruits on female plants at this time of year that look extraordinary next to grey-green leaves. *Luma apiculata* – this evergreen shrub originates in Argentina and Chile. It has a beautiful cinnamon and cream coloured bark and aromatic, dark green leaves. White flowers, 2cm long, are produced singly or in few-flowered cymes from midsummer to mid-autumn. It can reach up to 10-15m. Finally, *Maclura tricuspidata* – this species is native to Central China and Korea. It is a deciduous small tree or shrub reaching up to 7m high, with dark, green leaves up to 10cm long. It produces tiny, green flowers that are followed on female plants by orange-red flowers. The fruits look similar to fruit of *Morus spp.* and are edible.

The trip to Sir Harold Hiller Garden and meeting other Kew Guild members was a great joy for me and my fellow students. I would like to express on behalf of all the current students who took part in the tour, our appreciation for the curator, Mr Wolfgang Bopp, for his excellent tour around the garden. We look forward to trips that are as interesting and fun as this one in the future!



*Panicum virgatum* 'Shenandoah' at front, with *Hippophae rhamnoides* behind

Katarzyna Babel

## Walkie Talkie Building - Sky Garden Visit

7 November 2014

When I heard of the proposal for the design and build of a garden on the 35th floor of 20 Fenchurch Street (a new development known affectionately as the Walkie Talkie Building) I knew that this ground breaking innovative project would be of great interest to the Kew Guild membership. If it could be viewed during the construction period it would give an insight into the problems of logistics involved. The sourcing and installation of hard and soft landscape materials was contracted to Willerby Landscapes, whose managing director, John Melmoe, is an Honorary Fellow of the Guild.

John arranged with his project manager, Matt Ainscow, for us to have a tour of the 'Sky Garden'. The group, restricted to twelve for Health and Safety requirements, was issued with hard hats and hi-viz jackets before being fully briefed on procedures. Assembled into a service hoist we were transported into an amazing environment with 360 degree panoramic views over the City, and looking directly down to the east onto the commemorative poppies around the Tower of London.



Gillespies Landscape Architects were responsible for the design of the garden and the planting palette. The original planting concept - a collaboration between Gillespies and RBG, was a horticultural narrative revolving around the 'Evolution of Plants'. This was modified with the addition of more florally attractive plants which would be better appreciated by the public.



There are three zones of planting rising from the south facing bar terrace, through two storeys to the higher level restaurant terrace. The aim, brilliantly realised, was for a green backdrop to the extensive views from the Sky Garden - a richly textured carpet of ground cover echoing the contrasts seen within the bird's eye views of the city. Accessible landings have been created in the undulating carpet to provide sitting areas.

The flowering zone - the lower portion of the slopes, receives the most sun and displays a diversity of plants with bright colours and attractive foliage. The transition zone has a canopy of *Cycas revoluta*, both clump and trunk forms underplanted with evergreen shrubs.

The upper part of the slope has a great deal of shade in winter and is suited to forest style planting with a range of hardy ferns as underplanting.

The quality of the plants and the standard of installation are outstanding, complemented by the skilful positioning of Yorkstone rocks and paving.

Reluctant to leave this magical space, we then descended to ground level to view the green wall which covers the heavily shaded north facing side of the building. This aspect of the works was the responsibility of Biotecture Ltd. working to the Gillespies' brief of





evergreen foliage, providing the ‘back-bone’ colour with foliage, grasses and strapleaf plants and giving textural variety and ‘volume’ to the wall.

Measures have been put into place to mitigate the effects of winds caused by high rise buildings. Varieties of *Ulmus* (all at 8-10 metres high) with underplanting of *Cornus*, *Carex* and *Galanthus* give wide ranging seasonal interest. We all experienced the benefit of the shelter provided, as it was a bitterly cold day!

The Sky Garden is now open to the public with bar and restaurant bookings made via the internet at least three days before the visit - in the interest of safety.

Our visit certainly lived up to expectations and it will be interesting to see how the planting develops. We would like to thank John, Matt and their team who gave us such an interesting account of the installation problems and their satisfaction in creating such a wonderful and unusual environment.

Allan Hart

## Kew Guild Awards Scheme 2014

The Kew Guild Awards Scheme Committee met twice in 2014. These were the first meetings fully chaired by Chris Kidd, who acknowledges a great debt to the previous Chair David Barnes, and Allan Hart, for sage words and wise counsel in the role. Mention should be made also of commitment from all the Awards Scheme members, several of whom make considerable personal effort to attend meetings, review applications and keep exact records on behalf of the Guild.

In 2014, out of a total fund availability of £9340, £8312.50 was granted. Recipients write a report on their project, which are included below.

Applications are invited for the Award Scheme. They are available to all 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 to assist purposeful travel

Full rules of the Awards Scheme and applications are available on the Guild website. The closing dates for receipt of completed application forms are 28<sup>th</sup> February and 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

## Awards Scheme Reports

### Charity Fundraising

by Glyn Sherratt

Given the current financial climate, ensuring your horticultural charity has a consistent stream of funding is more important than ever. As the manager of a charity which manages a 260 acre estate, fundraising has become an increasingly important part of my job. For small charities, successful fundraising is the difference between being able to progress your charitable aims and just existing. This may not sound very relevant to horticulture, but without fundraising we would not have been able to carry out numerous horticultural projects at Gatton Park. Over the last five years we have secured funding for projects to restore the Victorian Parterre, the Pulhamite Pond and the Victorian Pleasure Gardens. Despite this success, I still felt like a wolf in sheep's clothing, as I had had no formal training in this area. To address this I attended two courses run by the Directory of Social Change, which is a charity that specialises in supporting the Third Sector. With funding kindly provided by the Kew Guild, I firstly attended a two day course in 'Effective Fundraising Strategy', which was followed by a one day course 'Developing your Proposal Writing Skills'.

The first course, 'Effective Fundraising Strategy' focused on how to develop a more strategic approach to your fundraising. To develop this strategy we began by building the case for support. This involved gaining a thorough understanding of the charity you work for and its charitable objectives. This was then followed looking at the charity's past achievements and where funding has come from in the past. We then outlined any future projects we were planning, including approximate costs and timeframes. From this baseline data we then put together a business plan so we had a clear idea of what the current and future requirements of the charity will be. From this plan we can then work out what income we will require over the next five years and start to strategically think about where that money will come from. Ideally this income would come from a variety of sources, such as events, open days, projects and grants rather than from one particular source. This approach ensures the charity is more resilient, should one particular area of funding dry up. One of the most important lessons that came from this was the importance of acknowledging that fundraising costs money and time, and that the charity will need to invest if it wants to make greater returns.

The second course in 'Developing your Proposal Writing Skills' focused on the actual writing of trust fund and Lottery applications. This course looked at making your proposal stand out, building the case for support, using the correct language and etiquette and being aware of the funder's perspective. It highlighted the importance of thorough research before applying and then building an ongoing relationship with funders once you have been successful.

Both these courses were extremely helpful and have helped me to plan, and raise funds for a number of landscape and community engagement projects at Gatton Park.

### Cameroon's Knowledge Legacy

by Lucy Wenger

Wheat? You grow wheat? In Cameroon? Chris and Irene's jaws drop. Where? Can we see it? Chris is bouncing in his chair raring to leap into the driving rain awaiting us in his enthusiasm to explore what I had considered a regular crop. I'm unimpressed, not only is it cold, and incredibly wet but I have just travelled for two long days from



Planting of the leafy vegetable *Solanum scabrum* (Huckleberry) seedlings by Buea Farmer.

steamy lowland rainforest to a praised agroforestry organisation high in the mountainous North West. Yes, it's wheat that has sent the Cameroonians I am travelling with into frenzied excitement!

I had yet to realise this would be the pinnacle of my trip, an outstanding example of a highly skilled farmer working on life-changing horticulture - income generation - sourcing a highly sought after and productive crop, suited to the local climate, harvested in the off-season and grown in small quantities by locals. Although George Kangong showcased pioneering aspects of Riba Agroforestry Resource Centre, I will never look at wheat in quite the same way.

Cameroon was an ideal spot to immerse myself in the heart of West African agroforestry as I delved into the challenges faced - most notably deforestation, loss of watershed and protection of endangered species. From grassroots initiatives such as George Kangong's RIBA organisation to a Ministerial level collaborative pilot scheme into the traceability of CITES listed *Prunus africana*, the trip was a smörgåsbord of sustainable opportunity.



Members of ANCO's Kintashi Women's Group, on their vegetable garden in the North West subdivision of Noni

I was able to navigate the language divide, exploring the uses of the Cola species, from a cultural welcome throughout West Africa and symbol of the spirit of sharing, to the growing technique and all-important preparation of the tangled forest vine eru (*Gnetum africanum*).

Brain buzzing, I explored the Limbe Botanic Gardens ably assisted by Yves Nathan Mekembom, Limbe's Technical Officer, observing the origins of the non-timber forest products (NTFPs) I had seen in the market, noting their habit, form and quizzing Nathan on potential localities of natural populations.

Continuing to the Bamenda Highlands and leaving thick humid jungle behind, I reached the savannah grasslands, travelling with members of Apiculture and Nature Conservation (ANCO). We bump and swerve to yet more inspirational projects, including ICRAF initiatives. Irene, training to take over ANCO, gives two very important lessons during this time: "You're not teaching something new, just want to improve on it" she intonates as I jump into the driving rain to grab a photo of *Tephrosia vogelii*, broadcast sown, here in the North West village of Belo, championed by agroforesters as a nitrogen-fixing tree species.

The idea of diversification through the integration of trees in cropping systems, providing training facilities or sustainable alternatives such as apiculture and vegetable production, embodies vast potential for change across the country.

Irene's second lesson arrived as we sheltered from the storm, "If you don't integrate you'll not succeed". Addressing areas such as conflict management and group dynamics provides a sound grounding to move forward and troubleshoot from. An aspect which, up until now, I had underestimated. In two sentences Irene had summed up the lessons I had learnt in Cameroon leaving me with a legacy of knowledge for my time at Eden.



Njie Peter's (left) agroforestry farm, the largest in the Buea cluster, working with Mbeng Handerson (middle) Mount Cameroon National Park staff and Prunus Management Common Initiative representative, Ekati Joseph (right)

### Xth European Congress of Entomology, University of York, 3-8 August 2014 by Alison Scott-Brown

Dr Alison Scott-Brown has 20 years experience working on invasive insect species and their interactions with plants and their natural enemies among the collections at the Royal Botanic Gardens. A key area of investigation has been the biochemical activity of secondary plant compounds against thrips. From this work several novel compounds toxic to thrips have been isolated and identified from plants from among the glasshouse collections. Current research includes the study of a toxic diterpene commonly found in the foliage of *Rhododendron* species which appears to influence the distribution of glasshouse thrips on the leaves of species within this genera. Identification of such compounds in resistant species of plants could potentially offer a valuable tool for the development of new methods for controlling thrips pests in both commercial and ornamental environments.

The following abstract is a summary of work presented at the Xth European Congress of Entomology:

Influence of leaf morphology and chemistry on host selection of the thrips *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* (Bouché) among diverse glasshouse collections.

The Kew glasshouse collections consist of several hundred thousand species of plants from around the world and include crop plants and wild relatives, ornamental cultivars and endangered species. These collections are increasingly subjected to invasions from pest species of thrips, which include vectors of tospoviruses; *Frankliniella occidentalis* and *Thrips tabaci*, plantation pests; *Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis* and more recently quarantine species such as *Scirtothrips dorsalis*. The unique, large-scale diversity of plant species present in these glasshouses provide an invaluable insight into host selection by thrips, offering an opportunity to examine the potential host ranges of invasive species and compatibility of controls agents on economic and socially important plant families.

Studies at Kew have investigated the morphological and chemical differences between two groups of plants; hosts of *H. haemorrhoidalis* (susceptible) and those that remain free from infestation (resistant). Scanning electron microscopy techniques were used to describe the morphology of leaf surface of hosts and non-hosts, to establish if morphological features could play a role in the selection of plant species by thrips and on the efficacy of their natural enemies. *H. haemorrhoidalis* had a preference for species with leaves that were coriaceous, with one or both surfaces being smooth. One exception in the

host group, *Dombeya acutangula*, possessed leaves covered with short, stellate trichomes which appeared to have little effect deterring thrips but did prevent the predatory bug, *Orius laevigatus* from foraging on the leaves of this species. In contrast, the leaves of the non-hosts were observed to have a diverse range of non-glandular and glandular trichomes on both surfaces which may contribute partially or fully to the absence of thrips feeding on these plants in the glasshouses. The chemical profiles of non-host species that lacked leaf trichomes were further investigated. Laboratory tests revealed secondary plant compounds isolated from whole-leaf extracts from several species were capable of altering the behaviour of thrips and current studies aim to further investigate whether trichome chemistry plays a role in thrips host selection mechanisms.

My work at Kew would not be possible without the help and support I have received from my colleagues at Kew. In particular thanks are due to the Kew Glasshouse Staff: Wesley Shaw, David Cooke and Scott Taylor and staff in the Jodrell Laboratory: Tom Gregory, Chrissie Prychard, Iain Farrell, Dr Hazel Wilkinson, Dr Nigel Veitch, Dr Renée Grayer, Prof Phil Stevenson and Prof Monique Simmonds.

I am very grateful to the Kew Guild for providing funds to allow me to travel to York and present the work at the ECE.

### **New York** by Kathryn Braithwaite

After a very successful travel scholarship to Louisiana in April 2014, I made the choice to maintain the positive momentum of research and professional development. With the focus of this journey being networking with gardens in New York City and research for my impending dissertation. Upon arriving in New York I got straight into work. My first stop was the Highline, which to my wonderful surprise is one of the only free activities I found in the city. So, after putting my wallet away, I immersed myself in this incredible garden. I use the term garden loosely, because the Highline is so much more than a garden and beyond inspirational. The reclamation and resurrection of an old railway line above the streets shaped into an oasis for the modern age. I visited this site on Sunday and was overwhelmed by the sheer number of those in attendance. Spending time in the city highlights how much city dwellers crave nature, crave the outdoors and desire peace in the bustle. The Highline, even in its complete chaos of people, offered this and more. Stalls, food, music, views of the Hudson and a glimpse of the Empire State Building. The planting is mix of perennials, grasses and trees, for me it was more function over form, but offering interest with low maintenance plants. I was very, very impressed with this site and it has opened up new ideas of how I will progress once I complete my diploma.

Venturing northwards, out of the city and into the suburbs, my next stop was New York Botanical Gardens. I spent a full day here, first meeting with colleagues at the vast herbarium. A rough estimate is that the stores hold 7 million specimens, with 1,000 more being sent in every month. The building is a vast, epic structure that was extended only 12 years ago, with the hope that it would give the herbarium another 20 years of storage. Unfortunately, it is busting at the seams already. I discussed the politics of stopping accepting specimens - this is not an option. So very soon the herbarium will need another extension.

After meeting Barbara Thiers (Director of the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium) and Robert Naczi (Curator of North American Botany) at the herbarium, I was then met by Brian Sullivan (Vice President of Landscape and Outdoor Collections) who took me on a tour of the gardens. The site is large and the finish is to a very good aesthetic standard, with an impressive childrens garden and a swathing native forest ramble. After this I met

with Eric Lieberman (Garden Education Manager), who took me on a whistle stop tour of the education department, and along the way we met many of the women who work at all levels of management. This highlights an important research element of my trip, which was to begin to elicit information about the role of women in botanical horticulture for my approaching dissertation. I was able to meet with women in all areas of the garden from Barbara at the herbarium to Kristine Paulus the Plant Records Manager and Jessica Schuler the Director of the Thain Family Forest. It was a powerful experience for me to witness how these ladies fit into the hierarchy of the gardens and hear their stories of career development. NYBG is an incredible site, with strong links to plant science, education and the community it serves.

Onto Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, where I was hosted by Scott Medbury (President of Brooklyn Botanic Garden) and Melaine Sifton (Vice President of Horticulture and Facilities). We talked and toured and debated ideas throughout the days. The gardens have a long history of community engagement and education of young people, boasting the world's first 'Children's Garden'. The site is in transition with new capital projects ongoing. The gardens felt like a city garden, more dishevelled than NYBG, but with an evident commitment to serve the community. Scott and Melanie were aware of my aims for the trip, and as such I was lucky enough to meet with Elizabeth Scholtz (former director of the gardens and the first female director of one of the 33 public organisations in NYC e.g. Metropolitan Museum of Art). From just a short half an hour in the company of this 93 year old stalwart of the gardens, I have been endlessly inspired. She has committed 53 years of her life to the gardens. She moved from South Africa in the 1960s with the spirit of adventure and the offer of a position at the gardens working on plant hormone research. I have a handful of stories about her time as the Director and these will definitely feature in my dissertation research.

I also ventured to Snug Harbour Botanical Gardens on Staten Island, Central Park and a clutch of public city gardens. Snug Harbour is a suburban garden that seemed very disjointed and poorly maintained. This highlights to me the ongoing importance of financial support for gardens, well trained horticulturalists, and strong management with a vision for a garden. Central Park is charming, with the trees, the people, the music, another haven for city dwellers. I wasn't able to meet with the staff here and this is not a botanical garden by any means, but the trees speak for the incredible importance of understanding how best to plant in a city setting. As with London, New York is a relatively green city, with community gardens and public pockets of planting all over. This has been an endless rewarding experience both personally and professionally, meeting with influential people, creating networks, observing alternate practices and beginning to visualise how my career can develop upon graduation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Kew Guild for supporting this endeavour.

### **No smoke without fire?**

by Steven Robinson

Part of my job at Wakehurst Place is the production of charcoal to supply the shop for lump wood charcoal for barbecues and I also send graded fines to Kew to use in the tropical department in their compost. Making charcoal fulfils many elements of enjoyment for me and one of those is fire which is used to start the burn and get the process underway. This fascination with fire led me to attend a fire lighting technique course at Ray Mears Woodlore school. The aim being to ignite the charcoal kiln using only friction method fire lighting rather than match. Apart from the many uses that fire has for survival one of its important functions is to provide morale. I'm sure most of us have spent time warming up around a fire and in a survival situation the skill to start a fire from the natural surroundings may mean the difference between life and death.

There are many different ways to produce a coal, by this I mean a hot ember which has been produced by rubbing two surfaces together. For example these can be hand drill, bow drill, fire saw, fire plough, all depending where in the world you are. The method most commonly taught is the bow drill. Believe me, the methods mentioned require huge energy and on the course there was some big ex-military guys who were reduced to exhausted, shaken, failed wrecks in attempting to produce a coal!



