

# THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



**Founded in 1893**

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

## **Events of 2015**

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

Cover: Flags of Liberty tulip mosaic at Kew in April 2015, part of a joint venture between Kew and the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands.

#### Photos

Front © The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in London

Rear © Editor

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## The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

### The Kew Guild Committee 2015-2016

#### Officers:

President: Tony Overland  
 President Elect: Alan Stuttard  
 Vice President (elected 2015): Alan Stuttard  
 Past President: David Hardman  
 Acting Secretary: Sara Arnold (non-Committee post)  
 Voluntary Treasurer: Linda Baharier (non-Committee post)  
 Membership Secretary: Sylvia Phillips  
 Editor: Sparkle Ward (non-Committee post)  
 Events Officer: Pamela Holt  
 Publicity and Promotions: Jean Griffin  
 Website Manager: Jonathan Rickards  
 Archives Officer: Kiri Ross-Jones

#### Committee Members:

<i>Retire 2016</i>	<i>Retire 2017</i>	<i>Retire 2018</i>
Bryan Howard	Peter Styles	David Simpson
Adrian Lovatt	Susan Urpeth	Jean Griffin
Sylvia Phillips	Stewart Henchie	Harold Heywood
Clive Popham	Jim Mitchell	Alex George

#### Ex Officio Members:

Head of School of Horticulture: Tim Hughes  
 Awards Scheme Chairperson: Chris Kidd  
 Kew Gardens Representative: Richard Barley

#### Student Committee Representatives:

Year 1: Eliot Barden    Year 2: Joseph Clements    Year 3: Paul Eguia

#### Advisors:

Professor David F Cutler BSc., PhD., DIC., PPLS: Kew Guild Medal  
 Professor Sir Ghilleen T Prance FRS., MA., DPhil., FilDr., FLS., VMH  
 Bob Ivison: New Constitution  
 Martin J S Sands BSc., C Biol., FSB., FLS., FRGS  
 John B E Simmons OBE MHort (RHS), FIHort., CBiol., FSB., FLS., VMH  
 Richard Ward: Honorary Journal Advisor

## Editorial

Dear fellow Guild members,

As Editors of your Journal we have, at home, every Journal since the Guild was founded in 1893. A wonderful potted history which you can share by reading them on the Guild website. Year on year we are mindful of the responsibility that we have to encourage you to impart your varied news, articles, photographs and stories which the Journal will forever encapsulate in history. We strive to think 'out of the box', and opportunistically approach unsuspecting members to ask for contributions that will educate, enthuse and delight! Over time, of course, technology has evolved, so that today there is no excuse for failing to share your life with fellow Kewites at the touch of a button, wherever you are. Please keep it coming. Become a part of 122 years of Kew Guild history - we see the Journal not so much as a history of Kew Gardens but as a record of ex-Kewites/Guild members and their lives over the years.

Massive changes are afoot within the Guild. Thanks to the voluntary work carried out by your Committee and others, week on week, the effectiveness of the Guild will very soon become enormously enhanced. Whilst the annual subscription went up this year by £12 to £27 per annum (having been frozen since 1999) it is a small price to pay to ensure our financial viability. Previously the cost of the Journal alone swallowed up almost all the income from subscriptions.

The fellowship and contacts that your Kew Guild offer are priceless. We are here for you. Encourage others to join; and use us!

Particular thanks go to David Cutler and Alex George for help with proof-reading and indexing respectively, and to tireless and generous contributors all.

Floreat Kew.

Sparkle Ward  
Richard Ward

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Tony Overland  
Sara Arnold  
Linda Baharier  
Sylvia Phillips  
Pamela Holt  
Jean Griffin  
Chris Kidd

**Tony Overland**  
President 2015/2016



Tony was brought up in the town of Urmston, near Manchester and his first introduction to gardening was helping his grandfather to save antirrhinum seeds and then sowing these in early spring in a cold frame. He left school with no real idea of what to do for an occupation, although he had always been keen on growing plants and used to spend his newspaper round money on cacti and succulents from Woolworths. The family knew the local park superintendent and he offered work to Tony in the municipal nursery of Urmston Parks Department, and encouraged him to attend night school to gain qualifications.

He later moved to Manchester Parks Department and began working at the central plant nursery that provided the majority of the plant requirements for the whole of the city, street trees, shrubs, bedding plants, decorative plants for municipal buildings and planted containers for the city squares.

Some two hours into his first day he was at a long bench with a number of others potting up geranium cuttings, quite a pleasant start he thought. There was suddenly a call to attention, from behind, by a diminutive man with a Scottish accent. With his hand pointing he said, "You, you and you follow me to do potato picking" where upon they were escorted to a ploughed field through heavy cold drizzle. Out of the mist emerged a grey Ferguson tractor, towing machinery, flicking out potatoes from the rows. Directed to get metal baskets and with backs bent they collected the potatoes and emptied them into hessian sacks. No sooner had the gang of ten just about finished when the same machine loomed once more, so it went on all day. After about an hour the Scotsman appeared, whom Tony had now discovered was the nursery manager. "Do you want to make this your career?" he asked. Hesitantly, thinking of the work at hand, Tony replied "yes" and thus began an association with the man who taught him many of the techniques of propagation and other plant related skills.

Some time later the department's indentured apprenticeship scheme was launched. Tony was one of the seven selected and for the next few years worked at various venues across the city. His last year was spent working in the landscape design office.

In April 1963 Tony entered Kew as one of ten students on the last two year course. Meeting on the first day in the Garden's library they were advised that a new three year course would commence in October of that year and all would be given the opportunity to transfer to this new course. This information came, somewhat, as a surprise as none had any inkling that this would be happening. In the event Bryan Howard took up the challenge, the rest opting to remain on the old course.

Tony's first posting was to the Temperate House. During this time he became chairman of the Student Gardener's Association and if any issues arose, would usually meet Mr. Ronald King, the Garden's Secretary. Students had expressed concern about the lack of protective clothing whilst spraying chemicals; new regulations had recently been introduced. After explaining the problem, he discovered that, "The Crown may make these regulations, but the Crown does not have to abide by them". However after an amicable discussion with Mr. King the protective clothing was provided.

Other highlights were taking part in the Kew - Wisley debate, competing in the Civil Service Sports day at Chiswick, and beer drinking competitions at the Coach and Horses.

He next worked in the grounds behind Kew Palace with Clive Popham and commenced removing a bank of soil immediately adjacent to the rear wall of the Palace. They had been provided with a Chaseside Excavator, this machine had a cable operated front loader and was very effective. It required a fair amount of effort to steer and frequently became stuck in the muddy conditions. The task was completed providing a cleared level area for the layout work and a higher wall of soil to provide the setting for the sunken garden. Adjacent to the boundary wall of the gardens was the end of a long bank of old cinders and clinker. Around the end was carved a 'serpentine' path to the top of the mound, an operation that required working to 'line of sight' rather than to any precise measurements.

Following on from this he worked in the Orchid houses and then the Tropical pits; both venues providing fascinating experiences, particularly in the tropical pits, undertaking the propagation of *Victoria amazonica* and some of the *Nepenthes* species. On completion of the course at Kew, Tony returned to Manchester working in the landscape design office, remaining there for five years and gained the Diploma of the Institute of Park Administration, later becoming a Fellow of the Institute.

At that time in the mid sixties whole areas of the city were the subject of compulsory purchase orders and thousands of slum properties demolished. Areas of rubble stretched as far as the eye could see with only the odd public house left standing. The arterial routes were kept clear but other roads were buried under the advance of the bulldozer. Streets of beautifully laid black, red or grey granite setts and pavements of York stone disappeared beneath the rubble, left, no doubt to future archeologists to rediscover!

It was an exciting but challenging period. Building projects were received almost on a daily basis. Landscape designs and contracts had to be prepared for numerous schools, motorways, housing areas, parks and other infrastructure projects. New techniques were developed, for instance the construction of playing fields on what was essentially a foundation of brick and mortar rubble. So called, 'Georgian Crescents' appeared, comprising one of the largest housing developments in Europe. Enclosed within their curtilage were large landscaped areas of open space. However good the landscape design

it cannot mask poor building design and construction. It didn't take long for things to go badly wrong with this development and in less than 20 years the whole complex was demolished.

During this time derelict land grants were introduced. Manchester had a legacy of such areas from its industrial past. River valleys filled with manufacturing waste and heavily polluted rivers and streams. Schemes were prepared and major reclamation work undertaken. Tony remembers seeing a tenement block probably built in the late 1800s by the River Irk; the ground floor regularly flooded by the river and still occupied, a vision that would not be out of place in a Dickensian story. This perhaps illustrates the pressure that was always there to develop and rehouse people.

In 1970 Tony moved to take up the position of Deputy Chief Officer of Parks, and Amenities at the London Borough of Ealing with responsibility for parks, swimming pools, leisure centres and other amenities. In 1975 he was appointed as Deputy Director of Community Services in Knowsley, Merseyside. In 1980 the department was approached with a request to host the 50th English Schools Athletic Championships, one of the largest events of its kind in the world. Tony was appointed chairman of the organising committee responsible for everything from accommodation and equipment needs to the supply of hundreds of packed lunches. Following the success of this event, two years later he chaired the coordinating committee for the first Special Olympics Games in the UK, which was officially opened by HRH Princess Alexandra.

In 1979 Tony prepared Knowsley's bid for the Urban Fringe Experiment, launched by the Countryside Commission, with the aims of improving the poor quality and derelict landscapes left around urban conurbations. The bid was accepted and Knowsley joined with nearby St Helens. Shortly afterwards there was a change of Government and instead of the scheme being operated by the two councils, as planned, the first Operation Groundwork Trust was created. Others followed, modelled on this pattern and these are now firmly established, throughout England. As a major player in this development Knowsley was able to secure significant grants for the development of country parks and a comprehensive countryside ranger service.

In 1988 the government launched its competitive tendering legislation. Tony was asked to head up the authority's commercial services functions and took up the role of Director of Contract Services. The terms of his appointment were based upon a three-year rolling contract; failure to secure the tenders would mean the end of his employment. However, Tony commenced the task of setting up a new department and spent the next five years operating a service with 1,700 employees with responsibility for all the services subject to competitive tendering. In order to win the contracts it required numerous negotiations with the work force representatives. However, a time limited contract is a powerful incentive to ensure that working practices are efficient and cost effective.

By this time Tony had been at Knowsley nearly twenty years, with all contracts secured and operating profitably. It seemed the right time to take advantage of the authority's early retirement scheme. Together with his wife Jan, twin sons and his daughter he decided to develop a plant nursery with gardens open to the public. This has now been operating for many years and has become a popular tourist attraction with tearooms and a variety of special events.

Other activities include membership of the local Parish Council, the Parochial Church Council and acting as project manager for the creation of new bridleways alongside some two miles of a nearby quarry.

And now after being active in the Kew Guild for some years Tony and Jan find friendship and enjoyment attending the annual events and visits organised by the Guild. They would certainly encourage others to become involved and make the most of their membership.

## **New Committee Members**

### **David Simpson**



Dave Simpson is a Kew Honorary Research Associate and current Editor-in-Chief of Kew Bulletin. He 'retired' in October 2015 after a 30 year career in the Herbarium. Originally from North Lancashire he never really intended to stay so long in the South!

Dave obtained a BSc in Botany and Forestry from Bangor University in 1977 followed by an MSc in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy at Reading University in 1978. He then went back north to Lancaster University, working part time as a herbarium curator while doing a PhD. A postdoc at Trinity College Dublin followed and then appointment as a plant taxonomist at Kew in 1985. His career at Kew saw him progress to Keeper of the Herbarium. His final role before retirement was Head of the new Identification and Naming Department.

Dave's research interests are focused on the taxonomy of Monocotyledons, especially Cyperaceae (sedges). He has published extensively on this family, discovering and describing many new species. He has travelled widely, visiting every continent except Antarctica. He spent two summers in Greenland before coming to Kew. While at Kew his travels have focused on Southeast Asia, and he has a particular interest in the floras of Thailand and Indo-China. Retirement will give him the opportunity to get back to the botanical research.

External to Kew, Dave has been a Visiting Professor at Trinity College Dublin and Khon Kaen University, Thailand. He has also been an Adjunct Professor at the University of New England. He has been a member of numerous boards and committees over the years and chaired a fair few. Currently he is a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Flora of Thailand Editorial Board.

Other interests include birdwatching, astronomy, archaeology, walking and vintage railways, and of course, his family. He also enjoys gardening but if you ever see his garden you will realise he is not very good at it!

### **Jean Griffin**

Jean trained at Studley College and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Her background is a mixture of Amenity and Commercial Horticulture, followed by a career in further education specialising in gardening for people with special educational needs. She is foremost a gardener and allotment holder with a second career in broadcasting for the BBC local gardening programmes in Surrey, Sussex and Kent. She is a Trustee and Judge for South and South East in Bloom and a Judge for London in Bloom.



## Harold Graham Heywood

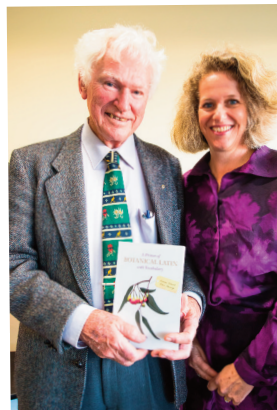


Graham (aka Harold) spent 32 years in Local Government Parks and Recreation Services, referred to more empirically as Leisure Services in the later 70s onwards. After leaving Kew in 1968 his first job was as technical assistant with Teesside Parks Department based first in Redcar and then later Middlesbrough. He studied hard for the Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration on leaving Kew and became a fellow of the Institute before the birth of ILAM. His career eventually took him to Warrington County Borough as Deputy Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent before later taking up the post of Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation at Bolton, with Geoff Schofield as Director. Several restructuring of services subsequently embraced the full panoply of leisure facilities.

Graham retired from Local Government service in 1998 and after a couple of years as lecturer in Leisure Studies at Salford University he commenced his duties as Deputy Chief Officer of a local highly regarded charity, from which position he retired in September 2011. He now spends much of his time helping to run another local charity (of which he has been Chair for the past four years) that supports parents and carers of children (18 plus) who have an Autism Spectrum Condition and who may also have Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

## Alex George

I have returned to the Committee for the term 2015 to 2017. My background can be seen in the Journal 114 pages 379 to 380, Journal 115 pages 471 to 474 and my President's Report in Journal 116 pages 23 to 25. During a career mainly in systematics I spent 21 years with the Western Australian Herbarium, 12 years based in Canberra editing the Flora of Australia and, since 1993, have been back in Perth working as a consultant in flora-writing, editing and indexing.



On the publishing side, highlights in recent years have included editing papers from a biodiversity survey of the Pilbara in 2002 to 2007, published in two volumes by the Western Australian Museum. This semi-arid region in north-western Australia is very scenic, rich in flora and fauna, and subject to impacts especially from pastoralism and mining. I assisted with a new edition of 'Plant Life of Western Australia' by John Beard (1916 to 2011), first director of the Botanic Garden in Kings Park (1963 to 1970). Published in 1990 but long out of print, it's still the best book of its kind, a semi-popular description of the State's vegetation, illustrated with more than 500 colour photographs. Besides bringing the plant nomenclature up to date we added an appendix with identification of the many people who appear as 'scale' in the plates.

In 2012 I was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in the Queen's birthday honours list. With co-author Emma Short (who, as Emma Powell while working at Kew, assisted Dick Brummitt in compiling Authors of Plant Names), I wrote a new text book, 'A Primer of Botanical Latin with Vocabulary', published by Cambridge University Press in 2013.



**Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting of The Kew Guild  
held on Saturday 5th September 2015  
Millenium Seedbank Seminar Room, RBG Wakehurst Place**

**Those present**

**Committee:**

David Hardman  
Bob Ivison  
Tim Upson  
Alan Stuttard  
Jennifer Alsop  
Sara Arnold  
Pamela Holt  
Martin Staniforth  
Chris Kidd  
Jonathan Rickards  
Graham Burgess  
Jean Griffin  
Stewart Henchie  
Sylvia Phillips  
Peter Styles

**Members:**

Jennifer Edmonds  
Tricia Fisher  
Mike Griffin  
Allan Hart  
Harold Heywood  
Colin Jones  
Norman Robson  
Ian Lamont Smith

**Guests:**

Jan Collins  
Jan Overland  
Eve Robson  
Wendy Staniforth  
Liz Styles

**01.15 Welcome by the President, David Hardman**

The President opened the meeting at 14:05 and thanked everyone for coming.

**02.15 Apologies for absence**

There were numerous apologies for absence.

**03.15 Notice of death of members**

The President asked members to stand to remember those friends who have passed away during the year;

Alfred John Hale, John Woodhams, Patrick Nutt, Sheila Storr, and Roger Davidge.

**04.15 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 6th September 2014 printed in the Journal, Volume 16 Number 119, at page 415-421.**

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

Allan Hart asked if these minutes could be circulated as soon as possible after the meeting to the whole membership. The President agreed to send these with the first newsletter of the 2015-16 Guild Year.

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

There were no matters arising.

The President explained to members that the committee reports for this AGM were distributed prior to the meeting to enable members to concentrate on agenda items 14.15, 15.15 and 16.15. The reports were displayed on screen for members to look at during the discussions.

The President introduced Ian Lamont Smith from Canada to the meeting and the members welcomed him.

### **06.15 Acting Secretary's report - Sara Arnold**

The Guild met five times during the year and the meetings were generally well attended. The Database is working very well for both postal and electronic mailings. The postal mailing numbers are down to just 72 now.

The President thanked Sara Arnold for her help, including sending out the newsletter on a regular basis and confirmed that we are still trying to whittle down the postal mailings.

### **07.15 Honorary Treasurer's report - Jennifer Alsop - Financial Statements printed in the Journal at pages 496-497**

#### **The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2014**

The restricted funds increased by £3,149 and the unrestricted funds increased by £19,130. Income in 2014 totalled £31,776 of which £6,497 was from subscriptions, £20,992 from our investments and £1,000 from donations. We are very grateful to the Philip & Granville Trust for their kind donation of £1,000.

Awards and prizes of £7,878 were made. £7,087 was spent on producing of the (2013) Journal, which was of an excellent standard. £3,000 was spent towards the development of a new membership database, a further £3,000 is allocated to complete this project in 2015.

Governance costs were £6,327 this year which includes £2,411 for secretarial costs. There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £24,842. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units. £111,257 in the endowment funds, £78,554 in restricted funds, £370,718 in designated funds and £58,454 in the unrestricted general funds have been carried forward to 2015.

The accounts were put forward for approval. Proposed by Colin Jones and seconded by Stewart Henchie. Jennifer also asked for approval for the appointing of an Independent Examiner or Auditor for the annual accounts of 2015. The membership voted in favour.