The bow drill is a simple piece kit with four components - the bow, bearing block, spindle and hearth. Extra to this is an ember catcher and the all-important tinder. The key to success is 'practice, practice, practice' and correct selection of wood species. The preferred species in the UK are Lime, Willow, and Ivy for both spindle and hearth but Hazel, Birch and Alder will work too. These need to be collected from standing dead and dry timber. The tinder needs to be very fine - this can be achieved by rubbing between your hands and loosely moulding into a ball. The tinder used is dead bracken, honeysuckle bark, bullrush, thistle heads, willow herb, fine birch bark but these all need to be totally dry to accept the coal. To work the bow requires technique, determination, patience and many calories - above all, never give up. The spindle is burnt into the hearth using the bow to create a shallow bowl. A groove is cut into the bowl 1/8th in width to the centre of the burnt bowl to remove a slice the shape of a slice of cake. This allows the dust to form away from the spindle and hopefully produce a coal. Easier said than done. Since returning from the course I have successfully made fire five times and attempted many many times. To perfect the skill is proving an incredible frustrating experience which I must conquer. To produce a coal and then transfer to tinder then produce fire is a privilege which I feel must be earned.

## **The Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship**

by Allan Hart

This is the ninth 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 2014 nomination goes to Peter Thoday - the well respected plantsman, garden designer and horticultural educator. The Fellows are responsible for creating and enabling a wide range of projects, which have a very positive social and economic value, both in the UK and overseas.

### **Current Honorary Fellows are:**

Elected	2006:	Derek Edwards, Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit, Ed Wolf
	2007:	Dennis McGlade, Anna Pavord
	2008:	John Brookes
	2009:	Richard Bisgrove, Niall Kirkwood
	2010:	Shirley Sherwood
	2011:	Adil Güner
	2012:	John Massey, Graham Ross
	2013:	Piet Oudolph
	2014:	Peter Thoday

## Peter Thoday NDH MSc



Peter Thoday is the son of the late Ralph Thoday, one time Head Gardener of St John's College, Cambridge. Peter studied at Cambridge University Botanic Garden then worked in nursery stock production both in the United Kingdom and Africa. On returning to the UK he took the post of demonstrator at the University of Bristol. Following that he spent five years as a lecturer in Amenity Horticulture at Oaklands, Hertfordshire County College. In 1966 he joined the Horticultural Department of the newly-established University of Bath as Lecturer in Amenity Land Management. After promotion to Senior Lecturer he became Director of Studies until 1990 when he resigned to form his own consultancy, while retaining a visiting lectureship until the department closed in 1993. From 1960 onwards he found himself involved in drafting and examining papers across the ever changing and often baffling world of horticultural education.

The consultancy, Thoday Associates, originated to provide technical support to designers and those involved in land-management projects. Lectures in Britain and overseas became an increasing part of the work and for many years Peter taught and examined at RBG Kew. Developing interests in the conservation of plants and historic husbandry led to the presentation of the TV series *The Victorian Kitchen Garden* and *The Victorian Flower Garden* and following that the project to restore *The Lost Gardens of Heligan*. He was President of the Institute of Horticulture 1994-96 and was awarded the VMM by the RHS.

Fortunately Sir Tim Smit thought PRT's horticultural knowledge, or maybe that of his old students, stretched further than the 19th century and might be particularly useful on a difficult site. As a result he became instrumental in the development of *The Eden Project*. In 1996 Peter became a Trustee of the Sensory Trust, a charity dedicated to making natural and man-made landscapes accessible to everyone.

A growing interest in the history of agronomy resulted in lecturing giving way to writing resulting in *'Two Blades of Grass: the story of cultivation, and Cultivar: the story of Cultivated Plants'*. He is currently commissioned by CABI to write a book on plant establishment on landscape sites.

'P.S. As my colleagues know, none of this could have happened without my wife Anne, to which I would add - and them!'

## News of Honorary Fellows

### Professor Adil Güner

Adil is the chief editor of *'Resimli Türkiye Florasi'* (illustrated Flora of Turkey), the first volume of which was published in August 2014 under the Turkish President's patronage.

Its 783 pages, by many Turkish scientists, gives a comprehensive introduction to the Turkish flora. The new Flora will have 28 volumes, with the aim of completion by 2023, the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey. The work is being undertaken by over 100 Turkish specialist taxonomists with teams of skilled artists for the line drawings and colour illustrations.

As chief editor of the Flora, Adil's time for the Botanic Garden is limited. A new Herbarium building for the 5,000 specimens (NGBB) and a new glasshouse complex has been built. Construction work on Anatolia Island is due to be completed next year for the 20th Anniversary of the Botanic Garden celebrations.

Nihat Gokyigit has provided major financial support (and NGBB practical training), for the restoration of Cukurova University Botanic Garden, Adana, on the south coast. This twenty hectare Botanic Garden was started more than 30 years ago, but has been neglected and closed to the public. It is planned to re-open it for the benefit of the people of Adana, and students, and to provide a tourist attraction for the many visitors to the region. In recognition of this, the Garden has been renamed 'The Ali Nihat Gokyigit Botanic Garden of Cukurova Universitesi'.

### **John Brookes**

John wrote to say that he has finally retired after eleven years of annual and bi-annual visits to Argentina - to the 'John Brookes School of Garden Design' at Pampa Infinita in Buenos Aires.

John also designed an outdoor restaurant at the Imperial Gardens Exhibition, St Petersburg, Russia, together with private gardens, again in Russia and southern Spain and Great Britain. He has also most generously donated his very extensive archive to the Museum of Garden History.

John is one of the most highly regarded, innovative and influential figures in garden and landscape design. His career and work can be accessed through the study by Barbara Simms, 'John Brookes, Garden and Landscape Designer', published by Conran Octopus Ltd in 2007.

### **Tim Smit**

Eden is on the verge of a public announcement that they are building an Eden China in Qingdao, 600km south of Beijing on the coast, and this will be taking up most of Tim's time over the next year. That, and possibly building another one in British Columbia!

### **Dennis McGlade**

Dennis McGlade, FASLA, is a Partner with OLIN, a landscape architecture and urban planning firm with offices in Philadelphia and Los Angeles. The past year has seen three of Dennis' projects completed and open to the public. In the late spring of 2014, the Olin School of Business opened at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri. OLIN teamed with architects Moore Ruble Yudell on this project to construct a new home for the school. The new facility reunites the school's dispersed operations and provides updated and expanded classroom, auditorium and office spaces. Site work included development of new walks, terraces, walls, stairs and service areas around the new building.

Also in the Midwest, Dennis' design for the University of Chicago's 58th Street closure and transformation into a pedestrian way was completed this autumn. This former city street is now a green, linear quadrangle planted with trees and lawn. Historic light fixtures and comfortable benches line the new limestone pathway that was formerly an asphalt street. Opening at the same time as the 58th Street transformation was his design for the University of Chicago Saieh Hall for Economics. This new site design fits within the overall existing historic context of the campus and creates multiple scales of spaces -

including a pedestrian entry, enclosed plazas, overlooks with movable seating and tables, amphitheater seating and small gardens. The design created elevated terraces overlooking 58th Street, generating gathering spaces for serendipitous interactions between students, faculty, staff and the public.



The biggest and most exciting opening of the year was the Fifth Avenue Plaza fronting the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City last September (see photos). The plaza is more than 2.5 acres in size and runs for more than four blocks along the 1,000-foot length of the landmarked museum. Dennis led a large design team to prioritize the pedestrian experience and create a welcoming urban destination with fountains, trees and seating.

A hierarchy of energy-efficient and diffused light on the fountains, plantings, grand stairs and façade enhances the evening ambiance of the plaza. A new pair of contemporary granite fountains operates year-round by utilizing an innovative steam-recycling circulation system to keep the water heated in winter. They are positioned close to the grand main entry stairs, improving access to the plaza's street-level public entrances and create an energized connection between people sitting on the steps and those at the fountains.

Ornamental beds of shrubs and herbaceous flowers reference plantings seen in early 20th century photographs and drawings. A formal allée of aerial hedges front the northernmost and southernmost wings of the museum and provide a stately promenade for pedestrians on the sidewalk. Two pairs of pollarded sycamore bosques mark the secondary street level entrances to the museum at 81st and 83rd streets. In all, the plaza includes approximately 100 new trees, more than doubling the previous number. Increased shade creates a more comfortable environment, reducing the surface temperature of paving by as much as 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Additionally, a suspended paving system allows for extensive subsurface tree pits to collect and utilize on-site stormwater that would otherwise burden the city's infrastructure. Excess stormwater not captured by tree pits or planting areas is collected and held in underground retention areas and slowly released into the city's stormwater system. On average, the projected annual stormwater reduction per tree will be 845-1,390 gallons. The new design transformed one of New York City's most significant public gathering spaces.



While three projects came to a close in 2014, many others continue on. The urban design plan for the site of the old City Market, just south and east of downtown Los Angeles, is going into the next phase of an extensive city planning approval process. The site is a

former produce distribution center that is re-imagined as a multi-phased development that creates a vibrant, mixed use urban center for this corner of the city. The master plan for the historic Santa Barbara Botanic Garden has been completed, as has the design for a garden for the new Pritzlaff Conservation Center at that Botanic Garden.

His two projects in Napa, California continue – the first for the former site of the Copia Food, Wine and Arts Center, and the second for the old Napa Pipe Factory site on the Napa River. In September, this last project finally received full planning approval. The physical realisation of this new community that would include parks, housing, retail, hospitality and office commercial can now proceed. For its innovative and sustainable approach to planning, Napa Pipe earned LEED Gold Certification for Neighborhood Development, one of the first projects in the USA to receive such an honor.

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

### **Richard Bisgrove**

2014 got off to a usual start with a scattering of garden history lectures at Kew but it soon developed into a vintage year as Richard and his wife reached the allotted span of three score years and ten. After their January and March birthdays, in April they went to Amsterdam for a mid-week break, mainly to see the Keukenhof bulb gardens, which Richard had never seen, but also to enjoy the city itself. He was surprised at how many bulbs were still in flower in that very early season and how tree-covered and un-flat the gardens were. In June, as part of their continuing celebrations, their children and their spouses/partners gave them a week's holiday in North Cornwall, complete with spending money. It was not a garden holiday as such but they managed to squeeze in a couple of gardens among the coastal walks.

The end of July saw the beginning of Richard's Oxford summer schools, three weeks with Berkeley alumni, one with an international group on the 'Oxford Experience' and two weeks with Michigan State University.

The major event of 2014, though, came in mid-October when they set off for a three-week 'Grand Tour' of China to celebrate their birthdays – again. They travelled by planes, bullet trains (300km/hr), boats, rickshaws and coaches with a four-day cruise on the Yangtze in the middle, and they saw Tiananmen Square/Forbidden City, the Great Wall, pandas, terracotta warriors, gardens, Shanghai, and much more, ending up in Hong Kong, where they still drive on the left and stop at pedestrian crossings. Again it was not specifically a garden tour but they saw three notable gardens (one full of students sketching the rocks), some amazing landscapes and were impressed by the quantity and quality of planting in all the cities they visited.

Richard continues to be involved in garden design work with two gardens in which he has been involved for many years and two new gardens – a 1/10 acre (1/25 ha) garden on the

bank of the Thames in Chiswick and a 480 acre (200 ha) ‘garden’ in Surrey.

In November, Richard was back at Kew for his short course in Amenity Horticulture so the year closed in December with a parcel of exam scripts from Judy Hancock. He hopes to have catalogued his China slides soon so that he can update that part of his garden history lectures for Course 51 in January – thus the wheel of life continues.

### **Ed Wolf**

Although Ed retired last year he still keeps a watchful eye on Indoor Plant Design which he founded 35 years ago. He was pleased that IGD was involved with the creation and execution of giant blossoming Mothers Day cards in Kew Gardens. The floral installations,



which were created by Ian Drummond of IGD, were composed of seasonal varieties, including Roses, double headed Lysianthus and Shamrock Chrysanthemums. In keeping with the company's ethics, all the blooms were sourced from Fairtrade growers.

Ed was particularly impressed with a collaboration with the South Korean artist Ji-Hae Hwang - for an exhibition in November of a 30 metre long by 1 metre wide suspended garden with a central water rill which was designed and built in only four weeks!

### **Derek Edwards**

Derek is looking forward to celebrating, in 2015, the 30th anniversary of the firm ‘Inturf’ which he established in 1985. He is one of the most respected turf specialists of his generation, and is a founder member of the ‘Turfgrass Growers Association’.

During its existence, Inturf has cultivated around 25 million square metres of turf in the East Riding of Yorkshire and in Lincolnshire, and was awarded the BS5750 Quality Assurance accreditation from the British Standards Institute.

Derek has helped to change the face of the turf industry by introducing a series of innovations, including low maintenance and drought resistant turf, and one which suppresses annual meadow grass - a weed grass which appears in sports pitches.

Despite his continuing battle with Parkinson’s Disease, Derek still finds the time and energy to give freely of his expertise and advice to the professionals within the landscape industry.

### **Anna Pavord**

For a gardener, 2014 will be remembered as a stupendous year! The Oaks in West Dorset put on more extension growth than Anna has ever seen before, and despite the gloomy

predictions after the wet winter, plants seemed, here at least, to grow with tremendous health and vigour.

In January she was in South America, sailing through the Panama Canal and watching, (with ghoulish interest), the standstill in the work that's supposed to be going on, to build a new canal with longer locks that can accommodate the new super-tankers. She saw some good wild Orchids and a superb garden (new to her) - the Casa Orquideas, made over the last thirty years by an American couple, Ron and Trudi McAllister. It's on a tiny island in the Golfo Dulce, Costa Rica - if anybody is going in that direction. It goes without saying that you have to get there by boat.

In May Anna gave some talks to a group of Americans in the Netherlands, and had a superb day at the Keukenhof. The planting team have started to mix up flowers in the plantings, so the beds do not look as regimented and 'shop window'-ish as they did in the past. It was the first really warm day of the year and the place was full of families picnicking.

Anna sits on the RHS Bulb Committee and during the summer, Richard Wilford and Anna submitted a proposal for a trial of *Arisaema*. She has been growing them for some time and they always attract attention in Jacques Amand's garden at Chelsea. There is great competition of course, to get a trial off the ground, but it would be good to be able to introduce these superb plants to a wider audience.

She spent November in Sikkim, where she fell off the edge of a rice terrace and ruined her ankle. That stopped her from any more walking on that trip. Never mind, there's always another year!

### **Niall Kirkwood**

The book publication - *Phyto: Principles and Resources for Site Remediation and Landscape Design*, to be published by Routledge/Taylor Francis in January 2015 - was completed with co-author Kate Kennen. *Phyto* or *Phytotechnology* is the use of vegetation and their associated microbes to remediate, contain or prevent contaminants in soils, sediments and groundwater. The term 'phytoremediation' where plants are used to remediate sites that are already polluted, is often used interchangeably with 'phytotechnology', but is only one subset of the field. 'Phytotechnology' is a much broader term that includes techniques such as pre-emptive installation of vegetation to mitigate ecological problems before they actually occur and stabilization of pollutants on site rather than just removal. Green roofs, constructed wetlands, bioswales, bioenergy crop cultivation and phytoremediation plantings are all forms of 'phytotechnology', a term which encompasses all uses of plants to meet environmental goals.

In 2014, Niall Kirkwood also gave lectures on landscape design at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, Korea University, Seoul and in the United States at Smith College and Arizona State University.

### **Roy Lancaster**

One of the highlights of 2014 for Roy was the publication by the RHS in April of the revised 8th edition of *The Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs*. Having been involved in compiling the original Manual published in 1971, Roy was thrilled to be asked by John Hillier for help in updating the text of the 2002 edition and providing the descriptions of some 1300 additional plants. The bulk of the revision was accomplished by staff of the Botany Department at Wisley who also brought the nomenclature in line with the RHS Plant Finder. It was a real team job and we were all pleased and not a little thankful to see

the new edition launched at both the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and at Wisley. 2014 just happened to be the 150th Anniversary of the The Hillier Nurseries so it was apt that the occasion should also be celebrated with the publication of a history, authored by Jean Hillier, of the Hillier Nursery dynasty under the title Hillier – The People, The Plants, The Passion.

In late May Roy travelled with Jim Gardiner to China accompanying an RHS Plant Seekers Tour in the footsteps of the famous plant explorers Wilson, Forrest, Kingdon Ward and Joseph Rock. They were a sizeable group of mixed abilities but during their two weeks in Sichuan and Yunnan they were privileged to see and photograph a wide variety of interesting plants both wild and cultivated. A highlight for Roy was finding the monotypic *Kingdonia uniflora*, a curious and primitive member of Ranunculaceae. It grew in moist, shady places carpeting the ground with small rounded, deeply incised leaves. Scattered spikes of the giant lily *Cardiocrinum giganteum* subsp. *yunnanense* and a lone Dove tree – *Davidia* in full bloom in an area of cut-over forest are just two of the many memories they returned home with.

On a rainy afternoon in late March Roy found himself in dense woodland following a barely discernible track up a steep slope on a mountain named Monchique in the Algarve region of Portugal. He was following Antonio Lambe, an enthusiastic gardener and plant lover who was determined to show Roy what he believed to be the largest specimen in the Algarve of a native oak *Quercus canariensis*. It was the end of the day, the light was poor due to low cloud and the rain was coming down in stair rods as Roy slipped and scrambled in his efforts to keep up with him. Eventually, they stopped to admire two large cork oaks *Q. suber* whose lower bark had been removed exposing the red inner bark. A few more metres and Antonio instructed him to close his eyes while he guided him forward to a sudden stop where, on opening his eyes and looking up Roy found himself standing beneath a huge tree with a high, broad crown of powerful branches – the champion no less. Roy was allowed 10 minutes or so to be alone with this magnificent veteran before squelching their way back down the slope to the car. By this time, his clothes were soaked but his spirits were high while the oak was nowhere to be seen.

### **Piet Oudolph VMH Hon Fellow RIBA**

Piet Oudolf continues to develop his radical ideas on the planting of indigenous plant species on wide ranging projects in Europe and the USA, which are too numerous to list.

The selection that follows indicates his vision and breadth of experience. ‘De Vlinderhof’ - a public garden created by private initiative of the local community, Netherlands 2014. Ruhr 2010 - creating gardens in two sedimentation tanks. A public park in Skarholmen, a harbour promenade in Solvesborg and new gardens for the Central Park in Goteborg, Sweden. A design for the Hauser and Wirth Sculpture Park and Gallery - Bruton, Somerset in 2014. His latest work is the landscape of the new Whitney Museum in New York, due to open in 2015.

In 2013 Piet was awarded the Prins Bernard Culturfunds Prize for his contribution to the culture of garden and landscape design, and this was followed in 2014 with the Maaskant Prize for his passion and enthusiasm in exploring the possibilities and limits of landscape architecture over the last 35 years.

He has been a co-author with Noel Kingsbury on ‘Designing with Plants’, ‘Planting Design’, ‘Planting in Time and Space’, and ‘Planting - A New Perspective’, with Michael King, former Secretary to the Board of Trustees, RBG Kew, ‘Designing with Grasses’, and with Henk Gerritsen ‘Dream Plants for the Natural Garden’ and ‘Planting the Natural Garden’.