### **08.15 Honorary Membership Secretary's report - Ian Hudson**

Membership as at 6th August 2015:

A new membership database was developed during 2014 which has enabled quicker and more effective communication with members. This system provides essential information to key officers of the Guild which means that any queries can be dealt with in a more efficient manner. Further development work e.g. additional reports etc. has been carried out in 2015. In his absence, the President thanked the Membership Secretary Ian Hudson, and advised members that Ian would not be standing for election this year.

<b>Membership Type</b>		<b>Member Count</b>
Standard	Kew staff (currently)	56
	Other	337
Kew Diploma Student		30
Library		1
Life		9
Honorary	Fellows	16
	Other	7
Associate		2
<b>Total</b>		<b>458</b>

### **09.15 Events Officer's report - Pamela Holt and Jean Griffin**

Pamela reported that it had been a busy year for visits. One recent visit was the London Landscapes tour of the City landscapes by the Students. Member Charles Funke had organised this for August 2015 and strict security meant that this could not be offered to the whole membership. A few members attended in place of students who dropped out. Pamela reported it had been a very successful visit and extremely beneficial to all those who had attended on a hot and sunny day.

The President thanked Pamela for all her help and support that she had given him throughout what had been a very busy and successful year.

### **10.15 Editor's report - Sparkle Ward**

This is my first year of editing the Journal and I am excited about taking on this interesting and challenging role, and I give thanks to both past Editor Alexandra Partridge and Advisory Editor Richard Ward for their continued advice and support. I am sure this year will be a learning curve, and would appreciate members sending in their news of 2015 in good time; be it a new job, award, or longer article perhaps about current events in their field of expertise, career, family or something else. Photographs are also welcome. Please feel free to get in touch to discuss any ideas you may have! In October I will send out the guidelines for regular and required contributors for the 2015 Journal, and the final deadline for all copy is 31st January 2016 (except for Financial Accounts and Membership list).

Over the years members will see that the Journal cover has changed and adapted, often reflecting current or historic events concerning Kew and I invite members to submit any suggestions or ideas for the Events of 2015 cover to me for consideration. The total cost of the 2014 Journal edited by Alexandra Partridge, including printing costs and Editor's fee was £6,223. An online only journal has been discussed previously, which would cut out printing and distribution costs and I am continuing to look into this matter.

As I shall be absent from the AGM I would be happy to answer any questions that members may have about this Report - please email [kewguildeditor@hotmail.com](mailto:kewguildeditor@hotmail.com) or post to Flat 1, 62 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AT.

The members discussed the possibility of an online version of the Journal - would the Guild consider not sending out hard copies. David Hardman replied that this question has been discussed by the committee on a number of occasions. For the foreseeable future hard copies will continue to be sent. The Journal is put on to the website one year after it is published. Jonathan Rickards asked members present if they would prefer hard copy or electronic version. A show of hands indicated that the majority preferred a hard copy.

Graham Burgess commented that the Journal is an archive of the Kew Guild and gives value to members.

### **11.15 Award Scheme report - Chris Kidd**

Chris informed the members that the Award Scheme had managed to utilise all the money it had been allocated. Chris Kidd thanked Jennifer Alsop for all her work with the award scheme. Sylvia Phillips asked how many awards were given on average. Chris Kidd replied that there were about a dozen, less than twenty.

Only two applications were unsuccessful this year. Pamela Holt asked if the Guild withholds money until the recipient produces a report. Chris Kidd said the procedure is to withhold specific amounts depending upon the amount of the award, but this didn't work very well and the Committee is trying to get the balance right.

### **12.15 President's report - David Hardman**

David told the members that he had enjoyed his tenure as President of the Kew Guild. Various issues have been dealt with this year; the current agreement is being assessed with SomCom (suppliers of website building and hosting); the Guild Room is being refurbished and Allan Hart has been working on the Presidents' Boards. A refurbished room will enable Guild meetings to have improved connectivity to the internet and external communication links.

David Hardman thanked Jennifer for all her help over the years - in many different areas, including those above, and also events like the Annual Dinner. David Hardman believes the social side of the Guild is important and used a word Graham Burgess uses a lot - 'Fellowship' which brings members closer together to share.

### **13.15 Result of Prize Day**

Prize Day happened on 4th September (the day before this meeting). David Hardman ran through the day, the results can be seen further on in the Journal. The President had written to all students and sent his congratulations to all those who have received prizes and encouraged them to continue the Guild membership.

This led members to discuss the importance of education within the horticulture industry. Graham Burgess asked the reason why there are not more students on the Kew Diploma Course. Bob Ivson replied that it was mainly due to finance. About twenty students and apprentices per year go through. The Guild is looking at how to get more students - perhaps with sponsorship from the Guild or within the horticulture industry at large. There is a need to find the mechanism to do this. Bob Ivson explained the costs of each Diploma students' employment and study at Kew over the three years of the course.

Martin Staniforth replied that the practical skills that students have on entering Kew are not often sufficient; the challenge is how to get to high level education and encourage people to enter the world of horticulture and perhaps aim to enter Kew.

Accommodation is expensive for students who often have to find additional funds with part time work, although this may improve with the introduction of the living wage. This attracts people who have a passion for horticulture. Being 'a gardener' isn't glamorous. During the 2015 to 2016 Guild year we should look at how the image of horticulture can be improved, especially as salaries of gardeners cannot be raised. David Hardman asked

the members for ideas and to channel them through Sara Arnold or Tony Overland.

Allan Hart suggested using empty buildings at Kew for accommodation purposes. Kew departments say this is under review but it is not being done. The Guild have money and could they invest in property in the Gardens? Kew does provide some short term study rooms for overseas students. Tim Upson commented that there are some very positive aspects; there is some investment being made in horticulture and the industry needs to come together with the Government. Members agreed that horticulture should be introduced to school children, leading on to qualifications such as City and Guilds. Jean Griffin commented that professional horticulturists should be looking at placements for youngsters together with study at Kew. Martin Staniforth replied that there are lots of qualifications available but the Government are supporting less in this area.

#### **14.15 Changes to the Kew Guild Rules (new Constitution)**

Bob Ivison explained that the Committee has been working on this for a number of years. The old Constitution cannot continue. It is anticipated that it will take six months to get the paperwork to the Charity Commission and approved. By summer 2016 a new budget will be in place.

Graham Burgess asked how this will benefit the Guild as a whole. Bob Ivison replied that it will give the Trustees a chance to do a lot more of what we want to do. The new Constitution will have a wider public benefit. Bob Ivison asked members to think about what the public might want.

Allan Hart asked how this will affect the funds. Bob Ivison replied that a new body will be set up; assets will be moved across before closure of the current body. Graham Burgess asked if it means the Guild can help Kewites with their businesses, for example, allowing advertising in the Journal. Bob Ivison said this was a decision to be made by the Trustees and that decisions must be consistent with the objectives. Jennifer Alsop reminded everyone that as a charity everything the Guild does must have some public benefit.

David Hardman asked members to look through the seven recommendations and asked if they were content to give the new Committee authority to go ahead with the proposals.

#### **15.15 Re-designation of Kew Guild Funds - Jennifer Alsop**

The Trustees make the following recommendations for the use of the Stella Ross-Craig fund:

- a) That the accumulated interest on this fund, currently £66,000, is set aside for use in respect of the purpose it was originally designated for in 2009 namely 'to support UK Student placements, short term vocational projects/internees that will enhance the student in development of study areas with particular emphasis on Plant Conservation' or a similar educational use.
- b) That the annual interest generated from this point forward is not classified as designated and can be used to fund the general running costs of the Guild.
- c) The £30,000 of the invested capital is classified as undesignated and is set aside to be used over the next five years for expenditure such as development of the Website and Membership database. N.B. Above figures based on position as at 31.12.14

## 16.15 Annual Subscription Rates

David Hardman asked members to approve the increase in subscription rates for 2016 onwards and commented that the last time the subscription was increased was in 1999.

The options were: Options A and B - includes annual increase of £1 shown to allow for future increases. David Hardman asked members present to approve Option A or B by a show of hands. The majority of members voted for Option B. Three members voted for Option A. Graham Burgess stated his objection for Option B.

Sylvia Phillips asked about standing orders being replaced by Direct Debits. Jennifer Alsop replied that introducing Direct Debits is being investigated and if possible will be included during the changes to the Constitution. This will change as a new bank account will need to be set up and it would be a waste of time to do it now.

Members are happy with the students continuing to pay £15 per annum.

Year	Option A		Effects		Option B
	Member Subscription payment	Subsidy still needed from KG reserves	Increase p.a. to be paid by Member	Reduction p.a on KG reserves to cover subsidy	Member Subscription payment
2015	15		0	0	15
2016	20	7	5	2	27
2017	24	4	4	4	28
2018	28	1	4	7	29
2019	30	0	2	8	30

## 17.15 Retiring Members of the Board of Trustees 2015

Bill Bessler      Graham Burgess      Terry Sunderland      Richard Ward

## 18.15 Board of Trustees 2015/16

President	Tony Overland
Immediate Past President	David Hardman
President Elect	Alan Stuttard (Proposed by Tony Overland; Seconded Kew Guild Trustees)

Ordinary Members:

To retire 2016	To retire 2017
Bryan Howard	Peter Styles
Sylvia Phillips	Jim Mitchell
Adrian Lovatt	Stewart Henchie
Clive Popham	Susan Urpeth

## Election of Trustees:

Vice President Second Year	Alan Stuttard
Vice President First Year	(May not be required if new CIO approved)
Honorary Secretary	Vacant
Honorary Treasurer (from 2015)	Vacant
Honorary Membership Secretary	Sylvia Phillips
Honorary Journal Editor	Vacant

## Ordinary Members (4) to be elected for three years to retire 2018

David Simpson  
 Jean Griffin  
 Graham (Harold) Heywood  
 Alex George

## 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	Tim Hughes
Student Representative Year 1	Eliot Barden
Student Representative Year 2	Joseph Clements
Student Representative Year 3	Paul Eguia

## Consultants

Kew Guild Secretary	Sara Arnold
Kew Guild Journal Editor	Sparkle Ward
Honorary Treasurer	Vacant

With no applications for Honorary Treasurer from members, the Committee had interviewed for this post externally. Trustees asked for approval to offer the post of 'volunteer' Treasurer to Linda Baharier. This will not be a Trustee post at present as Linda is not a member of the Guild and under the old Constitution this would have caused problems.

The election of all the Officers above was approved. The position of Volunteer Treasurer to be offered to Linda Baharier was approved.



### 19.15 Any Other Business

Graham Burgess informed members that the DVD celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Kew Guild is now available to members and said it could be given wider availability with some additional work, for example, at the Kew Shop if Trustees wanted to pursue this further.

David Hardman thanked Graham for all his hard work in concluding this extremely complex project.

### 20.15 Inauguration of the new President, Tony Overland

The first thing was for The President to give Bob Ivison his Presidential Certificate for his time as President in 2013 to 2014 which had not happened last year.

David Hardman thanked the Committee for all the support they had given him over the last 12 months and beyond, and then invited Tony Overland to join him so that he could pass on the Presidential ribbon.

Tony thanked David for the enormous amount of work he has put into the Guild over the last year and also for organising this meeting and the activities around the weekend.

The new President commented that he has a keen interest in supporting students and young people and where they go when they leave Kew. He would like to take this forward during his year as President. There are other items to take forward; implementing the new Constitution, continuing with the newsletter (a format which has now become well-established) and organising the Annual Dinner - booked for Thursday 26th May 2016.

Tony thanked everyone for coming and presented David with his certificate of office and his Past President's medal. Tim Upson received his Vice-President Certificate.

### 21.15 Date of next Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 10th September 2016 in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Kew.



Tim Upson receiving his Vice President Certificate from Tony Overland ©Stewart Henchie



Inauguration of President Tony Overland by outgoing President David Hardman ©Stewart Henchie



## **School of Horticulture Presentation of Kew Diploma and Prizes**

4th September 2015

### **Course 50**

The Director, Richard Deverell, welcomed the Guest of Honour Richard Bisgrove and Kew Trustee Sir Derek Myers, family, friends and colleagues.

He went on to say:

“Most importantly – welcome and congratulations to our graduates and apprentices.

Welcome to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew for the School of Horticulture Prize Day and Graduation.

Today we have 12 students who will graduate from the Kew Diploma. This is a three year botanical horticultural course that is recognised around the world as a benchmark of horticultural excellence. It is an extremely challenging course – I suspect everyone in this room has some sense of just how hard our graduates today have worked. It is a mix of formal tuition and practical experience across all parts of the gardens, nurseries and glasshouses at Kew.

Study is integrated with the running of the horticultural department and the students make an invaluable contribution to the outstanding standards of horticulture that our visitors enjoy in these gardens every day.

We believe strongly in producing graduates equipped for the world of work in both practical and academic ways – but overall with a commanding knowledge of plants. These graduates are a great credit and source of pride to Kew – later you will hear about the amazing jobs many of them have already accepted as they start the next stage in what, we are confident, will be stellar careers in horticulture.

This class, the 50th class to graduate with the Kew Diploma, joins a wonderful global alumni network that is, amongst other things, a great source of advice, friendship – and jobs! Our graduates today will be brilliant ambassadors and advocates for Kew around the United Kingdom and the world. I very much hope each of you stays in touch with your colleagues and also with Kew.

Kew has a deep commitment to training horticulturalists. It is a vital skill and will become only more so given the challenges the world faces with a growing population at a time of climate change. Gardens and plants are also an invaluable source of tranquillity and relaxation – a counterbalance to ever rising levels of stress and mental health strain. Society needs people who are passionate about plants and expert at growing them. Kew will continue to commit to training the very best horticulturalists in the world.

Our Diploma graduates today are: Kathryn Braithwaite, William Burridge, Ruth Calder, Jack Clutterbuck, Ashleigh Davies, Alex Hankey, Clare Harte, Christopher Hudson, James Innes, Aaron Marubbi, Matthew Parker and Nicola Starkey.

Today we are also celebrating the fifth year of our Apprenticeship scheme. This is also a three year programme focusing on practical horticulture. It is a great stepping stone for those at the start of a career in horticulture.

We have four individuals who are today celebrating the completion of the Kew Apprenticeship scheme: Duncan Brokensha, George Douglas, Scarlett English and Tom Pickering.

I have a personal link with Course 50. They started the same week that I started in mid-September, 2012. Your three years have been my three years. Thank you for sticking with it – at times it's been a bumpy ride but you hung on!

We are tremendously proud of our Diploma graduates and all that they have achieved over the last three years at Kew. Today we congratulate them for these achievements. However, more than that, I know the potential that they have – and how they will realise this potential throughout their careers. So today, I would like to end by congratulating them on what I know they will achieve in what will be fulfilling and successful careers in horticulture. Good luck!”

Tim Hughes, Head of the School of Horticulture, then began the presentation ceremony by saying:

“I would like to start by introducing some others on the platform party; from your left is Judy Hancock, Administrator of the Kew Diploma who has been instrumental in preparing for this day along with the support of Kate Dixon and Pam Black, so thank you from me.

I think it also only appropriate to give a thanks to Martin Staniforth, who over the last three years has been holding the fort as Acting Principal of the School.

Next to Judy it gives me great pleasure to welcome Richard Bisgrove. Each year the graduating students put forward someone they wish to be their guest of honour, and so Richard it is a pleasure to have you and your wife, with us today. Richard is a former Senior Lecturer at the University of Reading whose expertise lies in the restoration and management of historic gardens, garden history, especially 19th and early 20th Century and the work of Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson. Richard is also the author of a number of books and numerous articles, and finally he was my tutor when I was a student at Reading University a few moons back!

Next to Richard Deverell is Sir Derek Myers, one of the Trustees of Kew, we are very pleased to have you here with us today.

Beside me is David Hardman, who is President of the Kew Guild. The Guild is an association of present and past staff, volunteers and alumni. It provides a global network of ‘Kewites’. The Guild is a generous supporter of The School of Horticulture.

Graduation day is very much about a celebration of the students’ and apprentices’ achievements. It is an acknowledgement of their hard work in obtaining either the Kew Diploma or a Kew Apprenticeship.

The Kew Diploma is the foremost botanic garden training qualification, highly respected within the horticultural industry globally. Kew Diploma graduates can be found holding leading positions within historic and botanic gardens, parks, plant production, journalism, science and education around the world.

I have noted that they all tend to acknowledge each other using their course numbers!

The Kew Apprenticeship scheme has only recently become a part of the School of

Horticulture and so we welcome this year's graduating apprentices. The Kew Apprenticeship is a fantastic way to start your horticultural career.

Following an independent review of the School in 2014 and a restructuring of the Horticultural directorate overall, we now have clear objectives for the next three years, and the School of Horticulture team are hard at work to achieve these goals.

Initially we have been focusing on a number of areas. Firstly, promoting what we do, the fantastic opportunities that both the Kew Diploma and Kew Apprenticeships have to offer. Secondly we are developing a fee-paid modular programme, which we hope will attract horticulturists from around the world, coming to Kew to experience some of its unique areas of work. Continuing and building on those international links is, to me, a vital aspect of what the School can offer. That cross-pollination of cultures, horticultural practices, plant knowledge is so important and often leads to life-long friendships.

For those graduating students and apprentices this day marks the end of a chapter in your horticultural careers but also the start of something new. We wish you well, and hope you keep in contact with Kew and the School.

A couple of things I feel you should take with you:

1. Share your knowledge.
2. Make the most of any opportunities to further your horticultural knowledge.

So, before I turn to the presentation of Kew Diplomas, Kew Apprenticeships and prizes thanks must go to all sponsors of those prizes, many of whom are in the audience today.

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 and Kew Apprenticeship a unique educational experience.

I would now like to invite our Guest of Honour, Richard Bisgrove, to make the presentations.