## The George Brown Memorial Award

### David Barnes



David Barnes began his horticultural career in 1983, becoming a horticultural technician at the plant sciences department of Kings College London based at Herne Hill. The role comprised of maintaining the acre of grounds along with the rooftop complex of glasshouses containing the plant collections used for experimentation and teaching. Here David gained his City and Guilds qualifications as well as taking part in a student expedition to Ecuador. The natural progression was to move on to Kew following in the footsteps of previous staff, including E Arthur Bell who had been in charge of the

department before taking on the role of Director of Kew a few years earlier.

David successfully interviewed for the Kew Diploma joining Course 25 on the 14th September 1987. During his student days David took part in some key events in Kew's history. Only a few weeks after his start on the course the 'Great Storm' of 1987 hit the Gardens changing the landscape dramatically with many thousands of trees uprooted and badly damaged. His first months working in 'West Arb' consisted of endless bonfires followed by weeks of mulching the bamboo garden. Equally dramatic times came with the replanting of the newly renovated Palm House and the retirement of the Supervisor of Studies, Leo Pemberton. In 1988 David received the modest sum of £50 from the Guild to carry out his travel scholarship proposal to visit UBC Botanic Gardens in Vancouver.

In 1990 David graduated from the Diploma course to a full time member of staff in the School of Horticulture taking the reins from Gary Castle as Staff Training Officer. It was then that his links with the Kew Guild were forged, joining the Awards Scheme Committee under Kenwyn Pearson's chairmanship. David later became Secretary of the Awards Committee, Membership Secretary of the Guild and latterly Chair of the Awards Committee.

With restructuring of the Horticultural Department, David moved into a Health and Safety role for a short period before promotion to his current role as Manager of Horticultural Support working for Tony Kirkham and looking after the procurement of machinery, compost production, outdoor event support and the Chairmanship of sustainability for the whole Kew site. While work commitments have seen a reduction in the time available to dedicate to the Guild, David continues to be a member of the Awards Scheme in support of the new Chair, Chris Kidd.

Allan Hart

## Kew News: 2014

### Stories from Kew on BBC Radio 4



A 25 part series entitled ‘Plants: from Roots to Riches’ was broadcast on weekdays from 21st July 2014. Presented by Kew’s Director of Science, Prof Kathy Willis, the series delved into Kew’s archive and our collections to tell the story of how modern botany was born around the time of Kew’s establishment in 1759, and its subsequent development through to the present day. Dr Jim Endersby from the University of Sussex also featured throughout.

The opening episode explored Linnaeus’s development of his system for naming and placing plants into a new ordered hierarchy. It also featured The Palm House’s Eastern Cape giant cycad. Subsequent episodes examined how changes in scientific, economic and social preoccupations have influenced our attitudes to plants – from tools to exploit for food, fuel and industry, to objects of beauty, to being an essential global resource that must be conserved. The series combined interviews recorded on location at Kew Gardens with narration and historical analysis. Among the stories told are the race to flower the first giant Amazonian water-lily and Kew’s pivotal role in the development of the rubber trade.

The series concluded by looking to the future and considering the role of plants in providing the Earth’s natural capital and their importance for humanity. The series provided good publicity for Kew, with 2.6 million listeners per week. Every episode is available to download from BBC iPlayer. A book with the same title accompanied the series.

Sylvia Phillips

### Kew’s Autumn Festival 2014: The Intoxication Season

This festival explored the intoxicating and deadly properties of plants. Aimed at an adult audience, visitors were introduced to the world of mind-altering plants and fungi, from coffee and alcohol, the opium poppy, magic mushrooms and cannabis, to unusual plants used by cultures across the world. The Princess of Wales Conservatory housed plants of Cannabis, safely confined in cages, which Kew had permission to grow and display from Defra.

The programme included short films in conjunction with the Royal Anthropological Institute; a display of botanical art in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery on stimulating drinks ingredients from cocoa to coffee and tea; tasting opportunities of curious and culturally significant plants in a pop-up café by the Secluded Garden Glasshouse; and even a Hemp Knitting Tent! The programme was completed with discussions, talks and workshops on coffee, cannabis, magic mushrooms and much more. Towards the end of October fungi were featured, with strolls in the Gardens with a Kew mycologist.

Sylvia Phillips

## **An Update From Richard Deverell, Kew's Director**

2014 was a year of significant change for Kew. I wanted to put on the record my view on what's been going on and why I believe these changes have been necessary.

When I arrived at Kew in late 2012 I was surprised to find an organisation that seemed, despite its wonderful collections, enviable scientific record and world-class gardens, to have lost a sense of confidence and ambition. Internal structures were complex, with both duplication and some important gaps. Some key roles were missing (for example, we had no Director of Horticulture) and there was insufficient focus on either our collections or ensuring the visitor experience was world-class and science-based. In addition, an independent review had raised concerns and noted the absence of a clear strategy for science at Kew.

All this was made urgent by a funding crisis which came to a head early in 2014. We faced a £5m 'hole' in our budget for the financial year 2014/15 arising from a significant decline in government funding, exacerbated by a fall in the grant from the Kew Foundation, our philanthropic partner. This does not denote a lack of generosity or a decline in our fundraising activities; in previous years the Foundation's grant had been higher than it could sustain year on year. For many years Kew had solved these problems by raising gate prices. However, this was not sustainable. Our research told us that we were close to the limit of what day-paying visitors believed to be good value for money so sharp rises in the ticket price were no longer an option. For this reason we have raised the day visitor price by only 50p in four years – that's below the rate of inflation.

To ensure financial viability we had to both cut costs and grow income. Nearly two-thirds of Kew's costs are represented by our people and therefore it was impossible to deliver a balanced budget without reducing our headcount. Unfortunately this meant we had to reduce the total number of posts at Kew by about 15%. This has been a very tough challenge for everyone here and whilst we have endeavoured to minimise redundancies we have not been able to avoid them.

We have also worked hard to grow income. We have, for example, significantly increased the number of science grants applied for; we have grown retail, venue hire and event income (it was great to see Christmas at Kew being such a success in its second year). We also introduced car parking charges for National Trust members at Wakehurst Place, who previously entered free of charge (Kew receives no income from the National Trust). Next year growing these revenues – what I call our self-generated income - remains a top priority. We will never cut our way to success.

It is also essential for Kew to make a strong case to Defra (the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs – our sponsor department in Government) that we merit stable and sustainable government funding as part of a mixed funding model. Currently, government funding accounts for about 45% of Kew's total income. The proportion of Kew's income arising from government funding has declined. In common with other public bodies in the UK we have been adjusting to a new reality in respect of our funding from Government during recent years. But with the recent House of Commons Science and Technology Select Committee evidence session on funding Kew, and the announcement by the Deputy Prime Minister of additional funding for 2015/16 we are making good progress.

Much of the year was spent restructuring Kew. This was about much more than reducing costs. Reorganising meant we could address structural barriers that were inhibiting our operational effectiveness, stopping us from fulfilling our potential. Some examples: we

now have a single team focussed on development of all the events and visitor-facing activities at Kew. We have an integrated marketing team and Horticulture now has proper resources for the curation of living collections and for landscape design. We have significantly streamlined a number of our corporate functions such as Finance, HR and IT.

The restructure is about more than cutting costs, but it has entailed downsizing. No Director of Kew would choose to lose staff from the organisation for no good reason. However, the hole in our finances was structural – a one off handout would only have delayed the issue.

Science faced the most substantial changes. We have moved from a structure based around three buildings – the Herbarium, the Jodrell and the Millennium Seed Bank - to one focussed on six themes - Collections; Identification and Naming; Comparative Plant and Fungal Biology; Conservation; Natural Capital; and Biodiversity Informatics and Spatial Analysis. These research groups will renew focus on our fundamental strengths, while improving how we respond to the great global challenges of the 21st Century.

Our collections will always be the foundation of Kew's science – we now have a dedicated Collections team. It is essential these are properly curated and invested in. For this reason we have increased the resources across Kew for curation and collections management. We have also invested in plant health and mycology – vital given the increased threat the UK faces from pathogens, some arising from climate change. We have also clarified the specific outputs each of these departments will deliver. These are outlined in Kew's new science strategy, published in February 2015.

We have introduced 'Career Development Fellows'. These are 3-year, fixed term appointments for scientists that offer opportunities to work at Kew and will provide a steady flow of new talent. We have launched an MSc in Taxonomy and Plant Biodiversity with Queen Mary College to help train the next generation of plant scientists.

We have also recommitted to seed-banking 25% of the world's flowering plants at the Millennium Seed Bank. This remains our most important and high profile conservation project.

Our aim throughout has been to enhance our collections and to raise the quality and impact of Kew's science. I am confident the next few years will see a flourishing of Kew's scientific contribution in the UK and internationally.

At Kew and Wakehurst we have ambitious plans to rejuvenate the gardens, in particular to ensure science and plant conservation is more prominent. We are also raising horticultural standards; for example, I am delighted that work has commenced on the 'Broadwalk Borders' at Kew. We are planning to open a dedicated children's garden at Kew in 2016 to inspire and delight younger children with plants and plant science. I want the person who is Director of Science at Kew in 30 years' time to have been inspired by a visit to Kew.

Kew is, and must remain, the global resource for plant knowledge and the world's leading botanic garden. I am confident the changes undertaken in 2014 will provide solid foundations for our long-term success.

Richard Deverell

## Kew and the First World War - 100 Years On

Kew's history has been intimately associated with war since its very foundation in 1759 – during the Seven Years' War (argued by some as the first real 'world war' as it involved Europe, North and Central America, India, West Africa and the Philippines). Princess Augusta founded Kew just as her brother, Prince Ferdinand of Saxe-Gotha, achieved an Anglo-German victory over the French at the Battle of Minden. Indeed, the Temple of Victory at Kew (later demolished) was built entirely as a symbol of this military success, while the Temple of Bellona (still extant) was named after the Greek goddess of war. However, the association became ever more intertwined and took an increasing toll on the lives of Kewites during the First World War.

To mark the centenary of the First World War a project commenced at Kew called 'Kew Gardens at War', led by the first author, and much of the research on the 37 Kewites (19 of whom were then members of Kew staff) who lost their lives was undertaken by the second author. This has been a long-forgotten period in Kew's rich history, yet it had significant influences on Kew's staff, former staff, scientific and horticultural activities and the Gardens themselves. Bringing together materials in the Archives, Illustrations Collection, Economic Botany Collection, Herbarium and Living Collection (Gardens) within this single project theme, we have been able to piece together the jigsaw of 'Kew's war'.

1914-1918 was a period of great upheaval for Kew and Kewites, but also presented opportunities – in botanical fieldwork, enhancing links with government ministries, increasing authentication services, expanding plant pathology and pharmacology research, diversifying horticultural activities, and developing individual careers.

### Those Who Served

The Kew Guild's Annual Report for 1914-1915 stated: "The Great War has overshadowed everything during the past nine months. So far as it has been possible to ascertain at present, 60 of our British Members have responded to the call of their King and Country, and joined some branch of His Majesty's Forces." (J. Kew Guild 3(23): 266). As the conflict progressed the numbers of Kewites in the ranks swelled, the Guild reporting in 1917 that "Since war was declared, 123 members of the staff and permanent employees have joined His Majesty's Forces from the Gardens." (J. Kew Guild 3(24): 367). John Windebank joined up in 1918, bringing the total of Kew staff to 124.

Several members of Kew staff were already war veterans by the time WWI began, while several more had completed their 12 months' military service. Indeed, at least seven had earned decorations for their service in campaigns in India and the Boer War. Notable among these men was James A. Mingay. Mingay served in the Second Boer War, and a fascinating document in RBG Kew's Archives, entitled *Reservists "called out" from the Royal Gardens Kew, for active service* states: "Mingay's regiment is at present with General Clery's force marching to the relief of Ladysmith" (memorandum, 31.12.1899). Even his house in Kew was named 'Natal Villa'. Upon his return to Kew he (briefly) became one of the gardens constables, and was seconded in 1906 to be a Laboratory Attendant, where he remained until returning to duty in 1915 as a Sergeant in the Army Ordnance Corps. Using his previous military experience and peacetime skills he duly became a Storeman for the ordnance (later rising to Sergeant Major in the 13th Royal Welsh Fusiliers). He would have suited this role very well because of his keen attention to detail and adherence to correct procedure. Looking back in 1981, Dr Charles Metcalfe, Keeper of the Jodrell, described Mingay as "a well known Kew character" with "high standards for himself", as well as commenting that "Mingay's attitude to life was largely

determined by his military experiences and he showed many of the well known characteristics of an old soldier” (J. Kew Guild 10(86): 44), for example, in the regimentally straight rows of his garden.

On the field of battle, Kewites repeatedly distinguished themselves, earning medals for bravery and leadership. Major Thomas Ford Chipp received a Military Cross, as did Major John Veitch (of the well known family of nurserymen). Chipp had been a pre-war gardener at Kew then rose to the position of Assistant Director of Singapore Botanic Garden. Chipp’s exemplary deeds are recounted in Charles Kingsford’s book *The story of the Duke of Cambridge’s own (Middlesex Regiment)*, published in 1916. For example, in April 1915 in the vicinity of Ypres, when the other officers around him had been killed or wounded, “Captain Chipp, who then took command, behaved with the greatest bravery, encouraging his soldiers with the historic war cry, “Die hard, my men! Die hard!” (ibid., p.203). Another example reported in the *Daily Express* and *Richmond and Twickenham Times* on 4 September 1915 (and in J. Kew Guild 3(23): 303, 1916) conveyed that following a gas attack Chipp was lying wounded, yet persuaded the stretcher-bearers to carry him to the front so he could lead his men.

On 24 May 1915 Chipp gathered and sent back to Kew two greatly intriguing botanical specimens which he had “gathered from the trenches in Flanders...” One was recorded as “Clover – gassed by Germans”! The accompanying note stated: “...after an attack of gas by the Germans. Green fields rapidly became whitish and presented the appearance of drought. Other herbs appeared as if frost-bitten.” The other was an orache (*Atriplex* sp.). Both reside in Kew’s Economic Botany Collection (as EBC 37761 and 37762).

In 1922 Chipp returned to Kew as Assistant Director when Sir Arthur Hill took the reins in the top spot from Sir David Prain. Sadly, this Kewite who had given so much died of a heart attack in June 1931, aged only 44.

Of the other Kewites who earned high awards on the field of battle – sadly both of whom were killed – were Capitaine Léopold Digoy and Private Charles Henry Anderson. Digoy was a French Kewite and a gardener at Kew from 6 May 1912 until he left to serve his country. Before joining Kew he had written no fewer than six letters begging to join the gardens, until a vacancy opened. In his letter of resignation from Kew, regarding his call-up he stated earnestly: “Our military service is the most troublesome but also the most sacred of our duties, France could not do without and whatever inconvenience it puts us to we must accept it as incumbent on our nationality.” His heroic actions feature within the chronicle of his regiment’s history (*Historique du 14e Régiment d’infanterie*, Édouard Privat, 1920).

Anderson, “a thick-set man, standing 5ft 11 in.” in the 2nd London Scottish, was a Kew gardener before the war. His self-sacrificing death on 29th Nov. 1916 was owed to him holding on tightly to an activated bomb, taking the full force of the explosion to save comrades’ lives. This feat was remarkable, even in wartime, and was reported as far afield as Singapore. Quite unceremoniously, his death was recorded in Kew’s ledger (*Men on Active Service* volume, p.6) as ‘accidental death’ rather than heroism! He was posthumously awarded the Albert Medal 1st Class for a grand act of heroism and selflessness in war.

In the Gardens

The ‘Kew Notes’ section of the journal in 1915, reporting on the news of 1914, opened pleasingly with the comment: “According to the official figures the attendance of the public in 1914 was 4,082,011, an increase of nearly 300,000 over last year’s total ...it does not

appear that, so far, the war has had much effect in keeping people away from Kew” (J. Kew Guild 3(22): 200, 1915). Sadly, atop the following page the reality of the war hit home with the sad notification of the death of Lieutenant Theodore Prain, the son of Kew’s Director, who was killed in action in France on 21 October 1914.

During the early part of the war little changed outwardly except the gender difference of the horticultural staff. Indeed in Kew’s commemorative exhibition in 2014 we used the caption “war, what war?” to encapsulate the serenity of the moment depicted in a colour photograph of a woman painting in the Gardens in 1916, taken by visitor Mr William Elias Lambert. However, 1917 brought major changes to the Gardens following the loss of shipping due to a new German U-boat campaign from 1 February that year, and a sudden need to grow more food. Crops with more attractive foliage were planted in the tubs and Palm House parterre, whilst potatoes and onions were grown on Kew’s lawns and in the flower beds. In 1918 a staggering 27 tonnes of potatoes were harvested from the lawn of Kew Palace; this in the same year that an aerial raid by ‘Giant’ aircraft took place over Kew Bridge.

Although there had been a few women gardeners at Kew before the war (who had arrived from the 1890s), the loss of male staff in huge numbers from 1914 allowed women the opportunity, for the first time, to enter large professional establishments such as Kew in greater strengths. By 1918 there were 27 women gardeners at Kew (J. Kew Guild 3(25): 429). Women were not always seen as up to the work required, as several comments at the time illustrate: “I feel convinced now that women will never be serious rivals to the men and boys of pre-war days” (Gardeners’ Chronicle, Ser. 3, 65: 77, 1919). Nevertheless they proved themselves across the country. Moreover, female gardeners at Kew appealed for equal pay and by 1918 they managed to secure an equal war bonus payment as well as increased gardener’s basic weekly wages. By the end of 1919, most of the men having returned, only six women gardeners remained at Kew, all of whom worked in the Flower Department. In March 1922, the employment of women gardeners at Kew was terminated...until the outbreak of the next World War, by which time social change more generally was catching up.

### Science at Home

The war bolstered Kew’s relationships with various government ministries, as well as numerous external firms and individuals, all of whom were seeking wartime aid of a botanical nature. Because of the unique expertise at Kew, the staff remaining on site were heavily involved in authentication of timbers and other materials for construction of aeroplanes, analysis of potential new pharmaceutical products for treating wartime ailments such as trench foot, advice regarding new crops to feed the population, and so on.

The authentication and consultancy roles Kew staff were performing were equivalent to the activities carried out by Kew’s Science Directorate today – plant naming, checking for adherence to conventions on collection and trade in endangered plant species, timber authentication, and so forth.

The numerous and diverse materials which survive in Kew’s Economic Botany Collection are now the subject of concerted research by the first author and will be published thematically, beginning with an article on Kew’s involvement with the Aeronautical Inspection Department and Royal Flying Corps during the war (Wearn in press, *The Aeroplane* magazine).