I shall first read out the awards, followed by the name of the recipient, in alphabetical order:"

### **Kew Diploma Awards**

#### **Kathryn Braithwaite**

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the best Herbarium project (Joint first prize)  
Kew Diploma with Credit

#### **Will Burrridge**

The George Conrad Johnson Memorial Prize for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma course

The F Nigel Hepper Cup in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments

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

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize to the student attaining the top overall academic marks

The Kew Gardener Prize to the top student in Amenity Horticulture

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the best Herbarium project (Joint first prize)

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Ruth Calder**

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Jack Clutterbuck**

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

The Proudlock Prize to the student attaining the highest mark in their plant propagation essay

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Ashleigh Davies**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Alexander Hankey**

The George Brown Prize to the top student in the Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section

The Alitex Glasshouse Award, this prize is awarded to the student who has demonstrated the best practical performance during their work placements under glass

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

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize to the graduating student attaining the top overall practical marks

The Donald Dring and Gilbert Memorial Prize for the student attaining the highest marks in Entomology and the Crop Protection project

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Clare Harte**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Christopher Hudson**

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Jamie Innes**

The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize given to the best practical student overall

The Fred Larkbey Cup awarded to the student achieving the highest marks in their practical work placements

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Aaron Marubbi**

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize for the best overall performance in landscape studies

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

Kew Diploma with Honours

**Matthew Parker**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Nicola Starkey**

The Freda Howson Award This prize is awarded for excellence in Ecology and

**Conservation**

The Ashley Hughes Memorial Prize for the student showing most support and congeniality to their course colleagues  
Kew Diploma with Honours

**Apprenticeship Prizes and Awards****Scarlett English**

Prize for the highest test results in plant identification  
Prize for the most comprehensive work journals and plant profiles  
The best practical apprentice prize  
The best weed collection prize  
The best collection review assignment  
Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

**Tom Pickering**

Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

**Duncan Brokensha** (not attending)

Kew Apprenticeship with Merit

**George Douglas**

Prize for the most commitment to Kew  
Kew Apprenticeship with Merit

**Other Awards and Prizes****Kate Rzepinska**

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

**Peter Turski**

The Sir Joseph Hooker Prize is given in recognition of the work carried out by the Chairman of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society

**Beth Newman**

The Metcalfe Cup the student attaining the highest second-year examination marks

**Joe Clements** (not attending)

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

**Rupert Harbinson**

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

**Misako Kasahara**

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is awarded to the person who have given the best 'item of interest' talk to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society

In closing, Tim Hughes once again thanked Richard Bisgrove and everyone involved in making the day come together, including Judy, Kate and Pam the staff of the School of Horticulture and Carlos Magdalena helped by John Picton for the wonderful floral displays.

Guests were invited at to enjoy a 35 minute tour of the Gardens on the Kew Explorer at 5pm.

Will Burrridge and Ashley Davies provided an excellent and humorous narrated video presentation about their fellow students and course over the three years and then presentations were made to the School of Horticulture staff.

Afterwards everyone made their way over to the School of Horticulture for afternoon tea.



Group photo, including: Kew students, lecturers, guests, Head of the School of Horticulture Tim Hughes (front row third from left), Director Richard Deverell (front row, fourth from left) and Kew Guild President David Hardman (front row, third from right) ©RBG Kew



Kew Trustee Sir Derek Myers  
©RBG Kew



Floral arrangement in the Jodrell  
Lecture Theatre, Kew ©RBG  
Kew



Guest of Honour, Richard  
Bisgrove ©RBG Kew





**Julia Andersson**  
57145



**Harry Baldwin**  
57157



**Eliot Barden**  
55200



**Tim Batchelor**  
57147



**Leon Charalambous**  
57139



**Chris Clowser**  
57144



**Keegan Hickey**  
57160



**Mathew Rees**  
57148



**Olivia Steed-Mundin**  
57141



**Loredana Vacareanu**  
57142



**Alessio Vaccari**  
57146



**Robbie Vale**  
55407

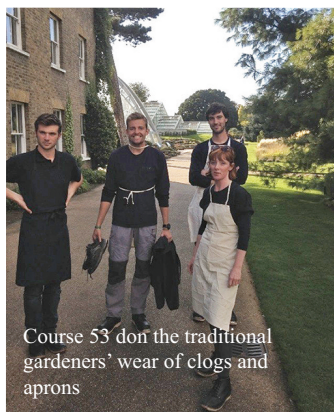


**Sophie Walwin**  
55031

## **Course 53**

## Student Report

by Joseph Clements



Course 53 don the traditional gardeners' wear of clogs and aprons

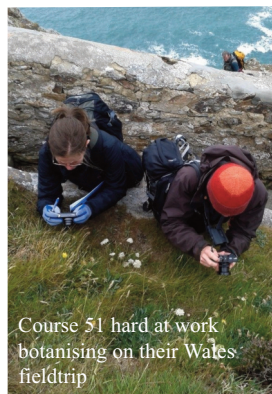
2015 has been a year of change for Kew's Diploma students and apprentices. The beginning of the year saw Tim Hughes appointed as Head of the School of Horticulture. Tim has made a number of changes to the course content of the Diploma. These include: Introducing a new module in Plant Propagation, ensuring every student gets the opportunity to go on a travel scholarship to study plants abroad, and a new Herbarium project where students endeavour to identify new plant material coming into Kew's Herbarium; giving us a real insight into the role of a botanist and helping to forge closer ties between Science and Horticulture.

The year sadly brought about the departure of Course 50 who have gone on to pastures new, undertaking an eclectic range of horticultural roles across the UK and

abroad. We also welcomed Course 53, our new first year students. They managed to get through the two week induction period despite the traditional clog and apron race being rained off! Thankfully however the race was run once fairer weather came along, and took place at a new location so as not to damage our beloved Broad Walk's new surface!

Course 51 have now completed their third and final lecture block, and are counting down their final months at Kew, however they still have their Spanish fieldtrip to look forward to, and dissertations not to look forward to!

Course 52 have now been through their second year lecture block, half way through the diploma experience. A number of exciting travel scholarships have been organised for 2016 including: Joe Clements and Solene Dequiret will be visiting



Course 51 hard at work botanising on their Wales fieldtrip

California, Chris Brown; Bhutan, Miranda Janatka; The British Virgin Islands, Jess Lee; Madagascar, Katarzyna Rzepinska; Poland, Misako Kasahara; Japan, Tom Pickering; South Africa, Ben Dispirito; Ascension Island, Nicola Lloyd; Australia, Anna-Lena Tack; India, Luke Gunner; New Guinea, and finally Will Spoelstra will be visiting Brazil. These trips will be presented at the Kew Mutual Improvement Society Lectures 2017.



Course 52 strike a pose in the German sunshine

Course 52 also enjoyed a trip to Mainau Gardens in Germany after they finished lecture block June 2015. The trip was very memorable, and has been a personal highlight of my time at Kew so far. Whilst there, we had the chance to visit the municipal Palm House and had plenty time to explore the extensive gardens on Mainau Island itself (on Lake Constance), and also spent some time volunteering, assisting in the maintenance and development of many of Mainau's floral displays.



## Kew Guild Events in 2015

### Cotswold Snowdrop Weekend

#### 14th and 15th February

by Allan Hart



'Giant Snowdrop' at Painswick ©David Hardman

It was almost ten years to the day that John Sales and I organised a Guild Snowdrop Weekend in Gloucestershire and it seemed appropriate that the experience should be re-enacted to allow more members to enjoy a Galanthophile (or should that be Galanthophilic?) treat with one of the country's snowdrop enthusiasts.

Fifteen members joined the tour which began with a visit to 'Covertside', the home of Lyn and John Sales; of the three hectare property 0.6 is gardened. After coffee and an introductory talk John walked the party through the garden, explaining the difference between the various species and varieties. The driveway to the house is carpeted with *Eranthis hyemalis*, which have been distributed by cars cutting off the seed-heads and blowing them into the gravel - an ideal growing medium! Along one boundary is an Iron Age fortification, a ditch on average three metres deep and a hundred metres in length, which John has found to be ideal for naturalising masses of snowdrops, including *Galanthus nivalis* 'Atkinsii', *Galanthus nivalis* 'Sam Arnott' (which is wonderfully fragrant), *Galanthus plicatus*, *Galanthus elwesii* (grey, broad leaves and tall flowers) - named after John Henry Elwes of nearby Colesbourne noted for its very extensive plantings, *Galanthus* 'Galatea' and *Galanthus woronowii* with broad, glossy green leaves.

John is particularly fond of a discovery by his wife he named 'Lyn' - tall, elegant, like a very early 'Atkinsii' and quick to colonise, and his own finds which he has playfully named 'January Sales' and 'Compu.Ted' after his grandson Ted (a computer buff) etc. The flowering periods can be as early as autumn - *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, followed by the *Galanthus elwesii* 'Hiemalis' group at Christmas, *Galanthus* 'Atkinsii' in January and then 'Straffan' in late February/early March.

The garden is a plantsman's paradise, with *Cyclamen coum* naturalising in the lawns and a particularly pale form of *Eranthis hyemalis* 'Schwefelglanz' growing as ground cover under *Hamamelis mollis* 'Pallida'. The shelterbelt, planted as whips in 2002 has become well established, with many of the trees 10 metres plus in height. A nurse crop of *Ulmus procera*, *Betula pendula*, and *Prunus avium* will be sacrificed, as this element will become self thinning to some degree to allow *Quercus pedunculata*, *Fagus sylvatica* and *Tilia* spp. to develop into the climax. Underplanting of native shrubs, including *Corylus avellana*, *Taxus baccata*, *Crataegus monogyna* and *Ligustrum vulgare* provide shelter and food for wildlife.

Following this garden tour we travelled the short distance to Cotswold Farm, an important Arts and Crafts house by Jewson and Burne Jones, with the garden by Sidney Barnsley. After enjoying a welcome high quality lunch there, we were able to admire the winter garden and the very well crafted, newly completed dry stone retaining walls over two metres high. In the evening Pamela Holt organised a relaxing Kew Guild dinner at the Five Mile House, Duntisbourne Abbots - good food and company - thank you Pamela.

We reconvened on Sunday morning at Painswick - a Rococo Garden with spectacular

displays of snowdrops. This is an important mid-18th Century garden by Thomas Robins, restored during the past thirty years. The Rococo Garden style was only a fleeting fashion in England - pavilions, fountains and stairways in the most bizarre and extravagant forms, showed off the owners' often new found wealth in a very ostentatious manner. Plants were used as furnishings in gilded and flamboyant outdoor rooms, designed for entertaining. Perhaps the most important was the creation of vistas and intersections, not directed exclusively to one particular point in the scheme, but rather intended to lead the eye in various directions from the surrounding landscape to follies, statuary and water features. A less successful feature is the maze, constructed in 2000, originally planted with *Taxus baccata*, which failed, and replaced with *Ligustrum ovalifolium* 'Aureum' which is out of character with the age of the garden, and being semi-deciduous it can easily be seen through.

The group then went its own way to visit either Rodmarton Manor or Colesbourne with its spectacular displays. We would like to thank John and Lyn for their hard work and generous hospitality - making the weekend a great success, much appreciated by everyone who took part.

## **Wrest Park and The Swiss Garden** **9th and 10th May**

Wrest Park report by Sheila Das, The Swiss Garden report by Tony Overland

One of the great things about a walk around Wrest Park is that the garden was so sympathetically developed by generations of the de Grey family that we can now literally walk through time and enjoy their individual contributions made over a 300 year period. Beginning with a look down the long water (dug out around 1680 to form the spine of the garden) at Thomas Archer's pavilion which was commissioned by Henry, Duke of Kent, in 1709, we can see a view that has remained unchanged since its inception. Henry's woodland panels containing various 'rooms' and rides have been tinkered with over the years, but again, in structure, remain largely as he left them thanks to the respect afforded by his family members through following generations.

English Heritage took the property on in 2006 and began an ambitious 20 year project to bring the garden back to the stage at which it was left by the last family member in 1916. Whilst this sounds as if the focus might be on recreating a largely Victorian landscape, by 1916 the Upper Gardens had been laid out as an addition to what was already there, and Thomas, Earl de Grey, left the 18th Century landscape very much as his grandmother and great great grandfather had conceived it. Therefore, any attempt to 'restore' to the 1916 date, naturally includes a treatment of the 18th Century landscape that had endured through the 19th Century. The 20th Century at Wrest saw the Silsoe Institute for agricultural research maintain the site to some degree, but areas of the woodland garden were left to overgrow, and the formal gardens lost their intricacy.



The consideration for English Heritage necessarily focuses on a treatment of the project that can have a benefit to a wider audience. The family ownership remains at the heart of this as the really 'significant' feature of the property, and whilst its 20th Century history is not ignored, for the garden, the developments that the family made must ultimately be



the treasure that is preserved for future generations. The legacy of local community interaction with the site, and developments in agricultural techniques that define the 20th Century activity can (and do) live on in other ways.

Some may argue that the plant material allowed to mature in freeform during the years when the garden was not the key focus of the site is as valuable a part of the site's history as

the more intentional developments. Yes – the mature box hedge that was allowed to ‘walk’ over where an historic path lay is of course a thing of beauty in its own right, but it has to be seen as part of a larger whole; a more complex story which is worth being told, shared with many, and protected for the future. Gardens are full of living material which grows, but the protection and preservation of historic landscapes fundamentally pivots on a recreation of how, after initial creation, people interact with those landscapes to either develop them further, or maintain the spirit of the place. As a formal landscape with a rich family history, Wrest is a garden designed to be interacted with: horticulturally; socially and intellectually. These factors all mesh together to create a unique opportunity for the visitor to connect with the family who created it through time, making the most vital and resonant element of that interaction, for me, an emotional one.

On Sunday 10th May 2015 we visited a little known gem called the Swiss Garden situated in the heart of Bedfordshire. We were given a very informative conducted tour by one of the volunteer guides. The site of this attraction was previously better known for the adjoining Shuttleworth Collection Aviation Museum and is managed by the Shuttleworth Trust.



The Swiss Garden was created some 200 years ago. The garden is undergoing a process of restoration to bring it back to its original design concept. How far this should proceed can present difficulties, especially where a decision could require the removal of mature tree and shrub specimens in order to replicate the original landscape. The management at the garden is faced with many such challenges and has to strike a balance between a rigid pure design approach and a pragmatic acceptance that some actions are likely to be too controversial to implement. For instance we were shown a vista where in the distance a splendid mature Japanese acer tree was out of alignment by about four or five feet. A ‘purist’ may have had the ‘offender’ removed, a gardener may conserve it!

Lord Robert Henley Ongley (1803-1877) spent almost ten years developing the Swiss Garden which was located close to his mansion, but was in fact a tiny part of the 2000 acre Old Warden Estate. It was a picturesque Regency pleasure ground that was influenced by grand tours abroad and places such as the Prince Regent's extravagant Brighton Palace Gardens. He set about building a landscape garden of nine acres. It is likely that Lord Ongley himself directed the work of major earth movements, to form views of rolling low hills, grassy glades and meandering water courses all enlivened by a mix of exotics and dramatic evergreens, intended to give a representation of the Swiss lowlands. Into this alpine setting he added numerous quirky buildings, attractive bridges, urns, arches and an

elaborate hidden grotto. At the grotto's centre and bisected by the tunnels sits a beautifully designed fernery, enclosed under a fine glazed dome. Inspiration for some of the structures may have come from JB Papworth's *Hints on Ornamental Gardening*, first published in 1818, which focuses on the use of buildings within a garden setting. He also lived nearby, so may have been invited to advise on the creation of the garden.

The Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth was created between 1824 and 1832. Prior to this time Lord Ongley consolidated the family estates in Bedfordshire amounting to 2000 acres, selling off property in Kent and London in order to concentrate on his love for all things exotic and dramatic.

There are 13 listed buildings situated throughout the gardens. The main one and the largest is the Swiss Cottage located on the highest promontory near the centre. It is in fact cleverly designed as a two storey building utilising a change in level so that both floors can be entered from a different ground level. It served as a tea house, but is now frequently used for wedding ceremonies. Other buildings and features include a thatched 'Indian kiosk', a tiny chapel and a summer house together with several islands adorned with urns.

One young visitor, Cecilia Ridley, writing to her Aunt Fanny from nearby Ampthill in September 1839, described it as "the most extraordinary garden in the world made out of a bog; full of little old summer houses on little round hills, china vases, busts, coloured lamps – in short quite a fairyland but more of a Chinese fairy than a European one".

In 1872 with his fortune declining, Lord Ongley sold the estate to industrialist Joseph Shuttleworth. During the 20 years between Lord Ongley's departure in the 1850s and Joseph Shuttleworth becoming the new owner of the Old Warden Estate, the garden fell into disrepair. After Shuttleworth purchased the estate he set about carrying out major changes to the gardens, which had been in decline over many years. He had the famous architect Henry Clutton design a Jacobean style house to replace Lord Ongley's Mansion and also commissioned him to work on the garden with the help of landscape gardener Edward Milner. He also brought in Mr Allis, his head gardener from Hartsholme Hall. He re-worked some of its features, introduced new plants and created a formal terrace and broad walk to host elaborate garden parties and pageants. James Pulham (1820–1898) was brought in to mastermind the landscaping, installing his special man-made Pulhamite rockwork around the ponds and converting the cruciform conservatory into an unusual grotto fernery. Today, it still is a wonderful example of 'natural' rock linings, almost indistinguishable from the real thing.

After the Second World War, the garden deteriorated into a serious state of disrepair. In 1976 a partnership was formed between the Shuttleworth Trust and Bedfordshire County Council. Over the years various restoration works were undertaken. Finally with a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant of £2.8 million a comprehensive programme of improvements was carried out and completed in July 2014.

The garden's 13 listed buildings and structures have undergone careful conservation using traditional materials and techniques where possible. The Swiss Cottage creates the centre piece of the garden and has been re-thatched using water reed from Norfolk, its finials re-gilded with 23 carat gold leaf and missing or broken rustic decoration replaced using slices of Monterey Pine cones and hazel and willow twigs. Over 25,600 shrubs and 8,400 bulbs have been planted in 53 beds and 340 metres of path laid using 300 tonnes of gravel. Lost vistas have been reinstated re-creating the scenic windows, which opened onto very deliberate 'stage set' views of buildings, bridges, urns, arches and other garden features as originally intended by Lord Ongley.



Our tour of this unique garden presented a total contrast to the visit to Wrest Park the day before. A perfect example of the diversity that abounds in people's approach to gardens; a desire to create a landscape that is in tune with their own interests, and ambitions, in which they can find solace and contentment, but which enables them to choose how they relate to nature and the surrounding environment. Previously hidden by the hangers of the aviation museum, the Swiss Garden is now a major attraction in its own right. Representing an extraordinary landscape of flair and imagination, it presents a vivid example of a Regency garden, with a fascinating insight into a Swiss Picturesque style.

## Kew Guild Annual Dinner

21st May

by Jonathan Rickards



The 'Top Table' L to R: Brendan Mowforth, Director of Kew Richard Deverell, Dr. Mary Milne (founder of Pink Champagne breast cancer survivors dragonboat team), President David Hardman, his partner Jan Collins, Kew Medal recipient Christopher Brickell and Mrs. Janet Brickell. ©Editor

the 1970s and of life as a student. He was also able to elucidate David's northern origins, in particular identifying key pointers which may have helped his subsequent career such as support for Manchester City Football Club and Lancashire Cricket Club. It was as 'cricket coordinator' David first made his mark at Kew coming to London as a student in 1974, to which several years later, in 1992, he returned as Deputy Curator.