## Science in the Field of War

Perhaps the most remarkable collaboration was that which occurred within the Salonika Force in the Greek-Macedonian theatre of war from 1916-1918. Several Kewites served in the Royal Army Medical Corps owing to their scientific expertise and attention to detail, which were essential to sanitary and field ambulance roles which they undertook. Headed by Private William Bertram Turrill RAMC (pre-war a lowly Herbarium Assistant) a huge collecting effort began in the environs of Salonika – during active service in the British Army! Aided by Arthur Frederick Baker (pre-war an arboretum foreman at Kew) and several RAMC personnel who were not Kew staff (but had an interest in plants/gardening or were inspired by the striking Greek spring flora) an amazing 1,600+ pressed specimens and numerous packets of seeds were gathered together and sent back to Kew. Copious notes on the geography, geology and ecology of the country were also jotted down to greatly augment the physical collections. Many of the seeds germinated, giving rise to new stock for the Gardens, and the specimens were examined by Turrill upon his return, forming the basis of several groundbreaking papers, leading to his PhD and rise to the higher echelons of botany. In 1946 Turrill finally became Keeper of the Herbarium and Library at Kew.

The exploits of Turrill and companions have been chronicled in an article for the Salonika Campaign Society entitled ‘Kewites risking their lives to collect plants on the Salonika Front’ (Wearn in press, *The New Mosquito* 31).

## Horticulture and War Graves

The urgent need for the considerate and respectful burial of huge numbers of war dead in formal cemeteries led to a new role for Kew. The Graves Registration Commission of the British Army (GRC) was set up by Sir Fabian Ware in 1915 to keep a record of all burials and establish designated cemeteries. It was important that such cemeteries should provide an environment of tranquillity and solemnity whilst being uplifting to visiting friends and family members – planting was the key to this, and Kew would be the organisation with the expertise to shape it.

In early 1916, Kew’s Director Sir David Prain was contacted by Major Arthur Messer of the newly created GRC on behalf of Sir Fabian. They sought Kew’s horticultural expertise for advising on the development, landscaping, planting and onward management of the war cemeteries. The casualty rate from extensive battles of attrition made the scale of the undertaking considerable.

The man to bear this great task was Arthur Hill (then Assistant Director of Kew), who had been bestowed with the temporary military rank of Honorary Lieutenant (later Captain). He left for France immediately. On the first trip in 1916, 37 sites in France and Belgium came under his scrutiny and later several more in Italy and Africa. Hill was the first Kewite to receive the title of Botanical Adviser. Other Kewites (including Frank Grinham and Alfred Melles) contributed to the early days of this solemn yet inspiring activity for the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission (IWGC/CWGC). Several Kewites had been sent homeward after being declared ‘unfit for frontline service’ following their injuries, but they still found a place in wartime service tending the graves of their fallen comrades. Others joined the ranks of the IWGC after demobilisation in 1919. This was just the beginning of an intimate relationship between the two organisations.

Even beyond the end of the Second World War Kew’s Directors upheld the (by now traditional) role of Honorary Botanical Advisor, and continued to “put advice and assistance freely at the Commission’s disposal” (Longworth, *The Unending Vigil*: 228,

1985). By the mid 1960s a considerable number of Kew's student gardeners had been directly involved in Commission work and it is this we aim to reinvigorate.

Apart from a few interactions during the 1980s, the historic link between the two organisations dwindled, especially as the CWGC had its own horticulture section. However, the discovery by Jessica Hudson and James Wearn in May 2014 of a CWGC horticultural essay competition run for Horticultural Officers (including Kewites) in 1924, led to their timely proposal of a revival of the association. In particular, the introduction of new CWGC-related coursework for Kew Horticultural Diploma students, inspired by the competition of 90 years earlier, was begun (Course 50, Amenity Horticulture Essay 2014-5). The aim is to consider how the CWGC's UK cemeteries might be planted and maintained in the future, with consideration of resources and climate change impact upon such intensively managed sites. Historical and modern viewpoints on control and conservation of lichens on headstones are other considerations which we have highlighted (Wearn & Hudson 2014, Brit. Lichen Soc. Bull. 114: 23-26).

### Commemoration at Kew

For Kew, the 2014-2018 period is a chance to look back at how the First World War affected the lives of Kewites who went off to war and those who remained in the Gardens – each played an important role. Moreover, it provides an opportunity to look in-depth at a long forgotten period in Kew's rich history which helped shape horticulture and science. The legacy of the First World War is present across Kew, and now we are giving this unique heritage well deserved attention.

We are following a four-pronged approach to public and professional engagement – on-site (exhibitions, talks, themed tours), off-site (seminars, collaborations, exhibitions), in print (magazine and journal articles) and online (blogs, publicity, tweets). During 2014 the 'Plants, People and the Products of War' exhibition, which ran for two months in July and August was the most successful ever held in the Library, Art & Archives. Our special open days for visitors and schools allowed us to reach new audiences and contribute to national curriculum education. Themed wartime tours of the Gardens will run daily throughout November each year during the 2014-2018 commemorative period.

On 11 November 2014, Kew's Director Richard Deverell hosted a remembrance event to reflect upon those turbulent years, giving special consideration to the 37 Kewites who lost their lives. The 1914-1918 memorial plaque had been unveiled 93 years earlier (on 25 May 1921) by then Director, Sir David Prain. Much like the complement of the audience at the remembrance event, there were gardeners, herbarium assistants, porters, labourers, constables, and even 'pony boys' (because in those days Kew had a different kind of 'horse power') – all of whom went bravely into the unknown during the war.

### Kew Do You Think You Are?

Using family history to put faces and families to the names on the war memorial.

Entering 'zoological' and 'botanic gardens' as key search words on the CWGC website ([www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)) presented an intriguing detail which unlocked the list of names on the memorial plaque in Kew... Walter Henry Morland was where it started for Mark. One biographical detail that



caught his attention and led him, as part of the World War Zoo Gardens project at Newquay, to research the lives of these Kew casualties was added by his young widow Annie – that Walter was: “on staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh as a Rose Specialist”. Morland had moved to RBG Edinburgh in 1910 after his training at Kew, and set up a Kew style staff Guild. Sadly, he was killed along with several other RBGE staff serving with the 5th Royal Scots at Gallipoli on 2 May 1915. “Mr. W. H. Morland was the first of our members to fall in the service of his King and Country. Such is the price of Empire” his Kew Guild obituary in 1916 recorded (J. Kew Guild 3(23): 308).

Researching more about his life via family history forums led to a rough list of transcribed names on the Kew Memorial from an issue of Kew’s *Miscellaneous Bulletin* (No. 4 of 1921). This ultimately led Mark to the *Journal of the Kew Guild*: both thanks to Sarah Cobbold, a relative of Kewite casualty Sergeant Sydney G. Cobbold (killed in France on 3rd October 1916 whilst serving with the 8th Battalion, Rifle Brigade). The rich resources of the *Journal* online ([www.kewguild.org.uk/pages/journal](http://www.kewguild.org.uk/pages/journal)) make such family research much easier, alongside the scanned online copies of *The Garden Illustrated* and *The Gardeners’ Chronicle* journals (available via [www.biodiversitylibrary.org](http://www.biodiversitylibrary.org) or [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org)).



From *The Garden Illustrated* Journal, p. 514, October 16, 1915

The *Garden Illustrated* journal was edited during the war by Kewite Herbert Cowley, who was invalided home in 1915 from the trenches. Herbert wrote a touching obituary of his good friend Charles F. Ball, the Kew-trained editor of *Irish Gardening* who had gone to war from Glasnevin in Ireland. Ball was killed serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers at Gallipoli on 13 September 1915 and is widely remembered today through a hedging plant *Escallonia* ‘C.F. Ball’ – his living memorial across the gardens of Britain. A colleague remembers Ball plant hunting under fire, his final memory of him “lying behind a big boulder digging up ‘weeds’ with Turkish bullets spitting all around him” (J. Kew Guild 3(23): 307). He is buried in Lala Baba cemetery, a CWGC cemetery the climate appropriate planting of which was commented on by H.L.R. Chapman in 1921 (J. Kew Guild 4(28): 21).

Mark recalled that “It was a strange and humbling moment during the Centenary year to be invited [by James] to speak at the KMIS talks in autumn 2014, to talk about researching these vanished lives. Following on stage a young gardener who talked about native tree seed collecting, it struck me that these were the same series of lectures that a young Ball, Cowley and Morland would have been required to deliver during their training, along with many of the other men behind the names on the Kewites war memorial.”

Tolstoy remarked that “if you want to paint a picture of the whole world, begin by painting your own village.” If you want to tell the story of the First World War, then much of it can be found amongst the casualties and Roll of Honour of those who served from Kew, with the notable omission of Kewites who served in German and Austrian forces. The names show how closely linked Kew was to the business and ‘price of Empire’. Kewites returned from posts in Canada, Australia, Russia and the Far East to fight and, for 37 of them, to die. Mostly this was on land in France, Belgium, Salonika, Gallipoli and the Middle East. One died at sea in the Battle of Jutland, one as early tank crew at Cambrai, another as a prisoner of war, and several succumbed years later from the long-term effects of their war

service. Arguably the saddest casualty name on the memorial is that of Eric Egerton Smith, who died in Libya on 23 November 1941, the first of fourteen Kewites to be killed in a Second World War when Kew had to go to war again – but that’s another story of a different part of the Memorial.

Find out more about each casualty on the Kew’s Archives blog and the World War Zoo Gardens blog at

[www.kew.org/discover/blogs/library-art-and-archives/floreat-kew-remembrance-fallen](http://www.kew.org/discover/blogs/library-art-and-archives/floreat-kew-remembrance-fallen)

<https://worldwarzoogardener1939.wordpress.com/2013/07/19/such-is-the-price-of-empire-the-lost-gardeners-of-kew-in-the-first-world-war>

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James Wearn and Mark Norris

*Following an appeal for ideas for the Journal cover at a Kew Guild Committee meeting, we happened upon Mark and James and the rest is, literally, history. Our grateful thanks to them for their contribution here (Ed.)*

## **2014: Whether wet or warm, Wakehurst remains a winner! A Review of the Wakehurst Year**

by David Hardman

Like all gardens and outside leisure venues weather conditions are one of the major issues in the provision of a great venue and delivery of enjoyable experiences for the visitor. Too wet, too cold or even too hot - these all conspire against managers to create predictable and occasionally unpredictable challenges and yet again this year proved no different. It would be remiss of me to understate the challenges that the Wakehurst site has endured during this last year in striving to achieve financial and structural objectives that the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is facing as an organisation. In my 2013 review I made mention of the endorsement of Kew Trustees and subsequent approval on 17 October by the National Trust’s Property and Acquisition Board to introduce car parking charges for visitors to the Gardens.

### Car parking charges

Once this had been agreed the method for implementation had to be resolved as inevitably it could be envisaged that many National Trust members, who had benefitted from the enjoyment of visiting Wakehurst over many years at no cost to them, would feel aggrieved. This did happen and letters were written to local papers from a vociferous number of people who objected to the introduction of car parking charges. Sadly it appeared that some of these people may not have appreciated the full details or reasons why charges were needed to ensure the future of Wakehurst and the financial challenges RBG Kew was facing.

To communicate this message an article was produced in the 'free' Spring Wakehurst newsletter. In it a joint statement from the Chairmen of the National Trust, Sir Simon Jenkins and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew Marcus Agius explained how they had been working to find a sustainable future for Wakehurst and Kew. They outlined the leases and despite the fact that Wakehurst had been run efficiently and effectively the net cost to Kew had been reached where greater income was needed if the outstanding horticultural standards and wonderful visitor experience that have made Wakehurst one of the Trust's most popular properties were to be maintained. They had agreed that the best way to raise this much needed income was through car parking charges commencing in April.

They also confirmed that National Trust members would still have free access to the gardens but would have to pay for car parking. Car parking charges would also apply to visitors who do not buy a day ticket to enter Wakehurst or do not hold a Wakehurst Season Ticket or Friends of Kew membership.

The newsletter contained a section with some prepared questions and answers to explain who pays, level of charges, why it is necessary and the relationship between Kew and the National Trust. It also answered what the cost of the Wakehurst lease was to Kew - a net cost of £1.4million. The endowment provided to the National Trust by Sir Henry Price, the last private owner, established to contribute to the management of the house and gardens which yields an interest payment that is given to Kew of approximately £80,000 per annum.

Finally the benefits of being a Wakehurst season ticket holder for £30 a year were shown which provides free entry to the gardens and Seedbank, free car parking, one free ticket to the Kew Gardens site (worth £14.50), two free exclusive open evenings plus 10% off purchases in the Visitor Centre shop - this seems like excellent value for all regular visitors especially when compared with the cost of parking at £10 a day!

## Weather

It is always a talking point and without weather where would many conversations begin? The reported global weather conditions confirmed that 2014 was the warmest on record, not only in the UK but globally with a global temperature rise of 0.68°C above long term average and 14 of the 15 warmest years recorded have occurred since the turn of the century.

On reading about this and the regular reporting of extreme weather conditions being experienced around the world led me to further analyse the weather statistics that can be seen in Table 1. For instance the number of nights with the air temperature below 0°C was surprising as none were recorded until December when only 6 were witnessed; in 2013 there had been 56 with 46 of them between January and March. More surprising is that from May 2013 until December 2014 there had only been one night when an air temperature below 0°C was recorded – 19 months! In Table 1 the 2013 details (italicised) have been included for comparison and better appreciation of this mild period.

Who can forget the extremely wet year end of 2013 which continued into the early months of the new year with floods seen around many towns in the UK? To contextualise this and appreciate the impact of the 2014 rainfall analysis of data held for Wakehurst from 1987 was undertaken. So over 28 years it seems that the highest rainfall recorded for each specific month was; December 2013 (205.8mm), January 2014 (238.8mm) and February 2014 (182.9mm) proving that Wakehurst had indeed received record levels of rainfall (627.5mm) during this winter.

This analysis was based on the calendar year, however it is important to realise that there are other 12 month accumulative periods where total rainfall can be shown to have been greater.

When assessing by calendar year and cumulative totals in a month on month format i.e. January to December, 2014 proved to be wettest recorded period from 1st January to 31st October and was then only superseded for the remaining period from January to November and December previously in 2000 which proved to be the wettest calendar year overall with total rainfall of 1,336.9mm. The second highest rainfall total in this 28 year period was recorded in 2014.

### Westwood Lake recognition

Fortunately the one-hectare Westwood Lake is now better able to accommodate the large volumes of water passing through the gardens and wetland area following the three year restoration project. These works had included dredging the lake, installing a reed bed silt trap and improve access for visitors. The dredging greatly increased the water holding capacity and improvements made to control the water level helps reduce flooding on the estate. This major improvement was recognised when it received a prestigious Sussex Heritage Award as the lake is linked upstream to a series of hammer ponds, which are important relics of the post-medieval iron industry that flourished in the county.

### Sculptures at Wakehurst

More than 20 giant willow sculptures inspired by nature exist in the garden and year on year new sculptural additions appear for visitors to find and enjoy as they weave around the garden. One such can now be found in the Pinetum and is an unusual use of a living tree in the gardens - a Japanese cedar (*Cryptomeria japonica*) which was damaged in the Great Storm of 1987. This is a tachigi-bora sculpture or standing wood carving, which involves carving into the dead wood within a living tree. This practice is linked to Shinto belief that a sacred force resides in all things and this is particularly powerful in a large old tree. A sika deer head has been carved by Masa Suzuki who had asked if such a carving was possible at Wakehurst. In Shinto tradition the sika deer acts as a messenger between the earth and the spirit world. It is thought that this might be the first example of the type of carving in the UK. For more details read Andy Jackson's article in the Spring 2014 edition of Kew magazine.

### Meadow events

Throughout the year the event focus was meadows, the Magical Meadows Festival encouraged visitors to discover more about Wakehurst's flower-rich hay meadows their plants, birds and insects and the traditional skills needed to maintain them. The Festival included flying displays from May to August of birds of prey including Barn owls, hawks and falcons. The static exhibition 'Meadow Folk' in the timber-framed buildings by Millennium Seedbank ran from May to December and was an interactive exhibition to celebrate the traditional hay meadow, showcasing the people who look after them. It included wildflower of the week and was the start of Meadow wildflower challenge. Using a free leaflet, visitors could test their botanical knowledge and plant identification skills in Bloomers Valley.

Special events for season ticket holders included two evenings, 17 and 24 July when they could meet an expert. Other similar opportunities included 'Meadow magicians' walks and talks with garden staff. The Scything and Cider Festival on 19 and 20 July allowed garden visitors to watch cutters putting their scythes to the test during the festival.

On 9 and 10 August the 'Bringing in the Hay' event demonstrated how meadows were traditionally harvested and later in the month the Working Horses could again be seen in Bloomers Valley.

For autumn 'Mists and Mellow Fruitfulness' was an opportunity for an early morning visit to the gardens which opened at 7.30am on 26 and 30 October for peaceful strolling amongst the autumn colour. For anyone having a good appetite a full English breakfast was available in Stables restaurant.

#### Kew the Movies at Wakehurst

This year Kew the Movies at Wakehurst, the annual open air cinema located close to the Mansion over the August Bank holiday showed two different films. Gates opened at 6.30pm and films commenced at 8pm. On Sunday 24 August 'Dirty Dancing' was featured then on Monday 25 'Gravity' was screened to enthusiastic audiences, many of whom had brought picnics with them.

#### Glow Wild at Wakehurst

On Thursday 4 December one lucky ticket holder started the Glow Wild Festival celebrations by switching on the lights that decorate the iconic Christmas tree and then until 7 December there were two sessions every night at 4.30pm and 6.30pm where visitors were able to follow a family friendly trail and enjoy a magical walk in a wonderful after dark experience. This new Christmas experience proved to be a sell out.

With your lantern lighting the way it was possible to take in the UK's tallest living Christmas tree and see the historic landscape and Mansion brought to life with thousands of lights and lanterns that included a flotilla of shimmering lights on the Mansion Pond, a sparkling galaxy of star lanterns hanging high above the Water Garden, and a myriad of aromatic fire lanterns in the Walled Garden providing a delicate scent of frankincense and myrrh. Along the route tree canopies were dripping with an amazing array of seed inspired lanterns crafted by local school children.

And so another year ends, what will 2015 bring?

## Weather at Wakehurst Place 2014 (2013 statistics in italics)

2014	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals Calendar Year
Month's total rainfall (mm)	238.8	182.9	28.8	65.4	76.1	29.7	70.9	106.7	16.9	145.7	170.7	64.6	1197.2
Compared to 2013	90.6	41.5	80.5	46.8	65.0	32.7	26.8	51.6	65.0	200.2	84.3	205.8	990.8
2012	61.1	25.0	26.9	136.2	65.9	162.3	125.1	57.7	85.9	143.7	97.5	177.5	1164.8
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	119.8	83.1	18.6	18.6	26.7	58.2	14.3	120.7	58.4	117.5	110.5	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	40.2	74.4	80.7	127.2	67.3	1029.3
2007	80.3	126.4	5.8	59.1	122.5	122.5	125.9	31.1	31.1	49.9	49.9	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	61.3	53.6	30.6	109.6	63.6	53.6	611.6
2004	125.8	3.3	44.3	36.8	44.8	28.6	72.2	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
Rainiest day (mm)	31 <sup>st</sup> 31.1	14 <sup>th</sup> 24.8	22 <sup>nd</sup> 12	7 <sup>th</sup> 16.4	27 <sup>th</sup> 12	14 <sup>th</sup> 8.6	27 <sup>th</sup> 26.6	5 <sup>th</sup> 30.1	18/19 <sup>th</sup> 8.8	13 <sup>th</sup> 40.5	2 <sup>nd</sup> 34.3	26 <sup>th</sup> 15.2	
	19.5	19.1	13.2	12.1	12.6	8.9	7.8	20.4	18.1	37.3	24.6	5.5	
Rainiest days	1	7	16	15	13	16	18	11	21	8	2	8	134
	1	7	23	13	13	18	22	16	11	7	6	5	142
Highest Max Temp	12.3 <sup>rd</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup> 16 <sup>th</sup>	22.9 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup>	27.9 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	28.6 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	31.6 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	28.3 <sup>rd</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup>	28.9 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	22.9 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	18.1 <sup>st</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.1 <sup>st</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup>	
	11.6 <sup>th</sup>	12.3 <sup>rd</sup>	16.3 <sup>rd</sup>	21.6 <sup>th</sup> <sup>d</sup>	25.8 <sup>th</sup>	32.9 <sup>th</sup>	35.2 <sup>th</sup>	35.4 <sup>th</sup>	32.8 <sup>th</sup>	25.1 <sup>th</sup>	15.7 <sup>th</sup>	13.4 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest Max Temp:	4.2 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.2 <sup>nd</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	12.8 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	17.1 <sup>th</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	17.1 <sup>th</sup> 10 <sup>th</sup>	17.0 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	18.1 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup>	12.9 <sup>th</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup>	8.2 <sup>nd</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup>	4.2 <sup>nd</sup> 4 <sup>th</sup>	
	-1.2 <sup>nd</sup>	0.6 <sup>th</sup> <sup>d</sup>	-0.2 <sup>nd</sup>	1.8 <sup>th</sup>	9.3 <sup>th</sup>	16.8 <sup>th</sup>	19.6 <sup>th</sup>	19.2 <sup>nd</sup>	15.1 <sup>th</sup>	11.1 <sup>th</sup> <sup>d</sup>	7.2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.0 <sup>th</sup>	
Highest Min Temp:	9 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.3 <sup>rd</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.9 <sup>th</sup> 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.7 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	13.5 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup> &20 <sup>th</sup>	16.2 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup>	18.3 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	16.1 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>	16.4 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	15.4 <sup>th</sup> 19 <sup>th</sup>	14.2 <sup>th</sup> 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.8 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	
	7.8 <sup>th</sup>	4.4 <sup>th</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup>	12.2 <sup>nd</sup>	17.7 <sup>th</sup>	20.6 <sup>th</sup> <sup>d</sup>	16.7 <sup>th</sup>	16.4 <sup>th</sup>	16.4 <sup>th</sup>	11.4 <sup>th</sup>	9.9 <sup>th</sup>	
Lowest Min Temp	0.6 <sup>th</sup> 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.1 <sup>st</sup> 11 <sup>th</sup>	0.2 <sup>nd</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	3.6 <sup>th</sup> 9 <sup>th</sup>	1.7 <sup>th</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	7.0 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.5 <sup>th</sup> 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.3 <sup>rd</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup> &25 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1.0 <sup>th</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup>	-1.6 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	
	-4.6 <sup>th</sup>	-2.6 <sup>th</sup>	-4.2 <sup>nd</sup> <sup>d</sup>	-2.3 <sup>rd</sup>	2.6 <sup>th</sup>	7.4 <sup>th</sup>	5.0 <sup>th</sup>	10.3 <sup>th</sup>	7.3 <sup>rd</sup>	5.2 <sup>nd</sup>	-2.0 <sup>th</sup>	0.9 <sup>th</sup>	
Nights air temp below freezing	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	6
	14	15	17	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	56
Windiest day	28 <sup>th</sup> SW	15 <sup>th</sup> SW	3 <sup>rd</sup> &21 <sup>st</sup> SE & W	7 <sup>th</sup> &9 <sup>th</sup> S,SW,W,N	10 <sup>th</sup> &11 <sup>th</sup> NW	6 <sup>th</sup> &18 <sup>th</sup> ESE&NNE	10 <sup>th</sup> N	12 <sup>th</sup> WNW	21 <sup>st</sup> N	10 <sup>th</sup> S	7 <sup>th</sup> SW	13 <sup>th</sup> NNE	
	28mph	31mph	20mph	NE,15 mph	20mph	14mph	18mph	17mph	14mph	22mph	25mph	26mph	

## Course 1



Course 1, 1963-66 graduation. Left to 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, Roger Bowen. (Not shown RK Edwards, CA Hart, D Waddell, PE Wilson).

## The Presidential Ribbon

by Richard Ward

During Bob Ivison's Presidency he suggested that the Kew Guild Presidential ribbon was rapidly running out of room for the display of Past Presidents' names. There were 37 name bars affixed, starting with Ted Storey, President 1978-79, who promoted and funded the original idea. In the Guild Minutes of 08.08.1978 it states that 'Richard Ward volunteered to investigate the provision of a Presidents' ribbon'; and six Committee meetings and eight months later it was reported, on 14th June 1979, that Ted Storey had paid the £100 cost.

The Guild Committee agreed in principle, I volunteered to research and obtain quotes, and during the course of several months and a good deal of liaison with Bob and Treasurer Jennifer we finally received the new ribbon just before Christmas 2014.



The specification discussed and agreed with manufacturers Coventry Silvercraft ([www.coventry-silvercraft.com](http://www.coventry-silvercraft.com)) included a new double-mitred collar 40mm wide, with green centre strip and gold edges, bespoke 40mm x 8mm nickel plated name bars engraved in black infill letters, and sewn on to the ribbon. The Guild Coat of Arms 'jewel' is clipped on to the base of the ribbon. There is now room for 50 more years of Presidential name bars! The regalia has been insured for £1,400. The large, expensive and old scroll bars will be stored in the Guild archives for posterity.

## **The British Rock**

by Graham Burgess

Kewite Henry Moore would be very pleased with the progress so far of The British Rock. In December it reached The International Peace Garden set up by Henry in 1932. All sorts of people supported the efforts of Graham Burgess and Bob Ivison in respect of its journey and hopefully they will go down in history. The story so far can be seen on the website [www.circleoffriendship.co.uk](http://www.circleoffriendship.co.uk) and soon the next stage of the vision will move into action, namely rocks from all over the world going to join our rock on the 49th parallel dividing USA from Canada.

## **Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship**

by Graham Burgess

It was 1972 that I won a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship to study what was being done in all the major Botanical Gardens and Zoos in Europe in respect of leisure.

I am currently Chair for the South Association and towards the end of 2014 I organised a special visit for Fellows. Winston Churchill liked to build brick walls and I have used millions of bricks in my career. I have however never seen them being made so I arranged a visit to The Michelmersh Brick Works owned by Blockleys. They sponsored the bricks I used in The Beatles Maze and that helped us win The Premiere Prize at our only International Garden Festival. It was an amazing visit. Lunch was in an ancient English Pub and then we went on to nearby Mottisfont Gardens where one of the staff, Head Gardener Jonathan Bass, had been on a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship studying roses.

The thought was ‘Why are more Kewites not applying for Travel Fellowships?’

Look on website: [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk)

## **Committee Deliberations**

by Richard Ward

Committed and voluntary members of the Committee converge on, and in, the Guild Room in the herbarium at least five times a year. Afterwards they will often gather in the Coach and Horses Hotel on Kew Green to enjoy fellowship and supper before dispersing.

The overall Committee comprises 34 members, 24 of whom are elected voting members and automatically Guild Trustees with certain financial and legal responsibilities. The Committee is quorate with nine voting members. The current elected structure has four non Executive officers: President, Vice President, President Elect and Past President. Eight executive officers comprise (paid) Secretary, Membership Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, (paid) Editor, Award Scheme Chair, Events Officer and 12 other members on a four x three-year rotation. Other non-elected members are invited to attend in an advisory capacity. Each Committee meeting receives a report from officers and students year representatives.

During the 2014 calendar year the Committee discussed many varied matters including: Annual Dinner costs and venues; Guild archives; many aspects of the website; Guild five-year strategic plan and implementation; review of Committee structure; use of funds and accounts management; Editorship and ideas to improve the Journal; subscriptions; membership database; outside visits and events; Award Scheme; past Presidents’ boards;

Presidential ribbon; Kew Guild medal; Honorary membership and updating of Guild Rules.

Why not put your name forward for election at the AGM on 5th September?! Just email secretary@kewguild.org.uk

## ‘My Career’

In this feature, we hear from two Kewites about their career to date, what attracted them to Horticulture, and what drove them to apply to Kew Gardens. Send in your own story to editor@kewguild.org.uk

### Tim Hughes

Head of the School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

I began working in the horticultural industry straight from school, (thirty five years ago!). Since then, over the years I have been a Head Gardener on an private estate in Wiltshire, worked as a Greenkeeper on a golf course and Head Greenkeeper on county bowling greens, worked in a design studio for a landscape company, a Gardener in Grade II listed gardens of a regency manor house in Somerset and a craftsman gardener in a Parks Dept in the south west.

After getting my hands dirty for a good number of years, I moved into the world of horticultural training and became the Programme Manager for the National Trust’s (horticultural) Careership programme. I had a spell as a horticultural lecturer then, nearly fourteen years ago, started working for the RHS as Principal Horticultural Training Officer, and subsequently the RHS Horticultural Courses Manager, managing the RHS Apprenticeships, RHS School of Horticulture and Master of Horticulture (RHS).



I have an Honours Degree in Landscape Management, a National Diploma in Amenity Horticulture, C&G Phase 1 and 3 certificates in Amenity Horticulture & Horticultural Management and a IoG National Technical Certificate in Turf Management. I also hold a Cert Ed [in Further and Higher Education] from the University of Wolverhampton. The last course I undertook was a part-time course on Landscape Archaeology at Bristol University (I am interested in garden archaeology and restoration).

I was part of a small working group which brought about the Historic and Botanic Garden Bursary Scheme (HBGBS) and the GROW careers initiative. I sit on a number of committees that deal with horticultural skills and training, I am also a Professional Associate for the RHS Qualifications and an External Verifier for the RHS Practical examinations.

I was born and brought up in Somerset, supporter of Bath Rugby Club and if not gardening at home, I can be found trying to avoid the rocks whilst hurtling down some whitewater river in a canoe.



**Neville Evans**  
Course 51

“Join the Navy” was my careers advice at 18 - the teacher didn’t know what horticulture was. The ability to grow bigger raspberries than my grandmother was the inspiration behind my love of plants from a young age. Navigating into the world of plants wasn’t plain sailing. Vocational qualifications in Amenity Horticulture and a stint as a gardener at Tresco Abbey Gardens led into higher education at the local agricultural college in Cornwall. The very academic Foundation Degree in Global Horticulture left a gap in my learning so a year traineeship at Oxford University Botanic Garden gave me great confidence and inspiration. Completing my studies I took a job as Glasshouse and Nursery Manager at Bicton Park Botanic Garden in Devon which was a steep learning

curve to the real world of work. After five enjoyable years a new challenge arose as Tropical Propagator at the Eden Project, which was horticulture on a totally different scale, 2000 rice plants, 100 banana plants, 200 tropical hardwood trees and so on. Following these experiences I spent a few months at Belize Botanic Gardens in Central America, plant collecting and training staff and students which was a fantastic opportunity.

My reason for applying for the Kew Diploma was driven by the fact that all the jobs I coveted were held by previous Diploma students, so the rest as they say is history.

### **The Kew-John Innes Nexus**

by Ian Lamont Smith

*in memory of his wife Norah who died 12 January 2015*

This article draws from my experiences as a student trainee at John Innes 1944-46 and as a student gardener at Kew 1951-53. I’m indebted to John Innes Centre, Norwich for information of their early years and the cross-reference of Journals of the Kew Guild.

John Innes, a philanthropist, lived in Merton, two miles south of Kew Gardens. He died in 1904 bequeathing his fortune, manor house and its two-acre garden to establish a School of Horticulture devoted to practical and scientific instruction in horticulture.

In January of 1909, the trustees of Innes’s bequest, established a private funded, independent fruit-breeding station named John Innes Horticultural Institution in his honour. The contribution of Kewites to the success of John Innes started when the trustees accepted the advice of Kewite David Prain, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to include research on plant genetics as the station’s role. William Bateson, father of genetics, was appointed Director and Kewite Edgar John Allard as Garden Superintendent.

The institution officially opened January 1910 to become known simply as John Innes. Not quite the School of Horticulture John Innes had in mind. Consider for a moment the profundity of Prain’s advice and prescience. It gave official recognition to the new science of genetics and in so doing transformed a fruit-breeding station into the centre of genetics for England and the British Empire, and foreshadowed the unintended outcomes of the loss of autonomy by private funded horticultural institutes and schools.

John Innes implemented their student gardeners’ scheme in 1911, adopting a similar model

in use by Kew for its student gardeners. Director Bateson and his scientists shared teaching duties with Superintendent Allard. The plant-breeding experiments required all seedlings be grown-on to the conclusion of the experiments. It's possible this is the first time such an edict was issued. Allard met the challenge head-on. His seven-year tenure was exemplary, ending with his untimely death in 1918.

Kewite, Albert Hosking in 1918 assumed the position of Garden Superintendent, charged in conjunction with the scientists, to the re-start of the student gardener scheme, held in abeyance during WWI. Hosking's curatorial duties included the ever increasing annual plant production running into the tens of thousands. Hosking's tenure was noted for the excellence of the students and garden staff's horticultural prowess. Two of special note. One a W Lawrence, who earlier in 1913 joined the garden staff as a 14 year old boy. The years are vague but he told me he was in Syria in 1918 with the British Army. W Lawrence returned to John Innes as a student gardener, before entering Kew in early 1922 as sub-foreman, Decorative, followed by the other John Innes student gardener W Campbell who entered Kew as a student gardener in late 1922. Both gave lectures to the 1922-23 Mutual Improvement Society session. Lawrence's on Mendelism and Campbell's on Potatoes. Similarly, both achieved high marks in the 1923-24 Lecture Series given by Kew scientists. To be expected.

W. Lawrence left Kew in 1924 and rejoined John Innes as a Kewite assisting in several years of pollination experiments. Hosking resigned as Superintendent in 1930, his position taken over by Kewite W Lamberton who saw John Innes reorganise, culminating in 1932 with Kewite W Lawrence appointed Curator of the Gardens. While fellow Kewite W Campbell left Kew in early 1924 to take up a series of high profile appointments leading to his 1937 appointment as Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

It's fair to say, the tenures of W Lawrence and W Campbell represent the shining hour of these two supreme horticulturists, and the golden age of horticulture, when scientists were a valuable adjunct. A fact finally recognised by Kew some 70 years late, with the founding of their own School of Horticulture. As Prain had foretold, like other horticultural institutes, John Innes finally succumbed to the blandishment of government grants, resulting in the loss of their autonomy, abandonment of student horticulturists, and horticulture relegated as an adjunct to the scientist.

## **News of Kewites in 2014**

by Pamela Holt

Robin Bletsoe (1969), now retired for 15 years, lives in the Fens where he enjoys community gardening for the elderly, runs a local gardening club and likes visiting gardens. The most recent visited being the amazing Whangarei community Garden on North Island, New Zealand and the spectacular 'Gardens by the Bay' in Singapore. He writes: "I also try and help on the town's 'In Bloom' committee and have managed to get three of our four primary schools involved in growing competitions. The results of their endeavours are displayed photographically at our Annual September Produce and Flower show. Hopefully all four will take part next year".

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Graham Burgess writes: "Doing the obituaries leads one to live for periods in history and sometimes what is revealed is very inspirational. There is a book, cheaply available on the web that every student and Kewite should read. It was written in 1952 by a man who

left Kew in 1926. A W Anderson was Curator of the Botanical Gardens, Timaru, New Zealand and the book is called 'The Coming of the Flowers'. It looks at the origin of many plants and their naming and exposes deep flavours of culture over hundreds of years".

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Geoff Dykes (1970) retired in the autumn of 2013 from Cleeve Nursery, North Somerset. He regularly visits Malaysia for holidays where he planned to meet up with Stewart Henchie in 2014.

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Jim Emerton writes: "I continue to write for Mensa and as a poet, and conduct interviews for magazines, the net and books. My eccentric gardener series is due for publication, and I hope to be an adviser for Mensa. My garden is a joy, a fusion of the wild and cottage garden styles, and a vibrant ecosystem. Kind regards to all the Kew alumni".

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Alex George writes: "In 2014 I published my first non-botanical book that, nonetheless, includes a mention of Kew. With co-author and book designer Charmaine Cave I compiled a pictorial account of the Black Swan, a striking bird that has been associated symbolically with Perth (on the Swan River) and Western Australia since its discovery by Dutch voyagers in 1697. It has been used in many ways from coats of arms and crests to sculptures, commercial and sporting logos, coins and countless souvenirs. The book, *Swanning around Perth: An exploration of the Black Swan in our city*, features some 160 items, mainly from around the Perth Metropolitan Area, but we have a few 'expatriate' swans. These include a pair that raised four cygnets on The Lake at Kew during my year as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer in 1968. We also included Winston Churchill's painting of Black Swans at Chartwell, Kent, in 1948".




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Allan Hart (1958) writes: "I now know that a horticulturist is never allowed to become fully retired, as I was commissioned to produce garden designs for houses in Haslemere and Chiswick, together with a challenging project for Allen and Penelope Paterson at Thornhill in Dumfriesshire - a town house garden to be easily accessible and low maintenance. Allen has such an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants that it would be impertinent of me to produce planting details!

We still enjoy the Guild trips which this year have included a visit to Gravetye Manor and a fantastic weekend in Ventnor Botanic Gardens on the Isle of Wight, where we were the first occupants of a newly refurbished cottage in the grounds which we were able to enjoy as our own private space after the gardens had closed. This is a 'must visit' garden, where the curator, Chris Kidd (1990) is achieving amazing results with inspired creations of Australian, American and other world habitats. Whilst on the Isle of Wight we also visited Osborne House where the grounds are being renovated to a very high standard. Pamela Holt organised a get-together dinner for us all in a Ventnor piano bar - very Art Deco!