In response, David emphasised how much Kew meant to him and welcomed the presence at the Dinner of Richard Deverell, Director of Kew, in his support for the Guild and its development to meet the challenges of the future in particular in its desire to offer support in the field of horticultural education.

Amongst the guests of honour this year were Piet Oudolf and Peter Thoday who were awarded Honorary Fellowships of the Guild for their outstanding contribution to horticulture. For his lifetime achievements as an author and former Director General of the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS), Chris Brickell received the Kew Guild Medal, sealing an association between the RHS and Kew which goes back many years. All spoke of their interesting careers, which took in their love of plants and horticulture and the accidental paths which eventually crossed with Kew.

Piet Oudolf described his family's restaurant business from which he eventually escaped at the late age of 25 to end up with his own nursery in 1982 specialising in herbaceous plants, creating the designs and planting mixtures for which

An entertaining and lively evening complemented the end of a perfect day in the gardens as members and guests of the Guild attended the 2015 annual Dinner. With a difficult start to Chelsea week weather-wise, it improved dramatically and the Cambridge Cottage looked resplendent in the evening light for the 67 diners hosted by their President, David Hardman.

After the meal, Bob Ivison proposed a toast to the President, recalling shared days at Kew in



Presentation to Piet Oudolf by President David Hardman ©Editor

he is justly famous. Peter Thoday outlined his horticultural career as son of a head gardener, which encompassed the academic and the practical in a wide variety of educational roles reflecting the changing nature of horticulture over the period, culminating in his own well-known consultancy.

Peter Thoday, Honorary  
Fellowship recipient  
©Editor



The President's guests also included members of the Ladies Dragon Boat Breast cancer charity team with whom he is associated through his partner Jan. In proposing them, David paid tribute to their courage and determination as well as their enthusiasm and sense of fun, to which Jane Young responded in a gracious note of appreciation.

The toast to Absent Friends this year was proposed by Paul Eguia who, in representing the students, described how much the Guild's support meant to them, particularly in their final year as they followed their special interests. These ranged from the practical to the botanical, including his own forthcoming trip to Madagascar.

Master of ceremonies Richard Ward kept the evening in order (with daughter Sparkle as paparazzo in chief, as our new journal Editor) and special thanks were given to Jen Alsop for organising the whole event.

### **Irish Gardens** **6th and 7th June** by David Hardman

The Guild's Dublin event saw all the group members booked into The West County Hotel which was to act as our base for the weekend visit. Some had arrived earlier in the week and had already visited other gardens before meeting up on Saturday with Guild member Stephen Butler, who is Curator of Horticulture at Dublin Zoological Gardens and was to be our guide for the whole weekend.

With just a short drive to our first location, Glasnevin is located just three kilometres from Dublin city centre. It is managed by the Office of Public Works which also runs several other gardens and many heritage sites around Ireland. Providing us with the appropriate maps and a brief garden introduction Stephen let us all set out on our own to investigate the delights of Glasnevin with the instruction to meet at the restaurant for lunch.

Glasnevin Gardens are an oasis of calm and beauty, a premier scientific institution; the gardens contain the National Herbarium and several historic wrought iron glasshouses; the Curvilinear Range House being a notable example which in its restoration used recycled iron saved from Kew's Palm House. The overall design and content of the Garden creates an environment that is stimulating for the visitor with the primary role of the Gardens as a scientific collection.

The purpose of the National Botanic Gardens is to explore, understand, conserve, and share the importance of plants so that it is a place where leisure, recreation and education are all compatible for the enjoyment of visitors. Its roles include conservation, education, science, reference, demonstration and recreation within the living collections over 300 endangered

The Curvilinear Range at Glasnevin

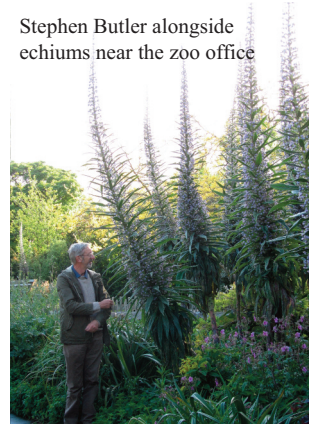


species from around the world. Six species already extinct in the wild are conserved, through its collections and activities public awareness of plants and their importance to people globally is raised and audio tours enable visitors to take self-guiding tours.

Staff at the Gardens are actively describing new species; increasing knowledge of the Irish flora; conducting collecting expeditions; and investigating the needs of the most threatened native species. The National Herbarium based within the National Botanic Gardens has a collection of nearly three quarters of a million dried plant specimens plus an active DNA research laboratory. By curating a wide range of named and labelled collections and keeping an up to date catalogue of the collections provides a unique reference source for Irish Gardeners, Horticulturists and Botanists. The cultivation of a wide range of plants from the diverse climatic regions of the world, and displaying them using good horticultural practice allows visitors to see what they too can achieve in their own gardens. Training courses in gardening and practical workshops are held throughout the year.

After lunch we made the short drive to Dublin Zoo where Stephen led us on an exciting tour of the grounds; he explained the history and the new developments in the horticultural displays. One of the most important goals of Dublin Zoo is to educate visitors and promote conservation. The conservation of species is best accomplished through habitat preservation, and for that to be successful people must understand the relationship between habitat and species, since all living organisms exist in communities made up of different plants and animals. Dublin Zoo strives to increasingly create habitats and combine species to provide a more realistic, natural experience for their animals and a more exciting one for Zoo visitors. Throughout the Zoo about 400 animals from almost 100 different species can be seen in indoor and outdoor habitats.

Stephen Butler alongside echiums near the zoo office



Leading us through the different areas we encountered the following habitats - the African Savanna which is like taking an African safari wandering through the grassy savanna and the open plains where giraffe browse and zebras wander while the hunting dogs prowl, rhinoceros, oryx and the elegant ostrich and chimpanzees always entertain as they play and search for special treats. The Kaziranga Forest Trail is wonderful Asian rainforest, with pools, dramatic rock formations and a waterfall all surrounded by a dense forest of trees and bamboo where a breeding group of elephants live, the Trail is a wonderful natural environment created with the needs of the elephants in mind.

The Gorilla Rainforest is the biggest and most exciting development undertaken recently by Dublin Zoo, a total of 12,000 square metres of undulating topography, was inspired by the lowland rainforest of western Africa, home to western lowland gorillas. The largest of the primates, they favour quiet, tranquil environments and the design of this incredible new habitat was strongly influenced by behavioural studies of gorillas in the wild. High, rocky outcrops and trees allow the apes an overview of the surrounding landscape, while streams and dense vegetation allow the gorillas to forage and move to private resting spaces. Dublin Zoo has maintained western lowland gorillas for many years and is home to a breeding group.

The Asian Forests was inspired by the Gir forest of India and the Sumatran forest of Indonesia. The Gir Forest encompasses a very dry forest with a mix of deciduous trees and diverse flora and fauna. The lion habitat reflects this environment and gives the lions the necessary diversity to encourage natural behaviour as well as breeding. Asian lions

are critically endangered in the wild with only 400 remaining. A pair of Sumatran tigers also have a new habitat within the Asian Forests. Inspired by the rainforest of Sumatra the tiger habitat simulates this colder tropical habitat with a river stream and river ponds for the tigers to swim. This environment also presents complexity to the tigers to facilitate natural behaviour. The Family Farm is Ireland's smallest, most exciting farm where visitors can meet the resident farm animals; sheep, pigs, goats, ducks, rabbits and chickens.

We finally returned to the nursery able to see some of the unusual plants Stephen grows and to appreciate the challenges he faces from his captive audience as well as the visitors to the Zoo. By now we were well behind schedule and everyone headed back to the hotel where a dinner had been arranged for the evening.

On Sunday morning the group met in the hotel reception before setting out to drive the 50 kilometres south from Dublin to Mount Usher Gardens in County Wicklow where we were met by Head Gardener, Sean Heffernan. He gave us an excellent introduction explaining the history of the garden whilst walking with us in the garden to see some iconic plants before letting us loose to enjoy all its delights.

Mount Usher is among Ireland's most loved gardens, by both professionals and the public being voted the Best Garden to visit in Ireland by BBC Gardeners' World Magazine. The gardens were first planted in 1868 in the "Robinsonian" style, after the Irish garden designer William Robinson, who emphasised informal planting in harmony with the natural setting of the garden. Mount Usher is probably the oldest and best known of the gardens inspired by him, an extra dimension in sympathy with nature was established when the gardens became managed organically.

Edward Walpole, the garden's founder, passed the property to his three sons. The youngest of them was Thomas, an engineer, who made a great contribution to the beauty of the place, designing and building the lovely curved weirs which are dotted along the Vartry River and the suspension bridges over it. These engineering works make the river a central focus at all times. There are over 5,000 species of plants and shrubs from all over the world and many champion trees of Ireland and the UK. Visitors can follow the shaded winding paths throughout the nine hectares of gardens along the River Vartry and are encouraged to explore areas where some of the rarest varieties of trees are located which are all marked and detailed on the Tree Trail Guide. Lunch was taken in the gardens' award winning restaurant with enthusiastic discussions being focused on all aspects of the garden and the wonderful specimens on view that had impressed us all.

Suitably replenished we drove the short distance to the National Botanic Gardens, Kilmacurragh which is located 48 kilometres south of Dublin in east County Wicklow. On arrival we were welcomed by Seamus O'Brien, the Gardens Curator, and were extremely fortunate that he spent so much time showing us the gardens and explaining in great detail the fantastic work that is being undertaken there. The following outlines just a small fraction of the fascinating details he told us.

Kilmacurragh is the centrepiece of an 18th Century estate that once covered over 5000 acres (2000 hectares). Seat of the Acton family for three centuries, it is now an outpost of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. The milder climate, higher rainfall and deeper, acidic soils of this historic Wicklow garden, provide a counterpoint to the collections at Glasnevin. The association of Kilmacurragh with the National Botanic Gardens began in 1854, when Thomas Acton inherited the estate and greatly benefited from the advice and support of Dr. David Moore and his son Sir Frederick Moore, Curators of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin in Dublin. Kilmacurragh provided a more advantageous situation for growing plants from the Himalaya and the Southern Hemisphere and is today



famous for its conifers and calcifuges. In 1996, a 52 acre (21 hectare) portion of the old demesne comprising the house, arboretum, entrance drive and woodlands officially became part of the National Botanic Gardens of Ireland. By then the house was in ruins due to a series of disastrous fires and the following ten years were spent rescuing valuable trees from a crippling tangle of cherry laurel, sycamore and *Rhododendron ponticum*.

In 2006 a planting plan was drafted for the arboretum and a major programme of replanting followed. The gardens are now being replanted using material raised at Glasnevin from various collaborative expeditions to many parts of the globe, most notably China and Chile. This new plan incorporates phytogeographical planting and with this system garden areas have been devoted to the floras of various regions of the world, for example, temperate South America, the Himalayas, China and perhaps most importantly, to the Irish flora. In addition to Glasnevin/Kilmacurragh expeditions material is also being received from botanic gardens worldwide, most notably the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Edinburgh and the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens in Hobart.

Not all areas follow this scheme and a number of areas in the arboretum will grow plants from outside these regions with particular emphasis on tender, Australasian and Mediterranean region plants. The restoration of Kilmacurragh's famous Victorian Double Borders was nearing completion and will act as show borders, growing colourful, exotic, exciting plants. Thematic planting is found on the 'Fossil Lawn' where visitors are introduced to the evolution of gymnosperms, e.g., ancient relics like the maidenhair tree, the monkey puzzle and the closely related wollemi and kauri pines (all in the Araucariaceae), the redwoods – the coastal and giant redwood from California and their Chinese ally, the dawn redwood or fossil tree from China. The Fossil Lawn will be a fun and fascinating way to see how conifers and other woody gymnosperms have evolved over millions of years.

New important projects include the ecological restoration of native woodland and grassland ecosystems and the establishment of a genetic collection of native tree species. The Staff at Kilmacurragh have already began gathering a genetic oak collection for Kilmacurragh's woodlands by the main estate gates and for the proposed David Moore Reserve to the east of the main arboretum.

Many of Kilmacurragh's historic plants are now in old age and in urgent need of propagation. For example *Rhododendron arboreum* ssp. *delavayi*, which was sent from Kew in 1898 and is the only known living plant raised from seeds collected by the famous French missionary and plant hunter, Père Jean Marie Delavay (1834-1895). The old Kilmacurragh tree flowered in 1904, the first recorded flowering of this species outside its native China. There are dozens of other historically important trees scattered throughout the arboretum and all of known, wild-sourced provenance. Before these trees head into decline and are lost, the gardens have linked up with Dr. Gerry Douglas at Kinsealy Research Centre and initiated a propagation programme which to date has had good results with many of Hooker's veteran rhododendrons grown here. Older, more difficult subjects, especially those no longer producing any extension growth will be propagated using tissue culture techniques at Kinsealy.

The nursery at Glasnevin is also playing a major role in the supply of plants and has supplied to Kilmacurragh seedlings collected on the 2007 Glasnevin Chile Expedition, many of which have been planted in Kilmacurragh's South American Garden. The purpose of the trip was to collect seeds of Chilean natives for the new Chilean garden at Kilmacurragh. The expedition visited several areas from the Talca region in the Mediterranean Central Valley to the damp temperate rainforests south of Valdivia. From these collections several highly garden worthy plants were introduced for the very first

time to Ireland. Future expeditions to South America, including Argentina, are planned, all with the aim of enriching Kilmacurragh's living collection. The garden's mild climate offers great potential in trialling new tender introductions from the warmer regions of the world, particularly from the Southern Hemisphere.

Kilmacurragh is also linked to the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh's International Conifer Conservation Programme and acts as an ex-situ conservation site for conifers now threatened with extinction in their native habitats. This includes such rarities as the recently discovered Vietnamese yellow cypress, *Xanthocyparis vietnamensis* (the first to be planted in Ireland), *Pinus armandii* var. *dabieshanensis* from China and threatened South American conifers like the Patagonian cypress *Fitzroya cupressoides* and *Pilgerodendron uviferum*.

Totally enthused about Kilmacurragh following what Seamus had told us we all thanked him and invited him to the restaurant for a well deserved cup of tea and cake before driving back to the hotel for our evening meal. For all those able to attend, the whole weekend proved a fascinating tour of four different gardens, it had been enjoyable, educational and above all a great example of what the Kew Guild fellowship offers to its members and friends.

### **Welsh Weekend** **10th to 12th July** by Peter and Liz Styles

A report from Peter and Liz Styles who were hosts for a weekend of Welsh treasures:

We gathered in Caernarvon for a group welcome lunch at the Black Boy Inn in Northgate Street. The inn, nestling in the shadow of Caernarvon Castles' mighty stone walls, is one of the oldest in Wales, built in 1522 and bursting with character. The Inn was an ideal location to explore Caernarvon town and some of the group took advantage of this.

After lunch we took a short car ride to Crûg Farm Nurseries. The nursery, which was started in 1991, is set on the edge of the National Park with the Snowdon mountain range as a backdrop and is run by plant hunters extraordinaire Bleddyn and Sue Wynn-Jones. Originally a beef farm it is now established as the place to find extraordinary plants. Buckingham Palace is a regular customer. Many well-known garden designers often source their plant material from here and Diamund Gavin incorporated large specimens of Crûg *Schefflera taiwaniana* for his award winning Chelsea garden. Crûg has also received its share of Chelsea gold medals for their plant exhibits.

Bleddyn kindly spent several hours with us showing us both the gardens and the plant production areas. The 18th Century walled garden is a real delight. Packed full of unusual plants all collected by Bleddyn and Sue on one of their many plant collecting forays to the Far East. It is no exaggeration to say that the garden resembles a lush jungle. Among my favourites were the glorious *Acer campbellii* collected by Bleddyn in the Himalayas and the useful ground cover *Pachysandra axillaris* 'Crûgs' Cover' collected in Szechuan.

Crûg has also been host to the Kew Students during their many field trips to Bangor University. Needless to say a number of us left with plant purchases. The nursery closes in the winter to enable the overseas plant collecting to take place.

On Saturday we met at Portmeirion for a guided tour of the grounds by the staff. John and Bren Whitehead were able to join us. Both John and Barry Phillips (1972) have been involved with the restoration of the gardens so they were able to give us some useful information about the important trees. Trekking up through the *Rhododendron* thickets we

emerged at a magnificent viewing area overlooking Cardigan Bay. It was at this point we picked up a few members of the general public who were clearly impressed by John's plant knowledge.

Coincidentally Crûg Farm Nursery has also supplied plants to Portmeirion including a number of *Magnolia* and *Rhododendron* species although this is really no surprise given the unusual range of plants which grow there. The echiums were looking particularly good. Sir Clough-Williams Ellis created Portmeirion in 1925 as a unique visitor destination on the Dwyryd Estuary. The mild microclimate of the area allowed planting of many exotic species and this combined with the unique Italianate architecture gives Portmeirion a very special place in Welsh culture. In the 1960s it was used as a location for the cult series *The Prisoner* but we resisted the temptation to dress up in striped blazers and straw boaters. It was Sir Clough who entertained the architect Frank Lloyd Wright at Portmeirion when he visited the UK in the 1950s.

We had a splendid long lunch at the wonderful Castell Deudraeth which is set within the grounds of Portmeirion. Our president David Hardman said a few words of thanks and very generously provided the wine for a toast. Castell Deudraeth is a magnificent castellated Victorian mansion, previously a hotel, prep school and latterly private apartments for the Oppenheimer family. Sir Clough purchased the buildings and the grounds in 1931 to incorporate into the estate.

The day finished with a rather heavy rainstorm but this did not dampen our spirits. Exploring the less horticultural aspects of Portmeirion gave us the opportunity to discover that the yacht tied up in the harbour was in fact a concrete construct - another of Sir Clough's famous follies sitting quite comfortably amongst the *trompe l'oeil*, architectural salvage and decidedly theatrical set pieces. We had nothing special planned for the evening meal but then Allan and Joan Hart remembered that they had a good meal at a nearby pub the previous evening. We phoned the Goat Inn (Tafarn Yr Afr) and managed to secure a table for all ten of us. The evening finished on a jolly note.

On Sunday morning we gathered in the forecourt of Harlech Castle, a World Heritage site steeped in turbulent Welsh history and perched on the edge of a rocky outcrop. Peter is the landscape architect for developing a new visitor centre within the adjoining Victorian hotel. A challenging project, which is being completed after five years of extensive planning and construction, he explained that the project had encountered many problems including a six month delay whilst archaeologists excavated a medieval burial ground discovered during construction works. The planting palette included many coastal plants. *Fuchsia* 'Riccartonii', *Griselinia*, *Arbutus unedo*, *Olearia* and *Festuca glauca* formed the main planting theme.