Nick Boyes (1972) is the Head Gardener at the very atmospheric Reveley Lodge Garden at Bushey Heath and he very generously invited the Guild to a visit on a hot and sunny day in June. Very few members took up the opportunity to attend and missed the treat that Pamela, Joan and I very much enjoyed. In June, Joan and I also visited a garden show in Zulpich, Germany, which had been created around a large lake and linked to the town square with rose gardens, playgrounds and restaurants - all of the highest standard.

I have been 'guerrilla gardening' a near-by local authority rose bed - now under-planted with bee/butterfly attracting plants - Calamintha - Codonopsis, Centaurea and Violas. The Council gardeners thought they were weeds to be removed and were stopped just in time!

I have also been working with Richard Ward on the procurement of new Honours Boards for the Kew Guild Room - quite a long, frustrating business, as was the remit from Jim Mitchell to research and develop the design of a high quality informative work of art to celebrate 'Kew's Contribution to the World of Horticulture'. Following a series of unproductive meetings with the interpretation department, it eventually produced a sign which is very bland. 50% of the sign consists of a photograph of an attractive young woman surrounded by orchid flowers!

We are very lucky to live so close to major art galleries and theatres, and make full use of the exhibitions which this year have included the Matisse Paper Cuts, the Russian revolutionary painter Malevitch, Anselm Kiefer at the Royal Academy and William Kent plus Robin and Lucienne Day at the V&A. A theatre highlight was Kevin Spacey as Clarence Darrow, civil rights lawyer famous for his defence of the teacher promoting Charles Darwin's 'Origin of Species' in the Scopes 'Monkey Trial' of 1925.

Our garden continues to surprise us as it copes with global warming - *Nicotiana mutabilis* over-wintering and producing (for the second year running) two metre high flowering stems which last from May until December! I also found a bright green fungus growing with a potted bamboo which was identified by the Surrey Fungi Group based in the Jodrell Laboratory as *Stropharia aeruginosa* - Verdigris Toadstool or Verdigris Roundhead - which was only the sixth recorded in Surrey.

Stewart Henchie (1970) spent nearly another year on Penang Island working to revive Penang Botanic Garden, Malaysia and returned to Teignmouth, Devon at the beginning of November 2014.

During the year he visited Nigel Taylor at Singapore Botanic Garden and at the same time visited the Garden Festival held in August at the Gardens by the Bay site.



Nigel Taylor, Director, and Erlango Velautham Head of living Collections Development, Singapore BG showing off a prized specimen in the nursery

During June he visited Taiwan with the Penang Municipal Council's Dragon boat team and combined that visit with one to Taipei Botanical Garden and Parks and cable car to Maokong Station the highest point just outside Taipei.

During October Felix Merklinger (Course 45) Singapore BG with Christina and Theo visited us before we returned to the UK.



Memories that will be missed from our stay in Penang, Malaysia - Durian, the incredible range of foods especially the fish dishes, the beautiful sunsets most days, farewell celebration on Pulau Jerejak Island with Penang Botanic Garden staff.

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Pamela Holt (1971) retired in June 2013 from her post as Arboricultural Officer with the London Borough of Barnet then took up a series of part time work from Arboricultural Manager with Mott McDonald/Balfour Beatty, Arboricultural Officer with London Borough of Harrow to Tree Inspector for English Heritage at Chiswick House and Garden. She recently returned from a three week arduous trekking trip in the remote Dolpo region of Nepal. Close to the Tibetan border this great Himalayan trail takes in three passes over 5,000m but she still had the breath to recognise many of our well known trees and shrubs introduced to Britain by our famous plant hunters.

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Although retired from the London Borough of Enfield, Bob Ivison's (1971) role as Parks Consultant means he is frequently quoted in Horticulture Week in that capacity with The Parks Alliance.

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Chris Kidd (1990), Curator of Ventnor Botanic Garden, has hit the Hort Week news several times this year, notably 11th July with a new cultivar of *Victoria* species obtained by crossing *Victoria amazonica* and *V. cruziana*.

On 14th November he was depicted at the official launch of a collaborative partnership with beauty brand Liz Earle, the garden designer/ethnobotanist James Wong together with the garden's owner John Curtis. Chris said a Wong-designed garden will boost the brand with its botanic plant appeal and generate income for the garden. He also described how he plans to launch a domestic gardening business to include design, installation and maintenance to further boost income for the gardens.



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Miranda Kimberley (2004) gave birth to a 6lbs 13oz boy Hawley Frederic Kimberley-Garland on 2nd July 2014 and has been enjoying her year's maternity leave. Miranda will return to Lincolns Inn, London May/June 2015 where she is Head Gardener.

At the Worshipful Company of Gardeners Autumn Court Dinner, held on 11th November in Drapers Hall in the City, Suzanne Patman and Martin Deasy were given an award “in recognition of an exceptional level of attainment achieved in horticultural studies”.



Leo Pemberton Down Under...

Jim Mitchell writes: “Leo came to Australia last November and met up with myself and Honorary Fellow Graham Ross in Sydney and John Beswick in Adelaide and it was great to see him looking so fit and well almost the same guy he first met 50 years ago in 1964. It was relaxing day after meeting him in the CBD and taking the ferry to Manly passing the harbour bridge and opera house on the way a truly unforgettable sight. During the day we visited North Head National Park and took a coastal drive along the northern beaches to Palm Beach stopping on the way for lunch overlooking the Pacific Ocean.”

Graham Ross says: “We managed to catch up for a wonderful lunch in the Royal Botanic Gardens Sydney, and what a meeting it was. Leo is truly one of the great UK legends of horticultural education and while we had only met briefly for the first time at my ‘investiture’ at the 2013 Kew Guild Dinner in London we immediately established a close rapport.



After many hours chatting at the RBG Sydney we realised, even though there is a decade or two between our ages, we have walked very similar career paths and are comfortably living on identical horticultural pages. We also agreed on many late 20th Century and 21st Century horticultural educational issues.”

John Beswick added: “We don’t get many visitors, most seem to fly over us at 42,000 ft.! So it was really nice to have Leo and his son Michael visit us at ground level! Leo looked very fit and well, little changed from my student days of the mid 1960s.

Leo had two requests to see Hahndorf, the early German settlement town, visit a wine region and to sample the wines. So after a quick tour of the city we travelled up to Mount Lofty (2235 ft.) to look down on Adelaide, then on to Hahndorf, Mc Laren Vale and Thomas Hardy’s winery. We had a quick lunch and on to Victor Harbour, originally a whaling port, The Bluff and Petrel Cove returning via the townships of Strathalbyn and Mount Barker and a much needed pizza before returning back up to a dark Mount Lofty to view Adelaide’s night lights.

Leo and his son were safely back at their hotel by about 9.30pm after an easy 200 km drive. The next day they planned to see our Botanic gardens before their flight back to Sydney.

We said our farewells, as sadly I was not able to meet with them that morning. It was a great day with many happy memories shared about our Kew days.

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Tim Upson (1986) formerly Garden Curator and Deputy Director at Cambridge Botanic Garden left in March 2014 to take up the appointment of Director of Horticulture at the Royal Horticultural Society. This new post entails overseeing horticultural standards in all parts of the RHS from its annual shows to its gardens, trade relationships and bursaries. Tim has a key role in leading horticultural organisations to encourage young people to take up careers in gardening.

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Advisory Editor Richard Ward, together with his wife Wiena, and new Kew Guild Editor Sparkle, visited South Africa in late March, and drove up to Windhoek in Namibia. They visited ex-Kewite John Winter and his wife Meg near Kirstenbosch and presented them with the Events of 2013 Kew Guild Journal. John was Curator at Kirstenbosch National Botanical Gardens near Cape Town most of his professional life and many Kewites had visited over the years.

Sadly, John had cancer and died within 10 days of the Wards' visit. Richard and the Guild sent condolences to Meg and the family.

In his semi-retirement (once a gardener, always a gardener!) Richard, with Wiena, flew to Toulouse for a weekend in November to advise on the refurbishment of a chateau garden owned by an English couple. This trip is to be followed through with a longer working week with on-site staff in the new year.



Wiena and Richard Ward, Graham and Ann Leaver, Allan Booth.

Richard and Wiena hosted Allan Booth (ex-Director of Dundee Parks Dept) in late August. He also invited Graham (and Ann) Leaver, ex-Chief Leisure Officer at the Borough of Slough and Kew Student 1961-63, as the three of them had trained together in 1964 at The Grotto, ILAM college, near Reading, and hadn't met since.

As a result of this get together over dinner, Graham was persuaded to join the Guild - after 51 years! Welcome Graham.

A reunion of 1964 Grotto students is mooted...!

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Here is a photograph that is unlikely to ever be repeated - past Editors Richard Ward, his elder daughter Alexandra, and younger daughter Sparkle (appointed late 2014)!

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M John (Log) Whitehead (1969) has made the supreme sacrifice by selling his much loved MGB to finance future botanising trips around the world:

“In 1974 I bought my dream car 310 EYN for £150, which became affordable by using the same amount of money that I was paid for producing artwork and photographs to illustrate a new book, ‘Tree Surgery’ by Peter Bridgeman, published in 1976. Peter trained at Kew Gardens and in 1968 he became the

first full time lecturer in arboriculture in the UK, pioneering the golden era of arboricultural education when he became Head of the Arboricultural Department at Merrist Wood Agricultural College, Worplesdon, Surrey. In 1972, I lived in at Merrist Wood College as a Warden and Lecturer in Arboriculture and Barry Phillips was a Lecturer in Horticulture. In 1969, Barry and I, along with today’s TV and Gardening celebrity and prolific author, the propagational Alan Titchmarsh, and the racing pigeon guru, the Mensa manic Jim Emerton, were students at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in Surrey. Merrist Wood College was only 40 minutes’ drive from Kew and in the mid 1970s we often enjoyed travelling in the MGB to Kew on Monday evenings to attend various international botanical guest lectures. The Botanical Police force at Kew became familiar with unlocking the special entrance at the Jodrell Gate in the evenings for the Merrist Wood visitors arriving in style in a dark blue MGB. On one occasion travelling back from Kew on the M3 with Barry and his wife Christine, I drove the MGB to its top speed of 108 mph, with three of us on board. Barry became a Horticultural Officer in Bermuda, focusing on Education and conserving the endangered endemic *Juniperus bermudiana* and 11 years later he was Curator of The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum in Hampshire. Christine used to work in the Kew Shop when it was then situated in the Orangery. She is now Christine Watlington and a botanical artist in Bermuda and has produced a charming illustrated book ‘Bermuda’s Botanical Wonderland’. At Kew, MGB sports cars were owned by a number of botanists and John Simmons, the then Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, kept his MGB at his home in Norfolk until the sports car sadly, rusted away. In 1984, my car had major renovations and the dark blue body was re-sprayed British Racing Green.

Merrist Wood is set in an area of the widespread village of Worplesdon. Just across the college fields and about a mile away on the Bagshot road near the famous Brookwood cemetery is Lawfords Hill Road, Worplesdon, where at Number 12, the home of Rodney Bayton, lived a young lady who was emigrating to South Africa in 1974 and therefore selling her MGB. The MGB 310 EYN then had a new home at Merrist Wood College for the next 23 years. On my early retirement in 1995 and meeting Brenda March from Pontllyfni in North Wales where the MGB eventually had a Welsh home for nearly 20 years. The car, now 52 years old, was sold on 7th October 2014 to a new enthusiast owner, Alun Gruffydd from Anglesey, who bought it for £7,500. Alun is an archaeologist and now a full time translator for the Welsh Language. His background of twenty years in education and management projects in environmental, heritage and museums with the Snowdonia National Parks Authority and Isle of Anglesey County Council, has naturally influenced his interests in original and ageing patina characteristics and now, Alun has fulfilled one of his ambitions by owning an old historic MGB.

At Kew in 1972, I was awarded a botanical travel scholarship and later followed other awards. The sale of the MGB will greatly help towards funding my new global botanical adventures. Over the years I have been lucky enough with my plant research and

adventures to visit nearly all the countries in the world and by the end of 2014 will have only six remaining countries to explore. Recently in Caernarfon, Dr Edwin Williams reviewed my health check capabilities for far off lands and asked what were the remaining countries! Then, with a wry smile, he said that he had been to two countries that I had not visited, namely Liechtenstein and Turkmenistan.

For two months in early and mid 2014 I travelled to many countries in West Africa where I was lucky to evade the outbreak of the Ebola virus and when visiting the Botanical Garden in Conakry in March, there was news of the death of two people in the eastern region of Guinea. On returning to the UK the horrific news was reported of the dramatic spreading of Ebola towards places where I had recently visited including Liberia and the intriguing Banana Island off the coast of Sierra Leone.

In September 2014, I travelled to Bioko Island, Gabon and in Angola found large bizarre Welwitschia plants within view of the coast. Then when travelling from Kinshasa to Boma, on the north bank of the Congo River I visited the location of the famous Stanley's Baobab where the explorer Henry Morton Stanley was reputed to have slept a number of times inside the huge hollowed trunk. The historic site of this tree in the Congo has a small museum including information and a picture of Stanley's grave, which is located back in England at the churchyard in Pirbright, Surrey.

Pirbright village is next to Stanley Pool and House and historically, a number of the surrounding farms have traditional African names. Situated nearby is Merrist Wood College and Lawfords Hill Road, where I originally bought the MGB 40 years ago.



Tom Wood (1957), founding director of Oakover Nurseries, was awarded the UK Grower Lifetime Achievement Award in March 2014.

Ann Rawlings sent in this piece, about Arthur Woodward, who died in 2008:

“I met Arthur soon after he had retired from being Head of Parks and Gardens in the Borough of Richmond and about the time that I was considering a career change from teaching. We found that we both had a great love of plants so in 1984 we set up Woodlings Landscape Consultants and worked closely together for fifteen years. During that time Arthur was very generous in imparting his knowledge and passing on interesting horticultural documents such as ‘Dig for Victory’ pamphlets.

On his death I was given a sack of papers on which I spent many evenings carrying out a preliminary sorting. I came to the conclusion that I had in my possession a remarkable collection of papers, including letters of appointment, his marked, hand-written Kew assignments, and RHS examination papers, documenting the career of a 20th century horticulturist and that these deserved to be made available to those interested in the development of horticulture. I was delighted when Liz Taylor, a professional archivist at RHS, undertook the task of cataloguing and I am pleased to report that the descriptive catalogue of Arthur Woodward's archive is now available online at [www.archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb803-awo](http://www.archiveshub.ac.uk/data/gb803-awo) I hope that all those who knew Arthur, and his enthusiasm for his subject, will find this catalogue of interest.

Udai C. Pradhan sends us news from the Himalayas:

“Dear Friends Old and New,

On 6 December this year, Kalimpong, our little home town weathered 150 years of being a part of India. Until the middle of 19th Century, Kalimpong and its environs was ruled in succession by the Sikkimese and Bhutanese kings. Under the Sikkimese rule, the area was known as Dalingkote. In 1706, the King of Bhutan won this territory from Sikkim and renamed it Kalimpong. Post Anglo Bhutan War of 1864 and the signing of the Treaty of Sinchula in 1865, this Bhutanese territory was ceded to British East India Company. In 1866, Kalimpong became a part of Darjeeling District.

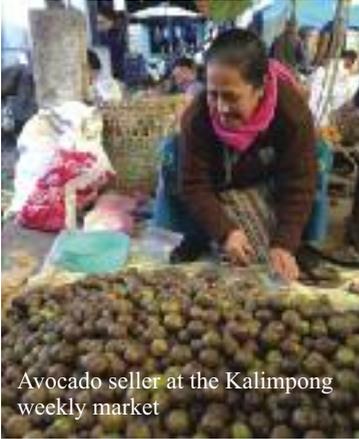
The advent of Scottish Missionaries saw the light of education dawn in the hills of Kalimpong and Rev W Macfarlane, in the early 1870s established the first schools in the area. The Scottish University Mission Institution (SUMI) was opened in 1886, followed by the Kalimpong Girls High School. In 1900 Rev J A Graham founded the Dr Graham’s Homes for destitute Anglo-Indian children. By early 20th Century the Swiss and Irish Missionaries had also joined in offering education to students from all over India and neighbouring countries and making Kalimpong a centre of excellence in education. Later, one of Dr Graham’s daughter, Betty was to marry Major George Sherriff and participate in some remarkable botanical explorations so well documented in Harold R Fletcher’s *A Quest of Flowers* (1976).

Kalimpong, while hosting various ethnic groups from many parts of India has also had an equally fascinating array of plant introductions and discoveries from around the world that can still be admired in the nurseries, private collections as well as in the wild. South America has played a very important role and it may be in order to highlight some of them. Introduction of plants during the British rule and thereafter by my ancestors have played a significant role in beautification of the hills of Sikkim and Darjeeling Himalayas encouraging horticultural trade and tourism. We continue their efforts by selecting, hybridising and raising new lines of horticultural plants of merit which augments the local economy by earning the much needed foreign exchange.



In mid-1800s one of the most important plant introduction from South America was the Cinchona plant or ‘Jesuits bark’ or ‘fever bark’, (*Cinchona succirubra*) to cure malaria. The Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants of the Government of West Bengal has earmarked an area approximately 10,500 ha for plantation of Cinchona and other medicinal plants half of which falls in Kalimpong Subdivision. Of this, approximately 3000 ha are presently in cultivation employing some 6500 personnel in the hills of Kalimpong and Darjeeling. Sir William J Hooker sent the first seeds from Kew to Dr Thomas Anderson, Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta where it was carefully raised and tended. Dr Andersen then selected Mungpoo in Darjeeling District in 1862 to begin the new plantation. History tells that the ‘fever bark’ became popular in England after King Charles II was cured of malaria during the end of 17th Century. Although natural

Quinine was overtaken by synthetic Quinine in the 1930s, the ‘fever bark’ is once again making a comeback as the result of increase in resistance of the malarial parasite to synthetic medicines. This coupled with the application of quinidine as an antiarrhythmic compound has increased the demand for Cinchona bark.



Avocado seller at the Kalimpong weekly market

Another very interesting plant of economic use has been the well known American Avocado, *Persea americana* Mill., which is now grown in and around Kalimpong and for which the local people are just beginning to develop taste for. Although not relished as much as its Himalayan counterpart, *Machilus edulis* (now *Persea edulis*), the local avocado (also called Phamphal, Lapchephal - Lapche, referring to indigenous Lepcha Tribe, and Phal, fruit) one often gets to wonder if there are possibilities of breeding the two species that have the flavour of the *Machilus* and a bigger fruit with more fleshy endosperm of *Persea americana*. 'Phamphal/Lapchephal time', is looked forward to every alternate winter, in the Sikkim Himalayas and specially Kalimpong. So addictive is the flavour once you develop a taste for the fruits it can often replace normal food! And of course one has to be prepared to enjoy the fruits in a spirit of abandonment of all civilized eating manners. My grandson, Aachuk aptly puts it 'roll it 'til it softens, squeeze it (to get rid of the large seed) and scoop it' (of course with your lower teeth!). *P. edulis* has a peculiar bland, milky-buttery flavour of its own, which we feel is even more tasteful. The introduction of the American avocado is attributed to Raja Dorjee of Bhutan who used to bring them during his visit to Kalimpong and who appears to have left some fruits with my grandfather-in-law, Rai Saheb Bhim Bahadur Pradhan of Indra Lodge, Kalimpong. He planted the seeds and later also disseminated them to the villages around. Later more introductions followed as travelling became common amongst the affluent citizens.