We had the opportunity to look behind the scenes in the nearly completed hotel visitor centre. Coffee tasting in the restaurant and testing the seating in the private apartment areas were well received. Then to the Castle, once the powerhouse to Owain Glyndwr's kingdom and witness to many conflicts over the centuries. David Hardman entertained us with his swordsmanship skills up the

L to R: Brenda March, Bleddyn Wynne Jones, Joan and Allan Hart, Jan Collins, Peter Styles, David Hardman, Stewart Henchie, Tony and Jan Overland and Bryan Howard



stone spiral staircase of the Prison Tower. We were impressed and vowed to make this an annual Kew Guild event. The high precarious battlements were not for the faint hearted but the views from the Castle were spectacular looking out across many miles to the Welsh mountains and the sea.

We finished our weekend on a high note as we all set off for home. Hwyl fawr!

## **Shrewsbury Show Weekend** **13th to 16th August** by Bryan Howard

The historic Lion Hotel provided an excellent venue for our group to meet, greet and enjoy an excellent evening meal in attractive surroundings.

Day one of the 126th Shrewsbury Flower Show with its most attractive town park setting began with torrential rain but that did not diminish the group's enthusiasm as most took advantage of an 8.30am entrance to view the marquee displays in comfort and before the gates were opened to the general public. After a full viewing of the main show features, Peter Styles (student 1966) gave a welcome invitation to join him for afternoon tea and cake at his nearby landscape practice Head Office. With powerpoint illustrations we were fascinated to learn of his many worldwide challenging landscape and environmental projects. Evening re-entry into the Showground was a must as we rejoined the throng for a full and most spectacular Kimbolton firework display.

Day two world famous David Austin Roses was the Saturday am Albrighton venue where, after refreshments, rose expert Diana Perry explained the fascinating history of the nursery with a visit behind the scenes to understand the complexity of their long term breeding programmes. We finished the tour with a visit to David Austin's extensive 'feast for the eyes shop window' public rose display gardens.

With an early Saturday pm return towards Shrewsbury we regrouped at Attingham Park Mansion (NT) and after a private light lunch we were joined by Kate Nichol, Head of Walled Gardens, to share something of the recent extensive task of gardens reconstruction and planting.

While recreating many original garden features - suffering over 50 years of neglect - it has been returned to a fully productive cropping programme. The busy day finished with a good choice of dining at the nearby attractive setting of the long established Mytton Hotel.

Day three was the final day, and we gathered in Shrewsbury Square for a guided tour of this magnificent 'Town of Flowers' (where Percy Thrower was the Parks Superintendent to the mid 1980s and his horticultural influence continues.)

We toured the quaint old Shuts and Passages and savoured the atmosphere of this ancient Town with its many bridges over the 'loop' of the River Severn. A place where Charles Darwin discovered so much about nature in his formative years; Clive of India was a local lad, Thomas Telford had many involvements. Marianne North, while waiting for a train at Shrewsbury Station, wrote to Hooker with the idea to offer Kew her many botanical paintings along with finance for the Marianne North Gallery we see at Kew today.

In concluding the visit David Hardman our President commented "everything was wonderful and a brilliant success". Thank you for coming to Shrewsbury.



## London Landscapes

22nd August

by Peter Turski



Entrance to St. Swithin's courtyard

Kew students from Courses 50 and 51 met with a group of long time Kew graduates and their spouses for a day in central London hosted by Charles Funke.

The temperature was already climbing significantly when we met together in St Swithin's churchyard, a small green space in the heart of the City. This was to be the first of three sites visited during the course of the day. A site of particular historical significance, the graveyard holds the remains of Catrin, daughter of Owain Glyn Dwr, the self declared Prince of Wales who led the Welsh revolt from the year 1400.

By far the boldest soft landscaping statement within St Swithin's courtyard garden is the use of large specimen columnar Camellias. Charles commented that these had made very good growth in the five years since planting, the crowns having been raised to a height of 1.5 metres and a slight reduction in the leaders to

encourage lateral growth. Careful placing of these plants achieved a prolonged flowering season by virtue of their differing exposure to sunlight according to aspect.

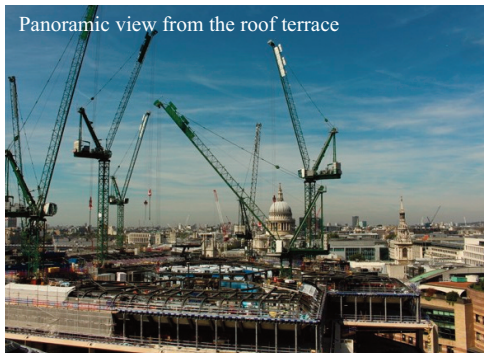
Perhaps an overlooked but notable point from a design perspective was the issue of cigarette toxicity from the numerous butts that accumulate in such a space from numerous city workers who use this as an oasis of calm. As for the notable absence of pigeons, it was only later that I discovered Charles' secret weapon; a Harris Hawk known as 'Fly'.



The highly curvilinear design is intended to solicit movement through the space whilst reflecting the lines of the built form overlooking it

It took but a short walk to arrive at our second destination; the small crowd that we were immediately aroused the interest of the security staff – we had arrived at the head of the Rothschild's banking empire. On entering the building we proceeded to the uppermost

floor to access the roof terrace. The view we were met with was quite something to behold; a panorama dominated by cranes and construction.



Panoramic view from the roof terrace

The large open terrace was divided up by a grid layout of small lawns, low planting and more intimate seating areas enclosed by closely trimmed *Ilex crenata* hedging. It was encouraging to hear that this garden is well used by staff for social functions, one can only imagine the illuminated views and atmosphere on a warm summer night.



A further walk to Bishopsgate led us to Bishopsgate and Barings Bank. Horticultural patrons from as far back as 1801 when Sir Frances Baring acquired Stratton Park in Hampshire and commissioned Humphrey Repton to landscape the park and gardens. The tradition continued a century later when Miss Nelly Baring employed her cousin Gertrude Jekyll to design the gardens for Durmast House in Burley, around the same time Edwin Lutyens designed 'Salutation'; a house and gardens in Sandwich, Kent, for Mr Gaspard Farrer, a partner in Barings Bank.

58 metres above street level the roof terraces have a much more intimate feel made so by the extensive use of timber and a much more varied and denser planting. Here we noted an interesting use of *Larix kaemferi* trained and pruned to form arches as a frame

onto the view beyond. Novelties on the Northern terrace characterized by plants from Asia included *Quercus dentata*, grown as a miniature but sporting its large adult sized leaves and a conifer favourite of mine, *Sciadopitys verticillata*.L.

The day concluded with some wonderful hospitality from Barings staff as we tucked into much needed refreshment and occupied their boardroom for a meeting of our own.



## Batsford Arboretum 7th November by Tony Overland

We have had our first event of the season with a visit to Batsford Arboretum this was well attended by members, but student attendance was disappointing with only one student present. The weather on the day was pretty atrocious with rain and high winds. The arboretum was closed on safety grounds. However, head gardener Matthew Hall gave a very interesting talk about the history and the development of the arboretum, following



which we were conducted along the main driveway, through part of the adjoining plantings. After the tour we had lunch at the restaurant and despite the weather it proved to be convivial and enjoyable outing. The arboretum very kindly did not make a charge for the visit and have suggested we return in April next year.

L to R: Peter Turski, Jan Overland, Rod Peach, Matthew Hall (Head Gardener), Graham Burgess, Pamela Holt, Jean Peach, Joan Hart, Allan Hart, Stephen Ashworth, Peter Bridgeman, John Sales, front kneeling Alan Stuttard



## **Kew Guild Awards Scheme 2015**

by Chris Kidd

The KGAS met on 12th March 2015 and 16th July 2015 to consider applications for awards and the nomination for Fellowship of the Kew Guild. Full credit to the members of the Committee, many of whom travel considerable distances at personal expense to attend, combined with the addition of hours of work keeping minutes, managing accounts and multiple considerations whilst holding down full time lives and employment. Though far from a thankless job, the Committee's life would be improved by three simple acts:

1. Applicants should read the application forms.
2. Successful awardees should send all the relevant documentation through to the KGJ Editor on time - without prompting.
3. Applicants should read the application forms again.

## **Awards Scheme Reports**

### **Vectorworks Design Course**

by Aaron Marubbi

I am passionate about design. On the last of three years on the diploma I have revelled in the landscape design and detailing aspects. It is a chance to use all your horticultural knowledge, your plantsmanship and everything you've learnt from the 'good' and 'bad' design mistakes or solutions out in the garden and make amends. For me, landscape design is the ultimate mix of gardening, art and problem solving.

A pencil and paper are all you need to start, and will always be the way that I start any design. Now in a digital world, Computer Aided Design Software (CAD) has allowed us to further expand our drawing palette with a whole new set of tools. Helping to improve efficiency of the design process, quality and compatibility with other working platforms. At Kew, students are given a thorough introduction into the principles of design at the drawing board and I wanted to develop this further with a course in Vectorworks at the University of Arts London.

Vectorworks is the landscape industry's standard CAD Software. It is user-friendly, compatible with a whole suite of other design software like Adobe AutoCAD, illustrator and Photoshop; making it very versatile for the designer. It is importantly an 'input-based programme' which means that the shapes and objects you draw retain their dimensions and unique specifications wherever you decide to use them in other programmes. Finally it is the most affordable software suite for small to medium sized landscape design studios. For a beginner like me this is a really attractive benefit.

The course at the University of Arts London is a four week intensive short-course. It is taught on Saturdays which is ideal for those who have a weekday job like me! The class was made up of eight of us from all different disciplines. We had landscape designers, interior designers, set designers, aspiring fashion designers, and even a sunglasses designer; a real mix which made for a very creative atmosphere. The course is all practical and taught by doing small design projects to learn each of the tools in turn. It goes from basics-up, there was a mix of skills in the room, but starting from bottom basics was

beneficial for all to get rid of any lingering bad habits. It is a full day of tuition and the small class size means that you really do get one to one guidance from the tutor. The pace is perfect, allowing for time to work out any problems at the end of the class with an open session for practice. The facilities of the University are fantastic as is the quality of the course.

I have found the four weeks on the course really informative. It is aimed at beginners to give you the basics, but I have left feeling much more capable than a beginner now. It was well worth doing and I would strongly recommend the course to anyone interested in developing their computer design skills and for those who are absolute beginners like me. Having the ability to manipulate your designs on a computer is vital to working in the landscape and design industry of today, and this course has put me in good stead. I would like to thank the Kew Guild Awards Sub-Committee for a funding award of £449 from the General Award Funds towards my course costs.

### **Royal Entomological Society Conference: 'Insect Ecosystem Services' Trinity College, Dublin**

2nd to 4th September

by Alison Scott-Brown

The workshop included 70 oral and 48 poster presentations and included the following themes: Pollination, Conservation, Invasive species, Outreach, Insects as Medical Models, Biocontrol, Plant-Insect Interactions, Aquatic, Decomposition, Multiple Ecosystem Services and an open session.

'Ento15' included a wide range of interesting presentations focused on services provided by insects in both agro-ecosystems and surrounding natural landscapes. The topic of pollination was dominant throughout day one, introduced firstly with two plenary addresses given by Dave Goulson (Sussex University) 'Global threats to insect pollination services' and Alexandra-Maria Klein (University of Freiburg) 'Biodiversity and pollination services'. Talks that followed addressed effects of pesticide usage (neonicotinoids in particular), organic farming, climate change on pollinator distribution and bee diseases. Predominantly all focused on bees as pollinators with one exception; a talk given by a student Callum McGregor (University of Hull) on the effects of light pollution on moth pollination services.

Biological control and pest management was the focus of day two, introduced by four studies from diverse geographical locations; Jan Bengtsson (Uppsala, Sweden) 'Biological control in a landscape perspective', Sarina Macfadyen (CSIRO, Australia) 'Temporal patterns in plant growth and pest populations across agricultural landscapes in Australia', Charles Midega (ICIPE, Kenya) Companion cropping for sustainable pest management: experiences from East Africa) and Jerry Cross (East Malling Research, UK) 'Arthropod ecosystem services in apple orchards and their economic benefits'. Most talks in this session covered the subject of enhancement of biocontrol in agroecosystems, but included an interesting overview on 'The potential and perils of weed biocontrol' (Richard Shaw, CABI, UK) which covered the limitations and possibilities of using an insect herbivore *Aphalara itadori* to control invasive Japanese Knotweed.

The final day of the meeting was dedicated to decomposition and the importance of insects in decomposition in dead and dying wood (Micheal Ulyshen, USDA Forest service), aquatic filtration (Craig Macadam and Jenni Stockan, Buglife Stirling and James Hutton Institute) and soil and animal waste management (Sarah Beynon, Dr. Beynon's Bug Farm, and Thomas Bolger, University College Dublin).

The main aim of attending this meeting was to find out more about current studies that investigate how landscape structure influences insect biodiversity and therefore the provision of ecosystem services such as pollination and pest control, in order to develop my recent trips; survey work undertaken in chalk grassland and traditional meadows earlier this year. I am very grateful to the Kew Guild for the financial contribution which enabled me to attend this event and to connect with several scientists in UK and New Zealand, with whom further discussions have since taken place on possible areas of collaborative research.

## **A Field Trip to Study the Orchids of Cambodia**

by Christopher Ryan

In May 2015 I undertook a field trip to Cambodia with André Schuiteman, Research Leader (Asia Team) in the Herbarium at Kew. This was our second field trip to the country and the main aim of this trip was to continue building a partnership with the Cambodian Forestry Administration (CFA) to further increase the knowledge and understanding of the diversity of orchid species growing in Cambodia.

The orchid flora of Cambodia is not well documented. With just over two hundred species officially recorded for the country, this is thought to be under half of the actual number of species that are to be found there. As on our previous trip in November 2013, an agreement was made between Kew and the CFA which allowed for orchid specimens to be collected and brought back to Kew, where they can be grown on and flower to enable their accurate identification and documentation.

The timing of the trip coincided with the end of the dry season, which meant that it was noticeably hotter and dustier on arrival in Phnom Penh, compared to our previous visit, with temperatures reaching close to 40°C in the city. Our first few days were spent in Phnom Penh to make final arrangements for the field trip with our counterpart in the CFA, Dr Omaliss Keo, Director of the Department of Wildlife and Biodiversity. Our destination for the trip was to be Mondulkiri Province in the north east of the country. Based in the provincial town of Sen Monorom, we would be able to explore the dry semi-deciduous forest habitats of the elevated plateau that are found along the border with Vietnam. This would be in contrast to our previous trip which was to the wetter evergreen forests found in the lower slopes of the Cardamom Mountains in the west of the country. During this trip we would be accompanied by guide and translator, Ms. Sikouen Nay, from the CFA Phnom Penh office and driver Ms. Sreynak Att who both knew the region having previously worked on conservation projects based in Mondulkiri Province.

Sen Monorom was reached after a long day's drive from Phnom Penh, at first travelling across the lowland plain with its intense heat and landscape of dry rice paddies, dotted with Cambodia's ubiquitous Sugar Palm, *Borassus flabellifer*, which were clearly waiting for the rainy season to begin. We then passed through the vast rubber plantations of the Kampong Province and through towns and villages where the roadsides were adorned with tarpaulins lined out and covered with peppercorns drying in the sun. Passing through the Snoul Wildlife Sanctuary the increasing demand for agricultural land could be seen with areas of forest being actively cleared and burnt. We continued into the adjoining Siema Biodiversity Conservation Area (SBCA) where the forest appeared to be much less disturbed. With a quick stop at the SBCA headquarters to make arrangements to visit later in the week we continued on to Sen Monorom, arriving in the early evening.

Sen Monorom is at an elevation of just over 800 metres above sea level, situated on a plateau that ranges from around 700 to 950 metres above sea level. The plateau consists of large expanses of open grassland with isolated areas of forest remaining. Surrounding

this plateau are large areas of forest that form part of the Central Indochina Dry Forest, which covers the adjoining areas in Vietnam and is possibly the largest protected area complex in Southeast Asia ([www.wwf.panda.org](http://www.wwf.panda.org)). Staying on the outskirts of town enabled us to visit a range of dry deciduous and semi-deciduous forest habitats, along with the areas of forest that still remain at higher elevations around the region's waterfalls. In total we spent six days based here: one day spent surveying remnant forest patches within a few kilometres of the town; two days to the east of the town, including the Bousra Waterfalls; a day two hours' drive north of the town in the central Mondulkiri Protected Forest; a day to the south east around Dok Dam close to the Vietnam border; and a day to the south west in the SBCA. Whilst we found there to be a lower abundance of orchids in these localities in comparison to the Cardamom Mountains, it is thought that a similar number of species will be represented in the plants collected and recorded from this trip. Because of the timing of this trip it was expected to see more species in flower than when we visited the Cardamom Mountains and this proved to be the case. Epiphytic species seen in flower included *Cymbidium aloifolium* and *Smitinandia micrantha*, both of which are well known and widely distributed through the region; also *Dendrobium delacourii* which is one of the species targeted by collectors for the medicinal trade; and showy terrestrials like *Eulophia spectabilis* and *Eulophia flava*, the latter being a species previously unrecorded for Cambodia, despite it being highly conspicuous and known to be distributed from the Western Himalaya through to China.

With the need to apply for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) export permits from the Cambodian Authority on completion of our field work, and that these be issued before we could finalise our application to the UK authority to receive the required CITES import permits, we returned to Phnom Penh. With the experience gained from our previous trip, we had planned an itinerary that meant André would remain in Phnom Penh to arrange the Cambodian export paperwork, whilst I returned to the UK to arrange and collect the UK import paperwork before meeting André at the airport when he arrived with the plants.

Whilst back in Phnom Penh and before my departure back to the UK we arranged a day trip to Bokor National Park, a location that we had heard was very good for orchids and that we were also able to collect plants from. Accompanied by our guide and driver we left early in the morning for the three hour drive south towards the coast. On arrival at the base of Mount Bokor, we paid the toll that is levied to travel along the road to the top of the mountain, where a large hotel and tourist resort has been built in the national park overlooking the coast. After a long climb to the top of the mountain to around 1000 metres above sea level, we continued past the tourist car parks to the end of the road where we then continued along a track on foot into the forest. Straight away we started to find a wide range of orchid species adjacent to the track, including *Dendrobium intricatum* in bloom with pink flowers within metres of entering the forest. We spent the rest of the day surveying three sites on the mountain: the forest at the top; an open area dominated by shrubs on sand with outcrops of rock, where *Nepenthes bokorensis* was seen growing; and in the forest along the roadside as we descended the mountain at the end of the day.

On my return to London the CITES permits were processed and André returned to the UK with the collected specimens five days after my return. The plants are now growing in the Quarantine House to comply with Plant Health Regulations before they can be released into the Living Collections at Kew. As plants come into flower during their time in quarantine, herbarium vouchers and photographic records will be taken to enable identification and recording of the species collected. Of the 43 species that have currently flowered from the plants collected on our previous trip, almost 50% have proved to be new records for Cambodia with one new species. It is hoped that similar results will be gained from the collections made on this trip and with the first two species flowering in

the Quarantine House already proving to be new records for Cambodia, the successes of this collaboration continues. It is hoped that further trips will be made to continue this collaboration with the Cambodian Forestry Administration and to further increase knowledge of the Cambodian orchid flora.

## Field Studies Council Aquatics Course at Kindrogan, Perthshire

26th June to 3rd July

by Joanna Walmisley



Kindrogan House

My arrival at the Field Studies Council (FSC) centre at Kindrogan, Perthshire, in Scotland on the evening of Friday 26th June, marked the start of a busy week studying British aquatic plants.

Kindrogan House, an early 19th Century building that was originally part of the estate owned by the Robertson and Reid families, was purchased by the Scottish Field Studies Association in 1963. The centre nestles at the foot of Kindrogan Hill (185 metres) at Enochdhu. The River Ardlie forms a

boundary to the east of the house and an old curling pond lies beside the driveway to West Lodge.

The nine participants on the course comprised a mixture of professional aquatic ecologists, amateur botanists and myself, a botanical horticulturalist Wakehurst Place. Our tutor was Nick Stewart, a renowned professional botanist who is also the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland's (BSBI) referee for charophytes.

The following six days, between 9am and 10pm, were spent both out in the field (weather permitting which mostly it did) and study in the lab, with illustrated lectures and detailed, often microscopic, examination of plant material.

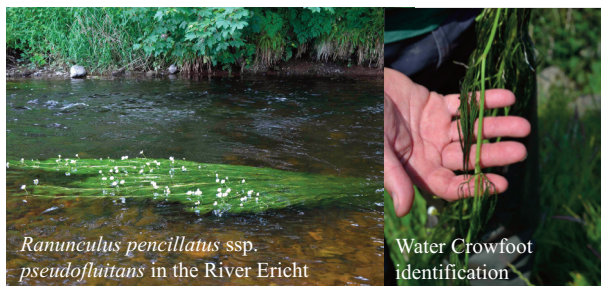
On the first morning, we visited the former curling pond at Kindrogan to look at an evolving hydrosere, where vegetation was encroaching. In the water, we saw two pondweed species: *Potamogeton natans* and *Potamogeton polygonifolius* - the latter being particularly indicative of acidic conditions. Later, we visited Loch Drumore where underlying limestone bedrock gives rise to different suites of species. In the evening, we were instructed in the finer details for distinguishing species. The second day was devoted to charophytes and the third looked specifically at *Utricularia* spp. These were growing in backwater pools at Kinardochy Loch; we also found the diminutive *Sparganium natans*.

On Tuesday, we compared survey techniques for assessing aquatic plant species diversity. To this end, two groups carried out perimeter surveys of Fingask Loch to a depth of 75cm, while the third rowed out, using grapnels to investigate deeper water. Wednesday was devoted to Water Crowfoots - the white-flowered water buttercups - of which there are several similar-looking species. To identify these, flowers are compulsory, although comparative length of leaves to internodes is a guide. Later, there was a section concentrating on Water Starworts-*Callitriche* spp. Again, this is a difficult group to identify to species level. Happily the necessary fruit and

Course participants at Loch Moraid







pollen were in abundance for us to examine.

On the last day, we visited the amazing freshwater shingle communities of Ballinluig Island, where there is an extraordinary assemblage of plants that have been washed downriver from the mountains. Our final visit was to an upland

loch, Loch Moraid near Blair Atholl, which contained some rarer charophytes, including *Chara rudis*.

This course offered me the opportunity for a most intensive period of study which was both stimulating and rewarding. I look forward to using the knowledge gained at Wakehurst, with particular reference to the aquatic parterre beside the Millennium Seedbank and I would like to thank the Kew Guild for their generosity in enabling my attendance on the course.

## Educational Discoveries from Horticulture in US Botanic Gardens

by Katriina Rautala

Whilst studying at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Diploma in Horticulture Course 49 (2011 to 2014), I became increasingly interested in horticultural education. In the spring of 2015, I had a great opportunity to visit botanic gardens in United States to learn about their educational activities.

BGCI Education Conference in Missouri Botanical Garden (26th April to 1st May)



Conference delegates learning about environmental education possibilities on a field trip in Missouri Botanical Garden's Shaw Nature Reserve

The Missouri Botanical Garden hosted the 9th BGCI International Congress on Education in Botanic Gardens, in St. Louis Missouri, which I attended. Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) is a plant conservation charity founded in 1987 in England. It is a membership organisation, working with over 800 botanic gardens in over 118 countries. BGCI forms the world's largest plant conservation network and emphasises environmental education. Founded in 1859, the Missouri Botanical Garden is one of the oldest botanic

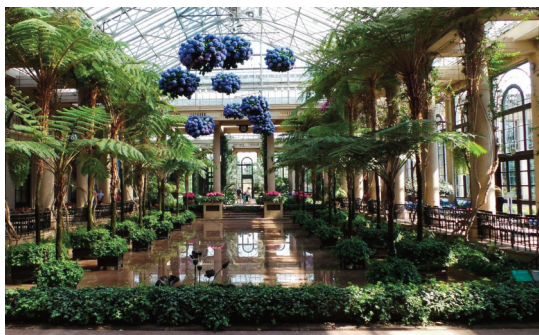
institutions in the United States and a centre for botanic research and science education, with 32 hectares of high standard horticultural display.

The theme of BGCI's Education Congress in Missouri Botanical Garden was Biodiversity for a Better World: Wild Ideas Worth Sharing. Biodiversity loss is becoming a core priority for botanic gardens. The Congress provided botanic garden educators an opportunity to think creatively about reframing biodiversity in ways that are relevant to people's lives, to connect and learn from others, and strengthen the impact together. Featuring a wide-



ranging programme of plenary keynote addresses, interactive sessions, workshops and special events, it attracted a diversity of over 300 attendees from over 40 different countries worldwide.

### Longwood Gardens (2nd to 6th May)



Water feature in Longwood Garden Conservatory

gardens within 1.8 hectares of heated greenhouses that I became familiar with during my visit, kindly arranged by Dr. Brian Trader, Coordinator of Domestic and International Studies and Interim Director of Longwood Graduate Programme. I also learnt about their educational programmes including the two year school of professional horticulture and internships. The garden also hosts hundreds of horticultural and performing art events each year: flower shows, gardening demonstrations, courses, children's programmes, concerts, musical theatre, fountain shows and a Christmas light display.

Longwood Gardens consists of over 4.2 kilometres square of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania. It was originally a working farm, where an arboretum was planted in 1798. Industrialist Pierre S. du Pont purchased the property in 1906 to save the arboretum from being sold for lumber, and made it his private estate.

Today Longwood Gardens consists of 20 outdoor gardens and 20 indoor

### New York Botanical Garden (8th May)

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is a national landmark located in the Bronx, New York City. The Garden was established in 1891 and it covers over 100 hectares. The Pfizer Plant Research Laboratory, Steere Herbarium and Mertz Library are situated here.

NYBG School of Professional Horticulture Manager, Eric Lieberman, gave me a fantastic tour around the garden facilities; which contains 50 different gardens and plant collections, including a very impressive native plant garden, tropical conservatory, rock garden, wetlands and 20 hectares of original, never logged New York forest. I also visited behind the scenes propagation facilities, and learnt about their horticultural education programmes.



NYBG horticulturist planting for the Frida Kahlo Art Garden Life Exhibition

The study trip provided me with a valuable experience not only in horticultural education, but in all education sectors, provided by the Botanic Gardens. Priority should be placed on how to creatively utilise the different resources found in botanic gardens for great variety of educational purposes. Focus should be placed on how to best equip staff to help to achieve this. I want to thank the Kew Guild for their funding and all the Botanic Gardens and their staff, for welcoming me, and providing me such a great insight to the different activities in their gardens.

## The World Palms Symposium in Montenegro, Colombia

22nd to 26th June  
by Lauren Gardiner



Registrants standing under one of the tallest palms in the world, *Ceroxylon quindiuense* (49.2 metres), Cocora Valley, Salento, Colombia

Every five years, the international palm science community meets for a major scientific conference; an important opportunity for collaboration, networking, and dissemination of research and ideas. This year, the meeting took place in Colombia, one of the world's hotspots for palm diversity and a centre of a huge amount of exciting palm research. I am extremely grateful to the Kew Guild, as funding from their awards scheme enabled me to purchase return flights from London to Bogota, and additional funding from Kew and the Bentham-Moxon Trust covered the rest of the cost of my attendance at the conference.

Long time collaborators or colleagues at Kew, Rodrigo Bernal and Gloria Galeano were the main organisers of the meeting, held in collaboration with the National University of Colombia, University of Aarhus, Quindio Botanical Garden, and the French IRD and CIRAD institutes.

The conference has already gone down in palm history as a hard one to beat, with effusive and warm Colombian hospitality, good humour, excellent coffee, and plenty of extraordinary palms. Based in a relaxed hotel with its own conference hall and facilities, all registrants stayed on site, allowing conversations about palms, science, and conservation, to continue long into the night after dinner and continue at breakfast the next morning. Four days of lectures included plenaries from Kew's Bill Baker, Wolf Eiserhardt, and John Dransfield, and my own on our current project to document wild palms in Madagascar using the online citizen science site iNaturalist with the Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre team and Kew's Steve Bachman.

On the fifth day of the conference we travelled in traditional Colombian open sided buses to visit the beautiful Quindio Botanical Garden. This comprises 15 hectares of sub Andean forest, with approximately 850 native plant species, including the National Collection of Palms in their own special route through the valleys and ridges of the garden. The garden has a large and very popular Mariposario (butterfly house), but a real highlight was the

Peach palm *Bactris gasipaes* fruit being served with salt and honey at the Quindio Botanical Garden.

*Attalea butyracea* covered in bees, at Finca Guadualito, near Montenegro, Colombia



world's only ethnobotanical museum devoted to palm uses around the world – and outside, the opportunity to try the much loved South American palm fruit of *Bactris gasipaes*, known as peach palm.

Even more spectacular was the post conference trip the following day, where we travelled in open Jeeps to see the huge stands of emblematic Andean Quindio wax palms (*Ceroxylon quindiuense*) the area is famous for, in the Cocora Valley and Toche area. These are the highest growing palms in the world (3500 metres above sea level), as well as the tallest (51 metres) and an

official conference photograph was taken of the registrants standing at the base of the tallest we could get to (49.2 metres).

After the conference I was lucky enough to spend two days at Rodrigo's finca 'Guadualito', with several other palm colleagues, surrounded by his own private palmetum, including a fruiting *Raphia farinifera* and flowering *Attalea butyracea* covered in hundreds of frenziedly buzzing bees and giving off a sickly sweet odour – audible and able to be smelt from several metres below, at ground level.

## **Programming for Bioinformatics – Leipzig, Germany**

March–April  
by Olwen M. Grace

Advances in DNA sequencing and –omics technologies have revolutionised the study of evolution in plants. The corollary of this revolution is that unprecedented volumes of data must be processed and analysed to fully explore and interpret their significance. Computational skills to handle these large datasets are now essential for researchers in evolutionary biology. I recently attended the course Programming for Evolutionary Biology in Leipzig, Germany, with support from the Kew Guild, to update my knowledge of best practice in the field.

The course was hosted by the Bioinformatics Department of Leipzig University. Classes were held in the new mathematics building, an iconic converted church with soaring glass façade. The hushed ground floor reading room for University scholars contrasted markedly with the lively atmosphere of the computer lab, where some 30 students plus teachers and teaching assistants discussed the practicalities of processing and analysing genomic data. Lunch breaks and evenings allowed participants to explore Leipzig – a city with an interesting historical legacy for classical music and, more recently, political change – and enjoy the first signs of the European spring.

The data gathering process starts with extracting DNA or RNA from the tissues of the organisms of interest. In my case, these are succulent plants from the world's arid regions. I study their evolutionary histories and systematic relationships using methods based on DNA sequence data. DNA molecules make up the genetic material inherited by each generation of offspring, and therefore offer the most useful information about evolution currently available to biologists. Traditionally, Sanger sequencing generated data that could be processed, analysed and interpreted using a well-established series of programmes run from a single computer. In recent years, this approach has been superseded by alternative technologies that apply more sophisticated engineering and biochemistry to retrieve very large volumes of DNA sequence data. The study of evolution using –omics approaches therefore requires new tools and greater computational power. The Programming for Evolutionary Biology curriculum covered the essentials: five computer languages and numerous programmes for a range of analyses, from statistics and data presentation, to genome assembly, phylogenetics and population genetics.

These are all applicable to my research on the evolution of the world's succulent plants: by studying patterns in the DNA sequences of succulent plants, I am able to draw conclusions about when and how these remarkable arid-adapted plants evolved. The bigger picture that interests me is how these plants may respond to environmental change and how they could be relevant to people living in hotter, drier places expected with climate change. I am looking forward to applying new approaches to these questions and experimenting with the bioinformatics tools I learned about in Leipzig.

## Travel Scholarship to Madagascar

24th May to 12th June

by Paul Eguia

I joined a Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC) team working alongside a Millennium Seed Bank project (MSB) and Sillot National des Graines Forestieres (SNGF) mixed team.

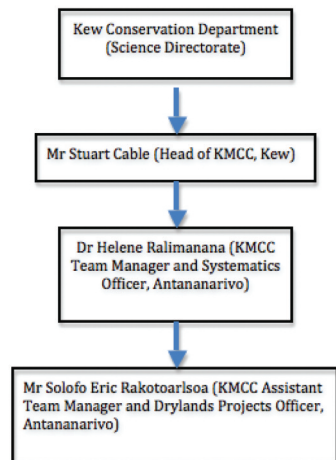
The KMCC in collaboration with the SNGF is involved in many conservation and restoration programmes such as native orchids reintroduction and habitat protection or reforestation of land using native tree species. The KMCC and the SNGF also have education programmes for the population and are in close relations with the local communities to introduce them to the importance of Madagascan biodiversity and preserving it. The local populations are involved and financially rewarded for their help in restoration and conservation projects. The members of staff for the KMCC and SNGF teams in charge of the projects have received secondary education in various fields such as botany or pedology; they have also been trained in plant identification at the Herbarium at Kew and in seed collection and storage techniques at Wakehurst. The Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza (PBZT) in Antananarivo is another Kew partner in Madagascar; they are involved in research programmes, conservation and education. KMCC staff chart:

The expedition was led by Mr Solofo Eric Rakotoarisoa; Mr Mamy Andriamahay was responsible for the MSB/SNGF team under Solofo supervision.

The goal for this expedition was to collect seeds from plants bearing ripe fruits at that time of the year, which could not be collected in previous trips. Along with the seeds, a lot of data about the plants was collected: GPS location, habitat and plant communities, pictures and herbarium specimens. Half of the seeds were banked in Madagascar by the SNGF following MSB protocols, the other half was sent to the MSB at Wakehurst in the UK. Those banked seeds are part of a conservation project of the planet plants biodiversity, Madagascar being one of the biodiversity hot-spots on Earth and is considered a priority for the Millennium Seed Bank project.



The expedition team, L to R: Philibert, Mamy, Radol, Paul, Victor, Solofo ©RBG Kew



©RBG Kew

The MSB project is part of the Kew Science directorate and is partially funded by the government as well as Kew. The SNGF is a Madagascan government funded body and also receives MSB financial support and training. As well as seed collecting and storing, the SNGF has a restoration mission; selling native plants for reforestation to companies with restoration programmes or to Madagascan citizens willing to preserve their native flora.





*Baobab* forest in the south west coastal region  
©RBG Kew

During this expedition the team achieved 46 opportunistic collections in the South West quarter of the island. The climate in this area is classed as dry tropics with various habitats and plant communities. The expedition left Antananarivo on the 27th of May. The team travelled south for two days and reached its first stop on the 29th through the Hauts Plateaux (Highlands) of Madagascar, which are intensely cultivated for rice and are a good example of the extent of deforestation and loss of habitat in the country due to human activity.

The southern limit of the Hauts Plateaux has been preserved because of its lack of water which makes the cultivation of rice difficult, and for that reason the team could explore dry forests and collect many species of seeds from such habitats. For four days the expedition camped in a bush village and collected seeds from the surrounding area. On 1st June the team headed south to Toliara where they prepared for the next part of the trip along the Southwest coast.

The following week was spent travelling along coastal habitats collecting available seeds from any species of interest noticed by Solofo. During this second part of the expedition, the team stayed in cheap hotels in small villages. During this week the expedition went through mangroves, spiny forests, *Baobab* forests, and *Euphorbia* forests amongst other plant formations. This region is rich in habitats and different species because of the nature of the soils that go from acidic and clay to alkaline, limestone or sand.

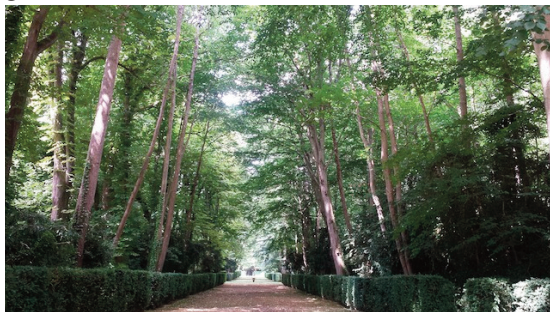
## Exploring the ‘Frenchness’ of Wrest Park

July 2015

by Sheila Das

Wrest Park in Bedfordshire is easily one of the UK’s best kept secrets. 95 acres of historic landscape nestle quietly between Luton and Bedford. In that context, perhaps not the place where you might expect to find a perfect portrait of more than 300 years of European garden history. I have had the good fortune to find myself working as a garden manager at Wrest and wanted to discover more about what might have influenced the development of this fascinating garden.

The present mansion at Wrest, built in 1834, has a very obvious French influence and the gardens, laid out at the same time, as well as the earlier 18th Century landscape, have



Shades of Wrest at Chateau de Courances

clearly been inspired by the French formal tradition. Or so I thought.