The Himalayan Avocado *Persea edulis* (*Machilus edulis*)

*Dahlia imperialis*, the Bell Tree Dahlia, is another South American plant with an imposing stature and few plants could match up to the splendour of this plant when in full bloom during late autumn and winter. 7-10m in height with attractive foliage, this magnificent plant can boast of several large 10-15cm wide flower heads of lavender to mauve-pink. First described by the well known Czech Orchid collector, Benedict Roezl in 1863, it must have been introduced into Kalimpong, Darjeeling and its environs, most likely, through the Chandra Nursery of Rhenock (KG Journal 2013) who used to hybridize and grow Dahlias at Rhenock in Sikkim during early-mid 1900s. The plant hails from Mexico, Colombia and Central America and the leaves are used as a dietary supplement in South America, a fact few people here know, which is probably the reason why we can see whole flowering plants all along our highways!

Cacti and other succulents, also from South America and Mexico played a significant role in boosting our economic activities related to horticulture. While the introduction of Cacti into Kalimpong has been attributed to my uncle, Man Bahadur Pradhan of Standard Nursery, its commercial application was made by my father, Badri N. Pradhan and cousin, Tek Bahadur. They began importing Cacti and succulent seeds in commercial numbers from the famous nursery of Robert Blossfeld in Lubeck, Germany and later from Gerhard

Kohres of Erzhausen, Germany and fine tuned the growing techniques suitable for our climate. They then visited and participated in all the flower shows in India peddling Cacti and succulents to the amazement of people and imparting ideas to hobby grow them. The result was contagious and many other nurseries followed suit. From the late 1950s to 1990 my father and cousin still grew Cacti and other succulents. By then many relatives took up the profession – a few amongst them excelling in it. When in Kalimpong, a visit to Pine View Nursery of my late cousin, Mohan Shamsheer Pradhan and his wife, Dhonu is an experience by itself. The few hundred species of Cacti and succulents now managed by the eldest daughter, Navanita is a spot that no plant lovers should miss and many dignitaries from India and abroad have visited and admired the wonderful collection.



*Pyrostegia venusta* (syn. *Bignonia venusta* Ker-Gawl), (see photo) The Saffron Trumpet/Orange Trumpet now called ‘Swasthani Phul’ in Nepali because it blooms profusely during these months, and is used in local Hindu festival Swasthani Puja which begins about mid-January and lasts for 31 days. The saffron/orange coloured flowers are considered auspicious to use during this occasion. Originally from Brazil, it was first collected by Admiral Sir John Beresford in 1815. This enchanting climber rapidly makes excellent walls and cascades and lends to whatever shape you wish, showing off the dazzling saffron/orange flowers in the dry winter months. *Pyrostegia venusta* is a climber that can often reach 20 metres in height. The clusters of flowers that smother the plant develop from the axils of the leaf. The flowers are 6-8cm long, tubular, with narrow recurved lobes and the flowers are known to be pollinated by hummingbirds. The leaves of this climber are used in traditional medicine in Brazil.

Similarly in flower bulbs we have the *Achimenes* hybrids and species introduced a long time back from South America by the Chandra Nursery are virtually grown in thousands and approximately one million tubers are exported to Holland and other European countries and America from Kalimpong. My family continues breeding them using the more advanced tetraploids originated by Michelson and others. Our yellow hybrid *Achimenes* Himalayan Sunrise is probably the largest yellow *Achimenes* hybrid and similarly several others now being selected should bring about more interesting colours and shapes in the future.

Kalimpong keeps on springing surprises even to serious botanists. The discovery of the habitat of the Windermere Palm, *Trachycarpus latisectus* (*T. sikkimensis*) by Tobias Spanner, Martin Gibbons and Henry Noltie of Edinburgh Botanic Gardens in Kalimpong and formally described in 1997 is an absorbing story. A couple of large plants of this magnificent palm grow adjacent to our house and the large male yellow inflorescence is a sight to behold. Bees in great numbers go and pollinate the female flowers located in another plant closeby and we have showers of seeds dropping on our rooftop every autumn and winter months! This year we have collected and sown them and hope to plant them out in colonies in our marginal lands as a part of our programme to conserve them.

Another such story which updates the tea growing phenomenon in the Darjeeling Himalayas is the recent discovery of a very old plantation of tea in Pedong area of Kalimpong. In a most interesting tale, Dan Robertson dispels the idea that tea growing was introduced into India by the British. Rather it is shown as predating the British introduction by a thousand years! People in India had been drinking tea since the Seventh Century and Pedong in Kalimpong was the place where the first tea plantations were raised by Jesuits from Switzerland: [www.thedailytea.com/travel/the-lost-tea-garden-of-pedong](http://www.thedailytea.com/travel/the-lost-tea-garden-of-pedong)

Add to these a diversity of other plants like the Hippeastrums, the Anthuriums, Orchids and many other flowerbulbs and rhizomes, Kalimpong makes a perfect destination for plant enthusiasts.

This year we registered a few Orchid hybrids of which one was named after our youngest grandson as Renanthera Yuvaan Chandra Pradhan. It is a fine intense red hybrid using *Renanthera imschootiana*, an endemic Indian species and *Renanthera Mauricette Brin* another exceptional hybrid. The pollen of *Renanthera Mauricette Brin* came from Dr Martin Motes of Florida, USA.

Interesting folks keep drifting in and continue to inform and challenge us. A young Kew student, Matthew Parker dropped by after concluding his journey to study alpine Himalayan plants for his Kew Diploma and also retrace some routes and places that Sir Joseph Hooker passed through during his epic journey in the Sikkim Himalayas. Darren Minney from the Cambridge University Botanic Gardens wrote that he enjoyed his trip to the Sikkim Himalayas immensely. The 80 year old Silk Man Dr Ole Zettner and his wife, Rie (authors with Dilip Barooah, *Indian Ways of Silk*, 2012) from Denmark spent a whole morning talking and admiring Hemlata's paintings of Orchids and Arisaemas. Denmark took my thoughts to the late Dr Gunnar Seidenfaden (with whom I corresponded on Orchid matters) and I inquisitively asked Dr Zettner if he knew anything about him. He told me about Toger Seidenfaden (1957-2011), the famous, versatile and well loved newspaperman of Denmark and owner of 'Politiken' the biggest newspaper there who was son of Erik Seidenfaden. Erik was the brother of Dr Gunnar Seidenfaden! When I casually asked him about the origin of the name Seidenfaden, he replied it was a German surname and it literally meant 'Silk thread'. Now that was indeed a surprising 'silky' coincidence!

Meantime, Hemlata and her students are organising an exhibition and fundraiser titled 'Art in Nature, Nature in Art' from 6th to 8th February 2015 and will be hosted by Vrindavan School, Kalimpong, as a part of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations. This will be the first time that the students works will be on view for the public.

And so life drifts by in caring and studying the wide range of plants we have, hybridising them, seeking out and cultivating them for economic well being of our hills and in pursuance of inner satisfaction, joy and brotherhood that plants people all over the world share. While we deeply mourn our mentors like Mr FN Hepper and all our other friends who passed away, we must also celebrate and strive to carry forth what they cherished and lived for. In doing so, we must leave behind a legacy for the future generation to pursue - finding solutions to upcoming problems of climate change, shortage of food, water and shelter, depletion of genetic resources and host of other tribulations that we knowingly or unknowingly generate. Through the medium of plants, hopefully, some of these urgent issues can be addressed sensibly for the future well being of mankind and all animate and inanimate things we have inherited on our Planet.

May 2015 bring you all the fulfillment of your pursuits and may happiness and well being be yours.

## Obituaries

### Reginald John Chuter

3 July 1919 – 25 December 2014

Not many people can lay claim to having been a teetotaler in charge of an illicit still, a Rothschild employee at Exbury at the height of its glory, or an occupant of a Palace address. Reg Chuter's life was nothing if not rich and varied. The passing of Reg at the age of 95 on Christmas Day 2014 leaves a gap in the ranks of those who experienced horticulture before the Second World War. He was a student of trees and shrubs nearly all his life and his depth of knowledge was truly prodigious.



Reg was brought up in the premier county for Hardy Nursery Stock production, namely Surrey. Having tried his hand at Vickers aircraft as a draughtsman he secured a trainee position at the famous Woking Nursery of George Jackman and Son (Jackmans of Woking). Seeking to improve further on his experience and skills, he moved to the world famous gardens of Lionel Rothschild at Exbury. Anyone who has seen the remnants of the great teak glasshouses and frames at Exbury will be aware of what an amazing place it was with everything done to the highest standard and no expense spared. Reg once informed me that up to twelve people were employed to nurture the orchids alone! It was in this hothouse of excellence that Reg

gained outdoor and indoor experience before being hauled away to do his duty for King and country in January 1940. For a mild-mannered, gracious man this must have been a traumatic time. Within months of joining up he was in France just before Dunkirk; he was taken prisoner of war and force marched into Germany. Later he was transported to Poland where his horticultural expertise was put to work in a nearby Castle garden. It was here that enterprising prisoners developed an illicit still and who better to put in charge of it than a teetotaler!

After liberation and demobilisation, Reg lived with his mother in New Haw, Surrey where he was gainfully employed as a market gardener. Ever one to look to improving his prospects he moved to join the support staff at Writtle College in Essex. And it was from Writtle that he applied for the job of propagator in the North Arboretum Nursery at Kew.

All those who knew Reg for at least part of his long life would recognise that it was here at Kew that Reg really found his metier. The noted George Brown was Assistant Curator in charge of the North Arboretum and it was under his guidance that Reg revelled in the wealth of trees and shrubs that daily surrounded him. And it was a Kew that he made lifelong friends amongst staff and students. For example he and Nigel Hepper got along famously. Close to Kew Palace was a little cluster of dwellings occupied by George Brown, George Shuttler (North Arboretum foreman) and Reg Chuter. It was at Kew that his address was rather grandly known as Flat 1, Kew Palace.

Reg would have loved to have been a full-time student – such was his thirst for knowledge. But the world of his youth mitigated against such a dream. It was around this time that the significance of arboriculture as a serious professional subject was becoming more widely recognised. Reg got caught up in the possibilities of studying for his first professional qualification at a higher level and eventually passed the Diploma in Arboriculture. With

qualification came confidence and leaving Kew in 1961 he moved with his family to North London (Hendon) where he took up duties as a Tree Officer. Later still he moved to Cambridgeshire County Council as Tree and Woodlands Officer, a role he greatly enjoyed, until his retirement in 1985.

Reg was a caring family man who with his wife Ruby was delighted to have Miriam and Andrew as additions to their household. Somewhat later their caring, outward looking personalities led them to adopt Glen as a third child. His Christian faith undergirded all that he thought and practised and for those of us who had the privilege of knowing him, we will be forever grateful for such a caring friend.

Dr Hugh Nunn

Improver Gardener at Kew 1959-61

### **Sir Philip Henry Manning Dowson**

16 August 1924 – 22 August 2014

Sir Philip Dowson, who has died aged 90 in the early hours of 22 August 2014, was one of Britain's most prominent post-war architects. He was old-school: very tall, reticent, somewhat patrician, a Royal Gold Medallist and one of the most important British architects of the late 20th century. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. His father, Robin, had trained as a mechanical engineer with the Midland Railway at Derby, but chose to pursue an independent career in South Africa. His mother, Ina (nee Cowen), had been brought up in South Africa. The family settled back in Britain in 1927, at Geldeston, Norfolk, in a house without running water or electricity. "We generated our own", said Dowson. "We grew our own vegetables and fruit... We had our own beehives, with comb honey, and we kept chickens, ducks, geese and pigs".

Educated at Gresham's School, Holt, Dowson read mathematics for a year at University College, Oxford, before joining the Royal Navy during the second world war. He served on board the new U-class Destroyer HMS Ursa in both the Atlantic and Pacific. A gunner, Dowson was responsible for taking out hidden German six-inch guns on D-day as Ursa edged towards Normandy. Joining US forces in the Pacific, Ursa supported the invasion of Okinawa, destroying Japanese airfields on the island while protecting US troops. In 1947 he left the Navy and returned to his studies, this time reading Art History at Clare College, Cambridge, after which he trained at the Architectural Association. A realist as much as a Modernist, he designed buildings with an eye on their proposed function. As a result he was to become the architect to whom Britain's universities, cultural institutions and blue-chip corporations turned when they required a new wing, library or headquarters. Dowson was one of the driving forces — as chief architect — at Arup Associates, an innovative and collaborative team of influential architects, engineers and quantity surveyors. His aim was to maintain a scientific and rational approach; in addition to the function of a space, construction techniques and the character of materials were the foundation blocks of his designs. Arup Associates was applauded for the "clarity, logic and elegance" with which they approached building design - a combination that proved popular among commissioning institutions such as universities (Dowson brought his practical Modernism to bear on large campus sites in Oxford and Cambridge). Key to his approach was the "tartan grid" in which "thin bays of the tartan pattern provided a dedicated zone of structure and mechanical servicing, leaving the larger bays clear for functional use". It was the perfect fit for laboratories, offices, halls of residence and libraries. However, one of his early successes was the conversion of an unusual 19th-

century building. On commission from Benjamin Britten in 1965, he transformed a vast malthouse at Snape, Suffolk, into a concert hall - incorporating a foyer, stage and auditorium - for the Aldeburgh Festival. Sensitive to the risk of spoiling the building's character, Dowson succeeded in creating a 134-by-58-by-49ft hall with a new period-looking roof and ash and cane seating. The Maltings Concert Hall was opened by the Queen in 1967. He redeveloped the Old Truman Brewery in Brick Lane, London. Dowson's project on Brick Lane in the late Seventies - creating a new headquarters for Truman out of their old brewery and two listed Georgian houses - helped set in motion a wider interest in the reconfiguration of derelict historical buildings at the end of the 20th century. Also new Oxbridge builds - including student rooms at St John's College, Oxford, and the Forbes Mellon Library at Clare College, his alma mater at Cambridge. In all of his work he followed the maxim of his boss Ove Arup: "signature thinking, not signature style". In 1969 he designed The Modern House for Sir Jack Zunz, the British engineer responsible for the roof of the Sydney Opera House. The four-bedroom house on Drax Avenue in Wimbledon - described by English Heritage as "well-crafted, meticulously planned" - is now Grade II listed.

The following year, building work began on Dowson's design for a block of 156 study-bedrooms within the grounds of St John's College, Oxford. "It was a bold stroke," wrote Vaughan Grylls in *Oxford Then and Now* It won both RIBA and Concrete Society awards. In the early Seventies Dowson was a mentor to Michael (later Sir Michael) Hopkins, who later recalled: "Working for IBM in Portsmouth on three buildings at the same time, he had one too many. I was working with Norman Foster at the time and Philip suggested that we should take on the design of their temporary offices, 250,000 square feet - a fantastic opportunity. Philip was always very generous with his time and energy in the support of younger architects, taking on the mantle of Hugh Casson, Robert Matthew and Leslie Martin - the architectural knights - as the patron of younger architectural practices." He said in a prescient talk he gave in London in 1975 "There is indeed a crisis in architecture". This was the Council of Europe's Architectural Heritage Year. Dowson identified gathering public protest against modern buildings, the squandering of natural resources, the souring of the once sweet, light and socially concerned modern movement, the loss of nerve by architects rapidly reverting to reactionary positions, a failure to reuse old buildings and the disaster of rampantly destructive "comprehensive redevelopment". Dowson retired as a senior partner at Ove Arup in 1990, and three years later was elected president of the Royal Academy of Arts. He had a long association with the Academy, having been elected to it in 1979. He was awarded its Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 1981. As president of the RA, Dowson's tenure was notable for his steerage of its acquisition of the Burlington Gardens building behind the Piccadilly galleries (left vacant when the Museum of Mankind moved to Bloomsbury). He drew up plans for how the two buildings might be joined, thus doubling the Academy's footprint. "Armed with these, using his reputation as an architect and his ability to be taken seriously by government, he prized the Freehold out of them for a modest £5 million," noted Sir Michael Hopkins. "A bargain then, and the equivalent price today of a very small shoebox in Mayfair." Construction work to join the two buildings begins in 2015 (using designs by Sir David Chipperfield). Dowson's personal interests reflected his professional pursuits: he was an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art; a governor of St Martin's School of Art (1975-82); and a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The first Kew Trustees meeting was 21 October 1983 and they took full control 1st April 1984. He retired in the autumn of 1996. He was a trustee also of the National Portrait Gallery. Among numerous awards and honours, Sir Philip Dowson was appointed CBE in 1969, and knighted in 1980. He was also a keen sailor.

He married, in 1950, Sarah Crewdson, Lady Sarah now and they had two daughters, a son and six grandchildren.

## Words on a Friendship

Prior to the early 70s my professional life had followed a rather mixed path with regard the Landscape of Man. My companies were principally involved in the exhibition industry. Design and build for the landscape needs for such central features as the Ideal Home Exhibition as Olympia and subsequently Earls Court were the order of the day. Individual companies such as industrial trade fairs, Hawker Siddley and Rolls Royce were to take me overseas. Coinciding with the period were Atrium needs for new build offices and hotels.

A telephone call to my office from Architects, Arup Associates in 1972 was to change the direction of my team in terms of our contribution to the workplace of man and the environment at large.

The ensuing conversation between myself and the Arup Architects remains very clear in my mind to this day. Arup at that time were designing as part of the new Wiggins Teape building at Basingstoke, a series of roof gardens from Level one to Level six.

The question posed by Arup in the subsequent conversation related to a suggestion from their appointed plantsman that there was a need for a considerable depth of soil to meet his needs. The depths being quoted were to say the least very questionable. On receiving detailed information I proposed minimum soil depths which were accepted. The scheme that exists to this day some 42 years on is the result of a joint venture between James Russell of Castle Howard and my team.

During the course of this project I was to work with the Late Peter Foggo who was the team leader. There was to arise a circumstance during the build of the roof terraces that I was introduced to Philip Dowson, who was to become Sir Philip. Questions on the progress of the works immediately identified that here was an architect whose concerns went far beyond the built form of his building. The seeds were sown of a respect that was to germinate into a friendship that lasts to this day.

That dialogue and debate underpin solutions were never more obvious in conversation with Philip. Projects such as IBM Havant, Lloyds Corporation of London, Chatham, Finsbury Avenue in the City of London involved many such discussions. I never ceased to be amazed at the level of his understanding of our Landscape input.