I began my trip at Bagatelle, Paris, famed for its roses and ‘horticultural curiosities’ it perhaps reflects more of the English tradition in vogue in the early 19th Century in France than what I was searching for. To find true French formality I visited three great gardens designed by Andre le Nôtre. Vaux le Vicomte was Le Nôtre’s first great project; Versailles arguably his

most famous, and Parc de Sceaux a fine example of all of his hallmark techniques. Le Nôtre famously said “The eye creates the perspective, the stroll brings it alive,” and this is evident in all three of these gardens. However, whilst perspective plays its part at Wrest Park, Le Notre’s techniques are possibly less evident in other ways.

Whilst at Versailles I was treated to a behind the scenes look at the Trianon gardens with three of its team leaders, before getting to see inside the vast Orangery (empty at this time of year) which was closed off for a private event. There is no question that Versailles is impressive, but with six million visitors a year I didn’t find it an easy garden to be in.

To the south of central Paris, about 20 minutes’ drive from the town of Melun, I visited Chateau de Courances. The contrast with the other gardens that I had seen was enormous. Only open at weekends, and with a family still in residence who have owned it since 1872, Courances is a renaissance water garden of the 16th Century. 14 pools fed by 17 springs pepper the garden with reflection and structure. It is said that this garden inspired Le Nôtre but its formality has been softened in recent years as the gravel paths have been removed. This was for economic reasons, as in this organically run garden, maintaining paths can be the most labour intensive and costly part of looking after formal gardens on this scale. At Courances this has resulted in a softer feel and the garden has an air of ‘Englishness’ about it in that respect. It is possibly for this reason that I felt a closer connection between it and Wrest than any of the other gardens I visited. There are other parallels too. Accidents of history have left both gardens with woodland panels that have been left to grow out and contrast with the formal structure of the garden layout.

Since returning to Wrest, I have welcomed the estate manager from Courances to the garden and it seems that there could be stronger connections involving shared influences than either of us had realised while I was in France. I certainly began a fascinating journey this year and very much hope to continue researching the influences for Wrest and its European cousins into the future.

## **American Public Gardens Association Annual Conference 2015 ‘Watering Our Roots to Grow Our Communities’ by Sophie Walwin**

Of a public garden, author Dr. Donald Rakow states it should strive to be “a mission based institution that maintains collections of plants for the purpose of education, conservation and science”. This was the common theme running through the programme of talks, seminars and tours at the American Public Gardens annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June of this year. I attended the conference to learn more about public garden development in the United States and to find inspiration, especially regarding community engagement within gardens.

Before the official start of the conference I joined a tour for a series of visits to vegetation reserves outside Minneapolis. The Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden, the Schaeffer Prairie reserve and two wetland reserves, Spring Peeper Meadow and Seminary Fen, one of the State managed sites. It was great to see such well-preserved and maintained conservation areas just a few miles outside of Minneapolis.

Of the talks, one of the best was from the education, marketing and interpretation team from Pennsylvania’s world renowned Longwood Gardens. They presented a lecture about the development of their historic Meadow site and the interpretation that was specially designed to work in harmony with that environment, using natural materials and botanical reliefs to engage visitors. The sensitivity towards the existing meadow and its careful development was really inspiring. Another session, ‘Growing and nurturing a plant





Sunken Garden, Majorie McNeely Conservatory

conservation programme, from roots to shoots' was a fascinating series of short presentations from small to large botanical institutions; Atlanta Botanic Garden and Montgomery Botanical Center to name just two. Methods and principles for building and expanding programmes were discussed and debated. There seemed to be a common emphasis on the importance of local community involvement in conservation. Using long term local volunteers to help with vegetation surveying, observation and research achieved good results.

During the week there were tours each day; green public spaces in the city, extraordinary private gardens in the suburbs, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Como Park Zoo and Marjorie McNeely Conservatory. The latter was of particular interest to me as I work at Chester Zoo as a Horticulturist. Como Park Zoo has a strong emphasis on plants, the zoo itself green with award-winning gardens, mature trees and naturalistic enclosures. The Marjorie McNeely Conservatory at the entrance to the Zoo is made up of nine gardens, one house being a large aviary, another an impressive fern house, but the highlight was the Sunken Garden with its formal design and striking seasonal floral display.

The conference experience provided plenty of ideas and lots to dwell on regarding my interests in public engagement within gardens. Issues such as how to interpret displays, increase interest in plant conservation, and collaborate with local communities towards this aim. Discussions during the conference raised a big question about why further education in the fields of plant science and horticulture among young people is decreasing. Hearing about programmes such as the Science Career Continuum at Chicago Botanic Garden, encouraging secondary school students into plant sciences via free summer schools and paid internships, is heartening progress. These are all matters that I will continue to consider and actively work towards improving throughout my career. Many thanks to The Kew Guild for supporting this trip and my professional development.

## Plant Hunting in Baja California

by Wesley Shaw



In 2013 Andrew Gdaniec (Curator of The Alameda Botanic Garden in Gibraltar) and I travelled to the Sonoran Desert to study cacti and succulents. However, we felt our study was incomplete so we returned in 2014 and continued our exploration of the desert by crossing the border into Mexico.

Baja California extends 1,247 kilometres from Mexicali in the north to Cabo San Lucas in the south. It ranges from 40 kilometres at its narrowest to 320 kilometres at its widest point. This strip of land has great plant diversity, with habitats ranging from Mediterranean, desert and tropical. It also has a varied range of succulents including many endemic cacti.

Our aims for the trip were to see plants in habitat including species of *Echinocereus*, *Ferocactus* and *Pachycereus*, along with a host of strange looking succulents and other species of cacti. We also wanted to study growing conditions and

produce a good photographic record of what we saw. We had two weeks available for the trip – which began and ended in Phoenix, Arizona – so we planned our itinerary around the GPS locations of the species that we wanted to see. On arrival in Phoenix, we hired a 4x4 vehicle, bought supplies and then crossed through to the border town of Mexicali.

Highlights of the trip included visiting the landscape known locally as the Boulder Garden, near the town of Catavina. The area comprises hills and valleys of smooth, rounded rocks, ranging in size from marble-sized to boulders the size of buildings, with rocks shaped by the wind, blowing like airborne sandpaper across the desert for millions of years.

Soil is scarce here, and weird vegetation often appears to be growing right out of the rocks, such as the giant cardón, the world's largest cactus which reaches more than sixty feet tall. It is also home to the Boojum tree which is a strange succulent that is often described as a giant carrot growing upside down, with its root sticking up to fifty feet in the air. It has a trunk and leaves, but no branches until it is at least a hundred years old, when the trunk divides into two or more whip-like tops. A fifty year old specimen might be a foot thick at its base, and less than five feet tall which makes it one of the slowest growing plants in the world. At the rate of a foot every ten years, a mature fifty-footer may be more than 500 years old.

The palm oasis town of San Ignacio was incredible. It has a population of under one thousand and is a valley of *Washingtonia* palms supported by a large spring-fed pond and small river - a bizarre sight to come across in the middle of a desert. In the winter you can go to the coast and see Grey whales, as they use the area as a winter stop off point. Andrew and I were lucky to spend a day whale watching as a brief respite from plant hunting.

We really wanted to find the rare cactus *Echinocereus lindsayi*, but we didn't have GPS coordinates for this, just a very basic set of directions that we really didn't think would be much use. Luckily we spotted one in flower form from the car, which led us to a tiny community of plants. In the end we found something like 10-12 plants which, although not great, was an achievement to find them, and in flower.

I am incredibly grateful to The Kew Guild for their contribution to funding this trip. It was an incredible experience visiting a country I had never been to before and seeing the most amazing desert plants - thank you!

## **The Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship** by Allan Hart

This is the tenth 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 Fellowships are restricted to 25 at any one time.

The 2015 nomination goes to Raymond Evison, a nurseryman and author, renowned for the introduction and promotion of over 100 *Clematis* species and cultivars.

## **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
2015:	Raymond Evison

### **Raymond Evison OBE, VMH**

Raymond Evison is a nurseryman, lecturer, author and photographer. Born in 1944, he began his horticultural career at the age of fifteen in Shropshire and moved to the island of Guernsey in 1984 to establish the Guernsey Clematis Nursery. Since then he has introduced more than 100 Clematis species and cultivars. The nursery specialises in the production of young plants which are distributed world wide to wholesale and retail outlets. Raymond has recently concentrated on producing compact ornamental cultivars, more suitable for small gardens. Publications include 'Making the most of Clematis' (1977). 'The Gardener's Guide to Growing Clematis' (1998), 'Clematis for Everyone' (2000) and 'Clematis for Small Spaces' (2007).

Raymond has been involved with the National Council for Conservation of Plants and Gardens, and the International Plant Propagators Society. International President and a founder member of the International Clematis Society in 1984 - President 1989-91 and now Honorary Fellow. He is President of the Guernsey Botanical Trust and is spearheading the restoration of a Victorian walled kitchen garden. His photographs of local wild flowers have been reproduced on Guernsey postage stamps. Guernsey Post celebrated Raymond's 25th gold medal for Clematis displays at RHS Chelsea Show with a set of six stamps, each illustrating a cultivar; exhibited in 2013.

The RHS Victoria Medal of Honour was awarded to Raymond in 1995 for outstanding service to British Horticulture, followed in 2000 with an OBE for services to Horticulture in Guernsey. The RHS Reginald Cory Memorial Cup was awarded in 2004 for his far-reaching work in breeding and developing new Clematis cultivars.

## **News of Honorary Fellows**

### **Derek Edwards**

It is very sad to report that in spite of a brave struggle over many years, Parkinsons Disease has finally overcome Derek's resistance and he is now under full time care at a local nursing home. The Guild sends best wishes to Derek and his family in these difficult times.

### **Roy Lancaster**

Roy reports that 2015 was a very busy year - most of which has been spent in the research and writing of a new book with another deadline for the end of January 2016!

### **John Melmoe**

Continuing with providing solutions to challenging projects, 2015 saw Willerby Landscapes Limited complete the installation of the BALI 2015 Principal Award Winning Sky Garden, London's highest public garden on the 37th floor at 20 Fenchurch Street, and commence work at Royal Hospital Chelsea re-instating a 17th Century garden, and starting work on the NW Cambridge Development Project. On the Kings Cross Development, London, a vibrant new city quarter is being carefully molded, encompassing 26 acres of parks, squares and open spaces. We continue to be busy with the Developer, Argent, creating a number of parks and green roof installations and are just putting the finishing touches to Handyside Park south. Cubitt Park and most recently Gasholder Park opened to the public and is now a place to relax and take in the view over the canal and Camley Street Natural Park. The climax of the year was being appointed as the Planting Contractor for the prestigious Garden Bridge scheme. Willerby Landscapes have been working diligently behind the scenes with Dan Pearson and the Garden Bridge Trust with tree and plant selections along with community engagement support. We worked with the Trust on its 'London Loves the Garden Bridge' campaign in 2015 and this year will see us continuing to work towards the day we start to install the garden in the summer of 2018.

### **Tim Smit**

My year has been frantic with both The Lost Gardens of Heligan and Eden enjoying their best years for nearly a decade. Eden has contracted to build in Qingdao in China and is also exploring sites in British Columbia, New Zealand, Australia and in Africa. Our ambition is to have one on every inhabited continent in the world by 2020. The issue that most excites me is starting apprenticeships and Foundation degrees at Eden, Heligan and on Tresco. We want to champion horticulture and agronomy and protect us from the destruction of value caused by the ignorance of government and the major institutions. This last year saw the end of Botany degrees in Universities. Plant Sciences as a part of Natural Sciences is what remains. How ironic that China views us as the plant capital of the world and totally crucial in the battle to create food safety and food security at just the time when the profession is losing the will to live. If the computer world were to collapse there would sadly be millions unemployed, if the horticultural and agronomic world were to collapse, hundreds of millions of people will die. Our profession needs to say this very loudly and not hide away mutely accepting what is happening.

### **Ed Wolf**

Ed is enjoying his 'retirement' which gives him and his wife Brita the opportunity to travel to exotic lands to enjoy one of their passions - tropical plants. Another passion is classical music which they promote with soirées at their apartment in Amsterdam. Pottery is still a major interest and many examples of works by Alison Britton have been loaned to her retrospective exhibition currently displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Ed still keeps a fatherly eye on Indoor Garden Design and was particularly pleased with the company winning a Gold Medal and Best in Show at Chelsea Flower Show 2015. Good to know that his high standards are being upheld!

### **Dennis McGlade**

The big event in 2015 for Dennis McGlade, partner at OLIN, landscape architects in Philadelphia and Los Angeles, was the October opening of his project for the Grace Farms Foundation. Grace Farms, a former 75-acre horse farm, was transformed by OLIN into a spiritual and community retreat in New Canaan, Connecticut. The project, a collaboration that began in 2010 by OLIN and internationally renowned architects SANAA from Tokyo,





Japan, celebrates the beauty of nature through landscape and creates a welcoming environment that fosters relationships, wellness, and reflection. This innovative, non-profit facility is dedicated to serving both the local community of New Canaan and the Grace Farms Foundation. The design for Grace Farms is inspired by the site's historically pastoral character. OLIN and SANAA's design approach was to touch the land as lightly as possible while incorporating a diverse set of programs and amenities to serve New Canaan's need for public space. SANAA's sinuous building evokes the image of a river, its windowed façade and low profile helping it to blend harmoniously with OLIN's landscape. Drives, walks and trails and gathering

spaces within the landscape were designed to embody a range of characters, from a cultivated town village to agrarian fields and managed woodland. The landscape evokes a sense of warmth, elegance, and authenticity—all defining a positive atmosphere and an engaging experience for visitors and neighbours of Grace Farms. Dennis continues to work on landscape and urban design projects, including projects that began in previous years in Houston and Los Angeles. More recently he has begun a new mixed use, residential and retail project in south Boston and a landscape master plan for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington DC. In October, Joan and Allan Hart went to Philadelphia and from there went with Dennis on an auto tour of northern California to visit some of the cultural and magnificent natural landscape in that part of the state.

### Anna Pavord

January saw Anna in the Caribbean escaping the winter weather and looking at gardens, with an excellent new one on St. Vincent, called 'Montreal' - made by an Englishman - Timothy Vaughan, whom she thinks was trained at Kew. At the beginning of May, time was spent in France, near to Cahors, taking the opportunity to visit the Cevennes, where there were stupendous wild Orchids and huge spreads of *Anemone pulsatilla*. The autumn - September and October - was fondly remembered as being spent gardening at Sunnyside Farm - a blissful time after a long period working on a new book 'Landskipping' to be published by Bloomsbury and released in January 2016. Most of November was spent in New Zealand giving a series of talks at a garden festival in Blenheim, visiting some terrific gardens and drinking some excellent wine! The Sauvignon Blanc and Pinot Noir were exceptional. Anna reports that by early December there had been no frost in Loscombe and marigolds were still in flower.

### Niall Kirkwood

This last year I have been involved in design and planning for the 2016 International Horticultural Exposition in Tangshan, Hebei Province, China. The Exhibition theme is 'City and Nature' and I am designing a project titled, Phyto Garden: A New Paradise - the Renewal of Damaged and Polluted City Land with the Power and Work of Plants: Science, Horticulture and Design for People, Nature and Beauty. The Garden portrays the power and ability of



plants to extract, sequester and destroy industrial pollution commonly found in soils and groundwater. Visitors to the Garden can walk through a series of rooms that focus on the major toxins and see the range and beauty of horticultural species 'special properties' that allow them to transform contaminated urban land and provide a more sustainable choice for land planning and neighbourhoods. They can also be used to help buffer the non-contaminated site, where the risk of pollution could be possible, create fuel as biomass renewable energy and participate in ensuring food crop safety. I intend to show how plants in the Garden can be more than decoration and that they can assist cities, towns and districts in a productive way to make the environment safe for all citizens. The project will be completed and open to the public in April 2016. The Horticultural Exposition organisers expect ten million visitors to visit.

### Shirley Sherwood



Shirley has been awarded the great honour of having a new species of the family Zingiberaceae named after her. A painting of *Globba sherwoodiana* W.J. Kress and V. Gowda sp.nov. was presented to Dr. Sherwood in appreciation of her services as a member of the Advisory Board, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution 2003 to 2012. A botanical illustration of the plant can be seen in the photograph of the presentation (31st March 2015) from Allan Hart to Dr. Sherwood, left, recognising her appointment as an Honorary Fellow of the Guild.

### Professor Adil Güner

2015 marked the 20th year since Nihat Gökyiğit signed the protocol 'to green the area' around the motorway intersection in Istanbul following the environmental devastation caused by the road construction. In 2002, this became the Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanik Bahçesi (NGBB). We are fortunate that even in his 90th year Nihat continues to finance the



Garden and his interest and enthusiasm is undiminished. He visits the Garden almost daily taking an active interest in developing seven hectares of the largest Island, which opened to the public on November 7th. The photo, taken from the top of one of many high-rise apartment blocks under construction, gives the impression that the area is flat, but the steeply sloping sides, (facing roughly north and south), gave scope for some imaginative landscaping opportunities. The northern shaded slopes are planted with *Rhododendrons*, *Abies nordmanniana* and *Picea orientalis* whereas on the southern slopes there are mediterranean species including olive trees. Another car park gives visitors access to the new area and the rest of the Garden can be seen to the left of the photo. We held a workshop meeting in the new Lecture Hall and colleagues from Berlin, Edinburgh and nearby Batumi Botanical Garden, Georgia joined us. Two events held at The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh took me to the UK in October. The first commemorated 50 years since Volume 1 of the first 'Flora of Turkey' was published. Secondly, for the book launch of 82 water-



colour paintings 'Plants from the woods and forests of Chile'. Almost all the paintings were by three young Turkish artists, (including my daughter), originally trained by Christabel King, from Kew. Subsequently all three artists have been teaching botanical art in Turkey and now many of these students are preparing the illustrations for the new Illustrated Flora. Work on Volumes 2 and 3 of this continues apace with NGBB the Istanbul hub for editorial meetings and the gazebo providing a studio where the artists can work. The new glasshouse complex now provides good propagation facilities and different growing environments. A nursery area alongside provides space for native species collected during the year for the Expo exhibition to be held next year in Antalya.

### Graham Ross



L to R: Malcolm Turnbull, Kate Grace, Graham Ross, Tim Entwistle, and other Board Members at the rear.

Graham has had his usual very active year in TV, Radio and Tourism promoting ornamental horticulture all over Australia and once again won the National TV Logie Award for the 8th consecutive year for the Best Lifestyle programme presenting the Gardening segment on Better Homes and Gardens. His most astounding achievement through the year was to launch the Australian Garden Council (AGC) at Parliament House Canberra in the presence of Malcolm Turnbull the Prime Minister of Australia. The new Board contains four Kewites including past President Jim Mitchell, the former Director of Horticulture at Kew, Tim Entwistle; a short term intern student Kate Grace, and Graham as the founding member of AGC. One of the many

aims of the AGC is to attract inbound tourists to Australia through international garden tourism events and be part of the 300 million world wide garden tourist industry. AGC will also focus on improving and encouraging training, increasing the recognition and improving the status of ornamental horticulture in the community.