During the course of the works who should come clambering through the chaos at the time but Philip. Whilst he was clearly unwell his words of thanks to myself and the team had a lifting effect to morale. His few words ring in my ears to this day to which I replied with a saying I had heard somewhere "Philip the woods are lovely, green and deep, but we have miles to go before we sleep and promises to keep".

There are many such occasions of his understanding of finding solutions in a one to one manner. An example of such recalls a particular Villa project in Kuwait. My brief from Philip was that whilst the plant genera was down to me and could be obtained from wherever, the basic build and labour needs had to be sourced locally. The day came when I, with a group of locals, met the 707 as it landed and ferried the material to site. My accommodation was, for the want of a better description, a wash house attached to the Villa in which there were a couple of crude beds. I had just about turned in when who should appear but Philip. Having asked me how things were going, he proceeded to open his case, at which point I realised, like myself, he was confined to the wash house. A further surprise was that inside his case laying for anyone to see was a bottle of Scotch. I was staggered as I could not believe he could have openly brought such alcohol through

Customs. I expressed my amazement. The response was “Charlie, act casually, do not hide it and they will let it pass!” Having discussed the needs of the day ahead and demolished half the bottle we hit the sack some hours later.

There are many more occasions where I could illustrate, through openness, the character of Philip who was always prepared to go that extra mile.

Charles Funke

### **Anthony Peter Dunball**

– 10th February 2014



Anthony with Alan Paterson

Anthony’s life changed radically at the age of eight when his father, who was a commercial traveller, was killed in an industrial accident. His mother, who was somewhat cash-strapped, discovered the Royal Commercial Traveller’s Schools, a truly charitable organisation. Fortunately his father had planned ahead and joined some years before. Anthony attended with his brother Stephen. Their mother was then able to go back to work as a shorthand typist. Anthony thus gained a sense of self-sufficiency and confidence early in his life. He also took the responsibility of keeping an eye on his younger brother. In 1967 the Schools closed after having given, during their 122 years’ history, a good boarding education and start in life to over 5,000 orphaned sons and daughters of commercial travellers. The Royal Pinner School Foundation succeeds the Schools.

On leaving school at the age of sixteen he got a job as a pot-boy at the local council nurseries. I remember the tasks involved myself and this was in the days of clay pots and the need to make crocks to provide drainage at the base of the pots by not throwing away any broken pots and breaking them into small pieces.

Then a step up the ladder as he became a student at Cambridge Botanical Gardens. At the age of eighteen his studies were interrupted by a spell of National Service. He spent the time in Egypt in the Air Force as a Teleprinter Operator. After demobilisation he finished his studies at Cambridge and was accepted as a student at Kew.

Anthony entered Kew in October 1951, one of four students from Cambridge Botanical Gardens. His involvement as Secretary of The Mutual Improvement Society led to an enrichment of students giving lectures. On 27th October 1952 he gave a talk on ‘Asiatic Primulas for Garden Culture’ and in the same year won The Hooker Prize.

In 1952 he was elected to the committee of the British Botany Club. In December 1953 he left Kew to live at Gidea Park, Romford, Essex a first step in a career in Parks. In 1956 he obtained his intermediate qualification for Institute of Parks and Recreation Administration. In 1958 Anthony won National Diploma in Horticulture Section 5, Horticulture in Public Parks and won his Final Qualification, Diploma of Parks Admin one year later. He was then Deputy Superintendent at Romford Parks.

In 1962 all this experience and intense ongoing study led to him being appointed Chief Horticulturalist for The Ministry of Transport.

Whilst he retired from The Kew Guild Committee in 1974 his contact remained very pure and in 1975 and 1976 he made generous donations to The Kew Guild Award Scheme funding and later to The George Brown Lectern.

In an article in the 1981 Journal, when the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham was being celebrated, mention was made of the road access and his high quality inputs into that. In 1984-86 Anthony was Vice President of The Kew Guild and by this time was a M Hort (RHS) and Fellow (FILAM).

After retirement he bought a house in Rousillon-sur-L'ochres in Provence in France an amazing landscape of ochre coloured mountains and there he entertained many of his friends. After approximately ten years he returned to England and bought a house in Kimbolton in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. His brother and family (two boys and a girl) lived in the same village so in many ways his life had come full circle. He was a very gregarious and amusing man and throughout his life made many close and lasting friendships. We thank his brother Stephen for wonderful family memories.

### **Brian Halliwell**

21st June 1929 – 22nd March 2014

With the passing of Brian Halliwell the world of horticulture has lost a most dedicated and influential horticulturist and plantsman. The son of a master butcher, Brian's childhood home was in Manor Drive where he lived with his parents and sister. He attended the local Heath Grammar school.

After leaving school he trained at the then Halifax Parks Department and was, amongst other things, responsible for the annual display of crocuses at Savile Park and for massed tree planting in Shibden and People's Parks. His training was interrupted, however, by National Service in the RAF but he briefly returned to Halifax Parks before going on to further studies at Askham Bryan College. This was followed by short periods at nurseries in Surrey before a studentship at Wisley. Brian obtained the prestigious National Diploma in Horticulture which currently equates with the RHS Master of Horticulture.

Following Wisley, Brian spent five years in Tasmania, which began his long interest in the plants of the Southern Hemisphere. From Tasmania he went to New Zealand for three years as a horticulturalist at the agriculture college at Lincoln. Here he taught horticulture theory and practice. Brian then set off to the USA, planning to get work in a botanic garden or nursery but failing to get a work permit had to return to New Zealand or Britain. As there was a six week wait to return to New Zealand but only three days to the UK, he took the latter. In April 1965 he went to the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh as a temporary foreman, staying almost three years before obtaining a position as Assistant Curator of the Alpine and Herbaceous department at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in January 1968.

During his time at Edinburgh he was a keen hill walker and spent many weekends botanising in the Scottish hills with colleagues such as Ron McBeath. Brian remained at Kew for 21 years. Among his many achievements there was the planting of the garden designated the Queen's Garden; a recreation of a seventeenth century layout to complement Kew Palace which was built in 1631. Here he exercised his passion for using appropriate plants of the period. Brian was also responsible for ornamental spring and summer bedding

in front of the Palm House and along the Broad Walk. He had a good eye for colour, was innovative, and embraced experimental schemes. He caused controversy with his bedding display of vegetables which even shocked Christopher Lloyd! He also won a Gold Medal at Chelsea for a display of British native wild flowers in the late 1970s, well before ecological gardening became really fashionable. Another gold medal was won at Chelsea for his creation of a William and Mary garden shortly before he retired in 1989.

Brian was widely travelled and introduced many plants to Kew from Australia, Tasmania, Japan, North America and Europe. Besides collecting interesting plant species, he was quick to spot attractive variants which were often selected and given cultivar names. A well known example being *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple', named with reference to Kew Palace. A great many people have benefited from Brian's generosity with plants; he was keen to see new plants in gardens and strongly encouraged gardeners to challenge themselves in the cultivation of interesting species and cultivated varieties.

Brian was a great correspondent and was well known in the highest horticultural circles. He was widely consulted for horticultural advice which he freely gave through lectures and private mentoring and tuition. On one occasion whilst visiting Lord Rothschild's vineyard in France, after wine tasting with the owner, Brian was handed a pair of secateurs on a silver platter in order for him to demonstrate vine pruning.

Although never officially on the education staff at Kew, he was a great mentor and was an examiner for many horticultural institutions. Kew students who passed through the Alpine and Herbaceous Department were regularly tested by him. If weeding when Brian passed, you were immediately asked the names of the weeds and the plants around which you were working, followed by method of propagation. When asked to identify a plant it was a mistake to say, "Is it such and such?" as this was met with, "Are you asking me or telling me?" One was then forced to say, "Telling you", and this would invariably result in, "Well, you're wrong!" If you followed with the correct answer and appeared too self assured, he retorted, "You're right... but I don't like your attitude!"

His approach to pruning was severe and 'doing a Halliwell' has almost become a horticultural term which has spread well beyond Kew. Many of today's famous and successful horticulturalists will remember as students, Brian's searching questions.

He was exceptionally modest regarding his achievements and always gave his own time freely to anyone who was interested in horticulture, from the real beginner to the expert. To those, he was extremely generous and supportive. His approach to all his work was in the interests of horticulture and the well-being of the plant displays and collections for which he was responsible. Consequently, he found it difficult to relate to people who could not match his enthusiasm for the subject or let other motives influence them.

Brian became an Associate of Honour of the RHS and served for many years on the RHS Floral 'A' Committee. He judged at Chelsea and many RHS shows, during which he met members of the Royal family.

He was a highly respected member of the Alpine Garden Society and wrote many articles for their journal. His main area of research, however, remained within garden history, especially the plants used in historic gardens. He published his book 'Old Garden Flowers' in 1987 and more recently, his 'Three Centuries of Garden Lists', published in 2010.

In his retirement, Brian was the natural person to approach when his close friend, Ann Kenrick, Chairman of Gardens at Castle Bromwich Hall, was asked to help to restore the derelict, historic gardens there. Brian used his many contacts to arrange the delivery of a

consignment of suitable period plants and he personally assisted Ann in planting the Lady's Border. Once again Brian strictly adhered to his tenet of using only plants which were in cultivation by the original date of completion of the garden which was 1740.

The current chairman has acknowledged Brian's pioneering work at Castle Bromwich and has also expressed gratitude for his dedication to plant selection. This enables present and future visitors to experience an accurate historical recreation of the planting.

Also in his retirement, Brian joined the Halifax Antiquarian Society and Historic Buildings Society and he also attended the annual Choral Society's performance of Handel's Messiah in the Victoria Theatre.

He was an exceptionally generous and polite host and took pleasure in cooking for his guests, where everything was home-made, including cheese straws and a range of deserts. He was particularly fond of soup making. For the horticultural students whom he befriended his favourite was vegetable as this allowed him to demand the botanical names of the contents before one could start!

The overriding characteristic of Brian in all that he did was, above all, to maintain high standards and to say and do what he felt was honest and correct. This came before other considerations which may have resulted in greater formal recognition, which many felt, and still feel, he deserved.

As one of the most colourful characters of 20th Century horticulture, and to the many people across the horticultural world to whom he is unforgettable, he will be greatly missed.

His funeral was held on Monday 7th April at St Jude's Church, Free School Lane, Halifax and donations are welcomed to Overgate Hospice where Brian spent his last days overlooking a beautiful garden.

**Sheila Storr**

27th May 1953 – 16th February 2015

We offer our condolences to her family and will publish a full obituary in the Events of 2015 Journal.

**Eric Saxon**

1944 – 2014

Eric started in Stockport Parks as apprentice gardener, then to Kew for three years. He entered Kew on 5th October 1964 and immediately became involved on many levels in Kew life. He was Social Secretary and at that time it involved in addition to all the other social events renting a room at The Coach and Horses three times a week, with Kew volunteers helping clear and set up the room.

On 27th January 1965 he gave a Mutual Talk on The Maintenance of Housing Estates and in March of 1967 he revealed a deeper interest in landscape design when he spoke on The Landscape of Kew in the 18th Century Style. His dissertation for his Kew Diploma was on the water system for the fountain. All hints at his future to come.

He left Kew to work as Head Gardener to ET Smith at Telscombe Manor, Telscombe in East Sussex an ancient house dating back to the 10th Century and a Grade 2 listed 18th Century Estate. The site was absolutely full of historical elements in terms of architecture and landscape. Ernest Thornton Smith donated the estate to The National Trust in 1960 and following his death, Eric moved to Buckinghamshire County Council Grounds Maintenance Dept, then Wiltshire County Council CC (where he met his second wife Lizz). Then to Berkshire County Council Grounds Maintenance Dept in 1975 when he re-married.



He then moved to Weymouth and Portland Borough Council as Parks & Open Spaces Officer, then to Worthing Borough Council as Parks Manager and then onto, Gwent County Council as Grounds Contract Manager until he was made redundant on demise of the County Council. He did approximately four years voluntary ambulance driving, then purchased the village Sub Post Office and Shop which he ran for five years. At the same time he was ambulance driving, he was recruited by Bob Sweet of the RHS to use his expertise firstly at Hampton Court Flower Show and Tatton Park Flower Show for two years until he took over Chelsea Flower Show and Tatton Park Flower Show. He worked at the shows as Horticultural Clerk of Works for many years and would spend a number of weeks at the shows from start to finish and after to supervise the reinstatement of the grounds. He thoroughly enjoyed working at the shows despite long hours on the lead up to the show, the camaraderie, renewing friendships each year not only with staff, contractors, but the gardeners and garden designers also. His Council duties, later National Park duties overlapped, which he continued full time.

Apart from his stints with the RHS he had been involved in local matters becoming a Community Councillor, County Councillor and Cabinet Member for several years, also member of the Brecon Beacons National Park and was its Chairman for one year. Eric joined the County Council as the Conservative member for Llanfoist Fawr in May 2004 and served until 2012.

Mr Peter Fox, Leader of Monmouthshire County Council in his eulogy said that “Eric’s strengths became evident to all and it was not long before he was elevated within the organisation. In 2006 Eric became cabinet member responsible for Development Control, Trading Standards and Environmental Health and in 2008 his portfolio changed a little and he became responsible for County Operations and Standards and this picked up the additional responsibility of Waste Management, Re-cycling, Landscapes and Health and Safety. He was also widely regarded on the wider National scene especially through his links with APSE (Association of Public Service Excellence) where he also held senior positions. He helped deliver one of the most advanced and state of the art schools in Wales to that community, a fantastic achievement that he was rightly proud of. We owe him another big thank you for his determination and effort on this”.

Eric was very proud of his association and work with the Monmouthshire County Council and the National Park. Eric also served on the Brecon Beacons National Parks Authority from 2008 to 2012 where he went on to become Chairman of the Parks during 2010/11. He was a long-standing member of the Llanfoist Fawr Community Council.

He retired from all council duties in May 2012.

Eric died at home on Thursday 30th January 2014 aged 70 years after a long illness. Many were lucky enough to work with Eric during his years associated with the shows and will remember his calm demeanour and good humour. Many people associated with Eric at

the shows thoroughly enjoyed his company on site and have many happy memories of working with him. His hobbies, reading, caravanning, family history and local history, walking and was interested in many other subjects also. To sum up, he was a kind, caring, lovely person who loved life, loved his family, loved his dogs and loved the wonderful area he lived in. He had a big heart, vast knowledge and gave so much more than he took. He was a good friend to many and we all will miss him.

The funeral was held 2pm, Friday 14 February at Gwent Crematorium, in Cwmbran. Bob Sweet gave one of the eulogies and the wake took place at the Greenmeadow Golf Club next door. Bob and Eric were friends for many years having worked together at Wilts CC - you can imagine all the laughs and fun that went on.

Eric had two children, Steven and Gillian, both of whom live abroad. He had two grandchildren now living in the United States. To his widow Lizz we send our deepest condolences.

### Memories

Eric was the first person I spoke to on the first day assembled at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, as we collected our clogs, aprons and budding knife and signed The Official Secrets Act Document from non other than Stan Rawlings, Curator of The Tropical Department. We instantly became buddies.

Within a few weeks Eric became homesick and love sick and asked me if I would be his best man as he had decided to marry his fiancée Hazel in Stockport near Manchester.

I was delighted to be your best man Eric, a good excuse to get measured up for my first new suit away from the approval or disapproval of parental eyes back home. Needless to say it was not purchased in Carnaby Street but was from a reputable mens outfitters in Richmond. Looked dapper? I did.



I stayed at Eric's homes in Teslcombe and Aylesbury on occasions and latterly met up at Kew at a Kew reunion with Richard Ward, Brian and Hazel Nash and Ben Pemberthy, a few months before Eric was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

On meeting at Kew it was fitting after a gap of 40 years as it was as if we had been close friends for all those years and instantly renewed a friendship. It was as if there had been no gap between close friends.

That's what a Kew Friendship is all about, a friend for life and death. Thank you Eric and Kew for the journey.

Absent from the the body, present with the Lord. See you SOON, Buddie. I am 72 this year.

David Coleman

**John Raymond Woodhams**

- 1st May 2015

John Woodhams, Kew student 1962-1964, Assistant Curator Tropical 1982-1995 and Vice President of The Kew Guild 1992/93, passed away on 1st May 2015 following a long illness. We send our condolences to his wife Joan. A full obituary will appear in the next Journal.

## The Kew Guild Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2014

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2014	Total 2013
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	2	1,000			1,000	1,003
Membership subscriptions		6,497			6,497	6,983
Investment income and deposit interest	3	13,915	7,007		20,922	20,557
<b>Incoming resources from charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Annual Dinner		2,564	-		2,564	3,624
AGM Soiree		780	-		780	-
Seminar		-	-		-	137
Other events and income		(25)			(25)	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	38		38	-
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>24,731</b>	<b>7,045</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,776</b>	<b>32,304</b>
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>						
<b>Charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		1,800	-		1,800	5,887
Journal of The Kew Guild		7,087	-		7,087	5,913
Annual Dinner		3,242	-		3,242	4,488
AGM Soiree		760	-		760	-
Seminar & Filming		500	-		500	1,766
Newsletter		51	-		51	688
50 <sup>th</sup> Commemorative Booklet		-	-		-	1,200
Presidents' name bars		-	-		-	-
Presidents' medals		727	-		727	-
Other events and membership activities		80	-		80	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	350	6,939		7,289	8,472
Prizes	5	580	9		589	630
Student fellowship		135	-		135	400
Kew Guild Medal		381	-		381	-
Governance costs		6,327	-		6,327	7,371
<b>Total resources expended</b>	6	<b>22,020</b>	<b>6,948</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>28,968</b>	<b>36,815</b>
<b>Net incoming/(outgoing) resources before other recognised gains and losses</b>						
<b>Other recognised gains and losses:</b>						
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	16,419	3,322	5,101	24,842	54,957
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>19,130</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>27,650</b>	<b>50,446</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward	12	410,133	75,135	106,156	591,424	540,978
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>429,263</b>	<b>78,554</b>	<b>111,257</b>	<b>619,074</b>	<b>591,424</b>

## The Kew Guild Balance Sheet As as 31 December 2014

		2014		2013	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	8		541,742		516,900
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock of Kew Guild medals			2,154		2,513
Debtors	9		3,781		3,439
Cash at bank and in hand	10		74,843		70,387
			80,778		76,339
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>					
	11		(3,446)		(1,815)
<b>Net current assets</b>					
			77,332		74,524
<b>Net assets</b>					
			619,074		591,424
<b>Funds and reserves as restated</b>					
Unrestricted general fund	12		58,545		64,629
Unrestricted designated funds	12		370,718		345,504
Restricted funds	12		78,554		75,135
Endowment funds	12		111,257		106,156
<b>Total funds</b>					
			619,074		591,424

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 19 March 2015 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 Independent Examiner's Report, should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, Honorary Treasurer, Hathaway House, 1 Southend, Garsington, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX44 9DD.