### Peter Thoday

Partial retirement gives time to meet old colleagues and reflect on the state of British horticulture. I guess it's ok for old 'hortics' to bemoan the loss of so much government funded research and development, the demise of university departments of horticulture and, nearer to home, the demands being made on all Botanic Gardens. But there are bright spots. A visit to Ball Colegrave trial grounds proved that neither the breeders nor the cultivators of seasonal colour have lost their skill. Contemporary technology is producing better than ever uniform high quality crops on large scale holdings and nurseries and the horticulture in most historic and botanic gardens seems to get better and better with the standard of excellence set at West Dean by two old Kewites Sarah Wain and Jim Buckland. Such places provide the professional underpinning of the huge interest in amateur gardening and hence some very good new gardens. Apart from visiting, chatting and the odd consultancy, my year has been taken up with writing. When doing two earlier books I often had Kew students in mind, people who would be happy readers, provided one mentioned plants on every page! This time the target readership are landscape architecture students so I cannot expect them all to have either an insatiable interest in anything infused with chlorophyll or a good understanding of the workings of the plant kingdom. So it is back to basics - now where was I - ah yes remember green side up.

## The George Brown Memorial Award Susyn Andrews by Allan Hart



Susyn with David Hardman  
© David Hardman

Susyn Andrews is a very energetic, professional and self-motivated horticultural taxonomist with over forty years experience in the identification and naming of plants.

Susyn was educated at Rathnew, County Wicklow, Ireland, where she was head-girl, before being accepted as a student at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, graduating with a First Class Honours in Amenity Horticulture and a Silver Medal awarded by the Irish Department of Horticulture. Further training was undertaken at J.Timm and Co. Pflanzen-Kolle and Johann Bruns Nurseries in Germany and the Hillier Arboretum and Nursery.

Following periods as a Consultant Garden Advisor 1975 to 1976 in Dublin and Syon Park she joined the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew as an Assistant Scientific Officer, being promoted to the Senior position in the Herbarium, before leaving in 2003 to set up her own practice as a Consultant Horticultural Taxonomist.

Susyn's expertise, particularly with the study of Lavander and Holly, has been recognised by the Holly Society of America; Wolf Fenton Award 1991 and Shiu-Yung Hu Award 2004, Honorary Research Associate, RBG and the Veitch Memorial Medal, RHS in 2012.

Susyn has been a stalwart member of the Awards Scheme Committee since 2001, where her knowledge and expertise in the various conservation protocols has been of tremendous benefit. She was instrumental in producing the guidelines incorporated into the Award Scheme application form. It has been a real privilege to witness her dedication and professionalism and strong will to achieve the rigour of selection for the grants. Susyn is an outstanding member and a great communicator and ambassador. The George Brown Memorial Award is given as a just recognition of her achievements.

## Kew News: 2015

**'Kew And You' is the new weekly newsletter produced by and for Kew's volunteers and also available for staff. Volunteer Editor Amanda Le Poer-Trench has kindly agreed to allow the Guild to publish excerpts, which will undoubtedly be of great interest to Kewites around the world. All copyright belongs to RBG Kew.**

### January

The Director, Richard Deverell, announced that the Government had confirmed an additional £2.3 million of funding for RBG Kew for the next financial year.

Philip Turvil was appointed to the post of Grow Wild Programme Manager. He has a first class degree in Horticulture and a Masters in Management.

## **February**

**Broad Walk:** Estates Project Manager Tom Cullen reported that his section would be undertaking a programme of drainage and resurfacing works along the Broad Walk starting from 11th February. This time next year, 24,000 plants will create a stunning horticultural vista. Richard Deverell stated that they “will be the longest (and I hope most spectacular) herbaceous borders in the world. I understand they are also the first major investment in horticulture at Kew since the completion of the Princess of Wales Conservatory in July 1987 – that’s 28 years.”

**Executive Board Priorities for 2015: Richard Deverell’s Blog:** I wanted to let you know what each member of the Executive Board at Kew will be focusing on this year. The note below summarises, for each person, his or her top priorities for 2015. I hope you find it useful and that you feel these priorities make sense given the challenges and opportunities we face. I also know from the staff survey that many of you crave greater clarity on our overall direction and priorities. I hope this list helps.

There is a single objective that each of us on the Board wanted to highlight as a shared goal – one where we felt it was important we made demonstrable progress this year. It is to make a step change in the quality and impact of our science communication in the gardens: aim for ‘science in every transaction’. We alighted upon this because each of us wants to see Kew’s science and conservation brought to life for our visitors far more vividly at both sites. We want to ensure that no one could visit, or engage with RBG Kew through our media, education or outreach, without learning something about plant or fungal biodiversity and why understanding and conserving this diversity matters.

We have a wonderful opportunity here – one that, to me, is the very heart of the purpose of a botanic garden in the 21st Century. We will be developing plans for this objective in the coming weeks. In addition, I am going to focus on four priorities this year. I will outline the rationale for each of them briefly.

Secure sustainable financial health: In one sense this remains the most important challenge for Kew. I say this because unless we have financial health, all our other ambitions lack credibility. Last year we made a series of changes to reduce significantly our costs. Although these were painful, they were successful. We have met our cost reduction targets. This year, our focus will be on continuing to grow income. Particular opportunities include the establishment of the Kew Innovation Unit as a commercial subsidiary; the continued growth of visitor income and visitor-related income, licensing and science grant income. The Foundation is also working on early plans for their new fund-raising campaign, a vital source of funds for RBG Kew.

Develop and communicate the overall narrative for RBG Kew: Each of us needs a simple and compelling narrative for RBG Kew that explains what we do, why it matters and what we are aiming to deliver over the next few years. Only by communicating this with confidence, conviction (and, when necessary, repetition) will we build a broad understanding of the organisation and our distinctive contribution. Too often we are muddled up with the RHS or even the National Trust. So, the task is to ensure all our various audiences – including of course all the staff, students and volunteers at Kew, but also our visitors, members and the new Government – have a very clear, credible and exciting narrative for Kew. Feedback from last year’s staff survey was robustly honest that currently this is missing. We will address this gap this year.

Develop our people: This was another very clear theme from the staff survey. This year we must ensure that we agree a new pay and reward offer for all staff in ‘core’ Kew (i.e.

excluding Foundation and Enterprises where different contracts apply). We also need to strengthen career development wherever possible including more effective appraisals and better opportunities for personal development. Finally, we need to conclude the work started last year on behaviours and values – and to ensure these are consistently applied throughout the organisation.

Settle the new structures and establish effective leadership: Last year saw a great deal of difficult change. In many areas we have introduced wholly new structures. I need to ensure that these are working effectively, that we have great leadership and that we take any sensible steps to address gaps or problems that arise. We need to settle things down and get the organisation working smoothly.'

Divisional priorities for the Exec Board:

Richard Barley – Horticulture at Kew

Deliver key elements of the Broad Walk Borders to ensure completion by June 2016

Complete concept planning for Children's Garden

Develop and activate a new 12-month fee-paying course for the School of Horticulture

Develop the living collections plan for whole of Horticulture

Implement general horticultural improvements across the Kew site including Camellia Walk, Azalea Garden, Rose Garden and refreshment of public displays in glasshouses

Andy Jackson – Wakehurst

Help create and then start to deliver the development plan for Wakehurst

Deliver successful 50th anniversary celebrations of Kew at Wakehurst

Kathy Willis – Science

Launch and establish Kew's new science strategy

Establish and re-launch the Kew Innovation Unit

Welcome the new cohort of students to the new MSc in plant and fungal taxonomy

Publish the first 'State of the World's Plants' report in September

Hold the first two-day annual Kew Science and Policy symposium

Jill McLaughlin – Corporate Services

Complete the implementation of Agresso

Deliver a new people strategy including revised pay and reward

Develop and start to implement the 'Estates 2020' strategy

Develop and start to implement a new IT strategy for Kew

Co-ordinate the delivery of a revised five-year funding plan for Kew

Michael Murphy – Foundation

Prepare a full analysis of the Breathing Planet campaign and develop new fundraising targets

Maximise operating budget relief for Kew and unrestricted and lightly restricted income

Review the Foundation's CRM system and propose replacement strategy

Steward the recent major bequest and make recommendations for use of this asset

Monique Simmonds – KIU

Successfully transition the KIU to a new commercial structure and leadership

David Cope – Strategy and External Affairs

Finalise RBG Kew's corporate strategy to 2020 and roll out our narrative of why Kew matters and our definition of success

Improve Government engagement as part of a new approach to stakeholder management

Achieve a beneficial result for RBG Kew from the post-election period  
 Improve internal communications  
 Strengthen internal governance

Gay Coley – Public Programmes

Complete the Public Programmes Strategy (including refreshed interpretation, catering and retail strategies) to support Kew as the leading Botanic Garden

Implement the 2014 brand work and develop and agree the brand platform for the visitor destinations

Continue to develop the master plan for the onsite visitor experience and agree ways to increase public access to our collections

Deliver a visitor programme for 2015-16 and the next five years that increases visitor numbers and revenue and brings greater prominence to science in the gardens

Complete the implementation of the ticketing and CRM system and work with Foundation on increasing membership sales.

## **March**

**Horticulture Plan 2015 to 2017 Published:** The new plan sets out Kew's horticultural ambitions for the next three years. The seven aims in the plan include the conservation and care of the living collections and enhancing the horticultural quality of the Kew site as an internationally renowned garden and World Heritage Site and a leading visitor attraction, as well as the highest quality education and training, aimed at developing and supporting the next generation of horticultural talent.

Over the next three years the Horticulture Plan will, among other things, work on the horticultural components of the Temperate House Precinct Project, renovate and replant the Camellia Walk and redesign the Azalea Garden. The 'Kew on a Plate' garden, which was featured in the new series on BBC2, will also be maintained and enhanced.

Work on the plan is already underway. Path resurfacing, drainage and hard landscaping for the Broad Walk borders has started and the tenders for the main plant order will be evaluated. Planting should begin in autumn 2015 and be completed by the end of June 2016. The planting design was produced by the new Garden Design and Collection Support section and has been reviewed by well-known garden designer Andy Sturgeon. This section is also working on concepts for a new Children's Garden at Kew. Both projects have been funded through the Kew Foundation. Further information can be accessed via Kewnet: <https://kewnet.kew.org/about-kew/horticulture-plan-2015-2017>

**Climate Change Round the Table at Kew:** On Thursday 12th March 2015, experts gathered at Kew to discuss how the UK can use its world-leading climate and adaptation expertise to help countries successfully tackle climate change. Launching the programme, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change Ed Davey hosted a round table with representatives from government departments and some of the UK's leading organisations in the field of climate services. Professor Kathy Willis was at the table representing Kew.

**Kew Scientist Honoured by RHS for *Narcissus* Research:** Jodrell Scientist Dr Peter Brandham has been awarded the Peter Barr Memorial Cup at a ceremony in the RHS Lindley Hall in recognition of his work on the chromosomal evolution of *Narcissus* in cultivation.

**Mayor of London visits Kew Gardens:** Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, visited Kew Gardens on 16th March, donning waders to lend a hand tending to young water lilies and lotus plants in the Princess of Wales Conservatory pond.



**Kew Plant Finders Fair:** The Kew Plant Finders Fair took place on 24th to 26th April. The fair is a first for Kew and will bring together Hero Growers, fantastic providers of Garden paraphernalia and craft demonstrators.

## **April**

**Celebrating Kew's Volunteers:** As part of its commitment to supporting and promoting active citizenship, Kew recognises the vitally important contribution of volunteers to its work and community. Kew has a record of involving volunteers since 1992 and there are currently 612 supporting Kew's work in a wide range of settings (137 at Wakehurst Place and 475 at Kew). Volunteers are a vital and integral part of the organisation, who donate a range of diverse talents and skills including horticultural support, guiding, and support to its schools and families programmes and science department.

Last financial year, volunteers donated in excess of 100,000 hours to the mission. Although this equates to a value of over £1.4 million that the organisation would have had to spend on an equivalent contribution of staff time, more important still is all the qualitative data and feedback received concerning the way they enrich the community with their commitment, skills, enthusiasm and energy. In addition, last year Kew benefitted from the valuable contribution made by 75 Honorary Research Associates and 28 Research Fellows.

One of the key quantitative indicators of volunteers' value to the organisation is the 'Volunteer Investment and Value Audit' (VIVA Ratio), which demonstrates that for every £1 Kew invests in the volunteering programme, it receives over £10 in return – a 'return' figure that has more than doubled in the last five years. Kew retains more than four fifths of its volunteer task force year on year with a retention rate of 88% last year. Indeed 28 volunteers have regularly supported Kew with their precious gifts of time and talent for over 20 years! Kew also promotes environmental volunteering by hosting 'Employee Volunteering Days' for the corporate sector. Last year 379 people undertook corporate volunteering within the horticultural teams over 22 days. Kew celebrates and thanks them all for their sterling contribution to its mission.

**A New Logo for RBG Kew:** So why have we developed a new logo for Kew? It is the first time we have used the new logo for RBG Kew – and this new logo will replace the current logo, colloquially known as 'Kev'. What we call a logo, brand and marketing people refer to as a visual identity. It is an important manifestation of the organisation's brand and should say something powerful and consistent about the organisation. It should be handled with care and only rarely changed.

So why are abandoning 'Kev'? Well, it was starting to feel rather dated having been introduced in 2004. We also have a second logo, the roundel with the crown, used for retail which has no link with 'Kev' and thus appears to be an unrelated and competing brand. We were also keen to develop an identity that could be used more prominently and confidently – yet would sit comfortably alongside our old logo so that the transition between the two did not feel too clunky. Finally, 'Kev' has never been popular with staff.

For all these reasons we have worked with a design agency, Pentagram, to refresh 'Kev' and they have produced this far more contemporary, and I think elegant logo. It is more flexible in size and placement and will appear much more boldly on our communications

– at the heart of our visuals – conveying confidence in our organisation.

Royal Botanic Gardens  
**Kew**

This new logo will be rolled out across Kew and Wakehurst over the next two years. I am determined that on both sites we are disciplined

and ensure that this logo – and only this logo – is used. We need to end the current jumble of many different versions (some dating back decades) being visible. At Wakehurst we want to weld ‘RBG Kew’ more tightly to ‘Wakehurst’. This is because we know from visitor feedback that the link with Kew is incredibly important in communicating the distinctive botanical and scientific role of Wakehurst (including the MSB).

This new logo should be available to use from May when the brand guidelines are finalised. I am delighted by the new design. To me it is a classic interpretation of Kew without the affectation of the leaves and yet it conveys ‘Kew’ prominently, simply and confidently. It supports Wakehurst extremely well and can be applied to retail and other uses with ease. In short it is a really intelligent and effective solution. And, in case you were wondering, Pentagram did all the design work for us for less than £10,000. They are big fans of RBG Kew and wanted to support us. Richard Deverell.

**Tulips for Liberators Flower Mosaic Unveiled at Kew Gardens:** Named ‘Flags of Liberty’, the mosaic depicts the Dutch and British flags. It commemorates the liberation of the Netherlands in 1944-45 by British and other Allied forces. The Dutch ambassador, Laetitia van den Assum, presented Major (Rtd) Kenneth Mayhew with a bunch of Liberation Tulips as a symbolic thank you to all liberators. Major Mayhew is the oldest living holder of the Military Willems-Ordem (Military William Order) the Dutch equivalent of the Victoria Cross. Other veterans, including a group of Chelsea Pensioners from the Royal Hospital Chelsea, also received a Liberation Tulip. You can see the mosaic near the Palm House, at the end of the Broad walk. *(See also the front cover of Kew Guild Journal!)*

**Andy Jackson - Some Personal Reflections: Richard Deverell's blog:** Andy is stepping down after 35 years at RBG Kew, 30 of which were spent at Wakehurst, 12 of which were spent leading Wakehurst. I have the greatest respect and affection for Andy. I shall miss working with him deeply. I sincerely hope that he and I shall continue to walk the paths together at Wakehurst for decades to come. (Andy was awarded an MBE for services to Conservation in the Queen's Birthday Honours.)

**Michael Murphy Leaving Kew:** Michael Murphy has accepted the job of Chief Development Officer at the US National Academy of Sciences and has therefore resigned as CEO of the Kew Foundation. This is a really wonderful opportunity for Michael. It also, of course, enables him and Karen to return to the US to be closer to their families after 12 years living in Europe. He leaves a wonderful legacy: £103 million raised in five years. Every part of RBG Kew has benefited from this amazing achievement. Furthermore he leaves a really outstanding team with a great sense of confidence and optimism that, with colleagues across Kew, they can yet achieve so much more.

## **June**

**Dragons Set to Return to the Pagoda:** Built in 1762, at the height of the eighteenth century craze for Chinoiserie, the Great Pagoda was famously adorned with eighty brightly coloured wooden dragons. These dragons are just one element of the two-year restoration project to return the Pagoda to all its glory. Offering one of the earliest and finest bird's eye views of London, the Pagoda is expected to re-open to the public in 2017.

**WiFi Project Update and Connecting to our Free Public WiFi:** IT's roll out of WiFi across Kew is continuing over the coming months. The upgrade across both sites offers visitors the chance to access the web by using the separate Kew-Visitors network.

**Exclusive Early Access for Members to Kew Gardens: Richard Deverell's blog:** From

1st July 2015 we will be opening Kew from 8am on weekdays for members. The reason for providing exclusive access is that we want to strengthen the benefits of membership. This is a pilot running until September 2015 but if it proves successful we would like to open early for Members on a more regular basis. Initially we are opening only Victoria Gate (to keep costs to a minimum). The Victoria Gate café will also be opening from 8am. We currently have about 77,000 members at Kew Gardens but we believe we can grow this significantly. Membership is already one of our most important sources of unrestricted income; last year we earned £4.2 million from Membership at Kew Gardens. We can grow this significantly but succeeding will require us to strengthen and extend the appeal of membership. I also believe it will require us to consider pricing and, to an extent, repositioning membership of Kew towards supporting Kew's vital science and conservation work as well as providing access to the gardens.

**Kathy Willis Awarded Michael Faraday Prize: Richard Deverell's blog:** I am delighted to let you know that Prof Kathy Willis has been awarded the Michael Faraday Prize and Lecture from the Royal Society for her excellent work in science communication.

## **September**

**Kew Literary Festival:** In 2015 Kew launched its first ever literary festival with more than 70 events covering all genres, from fiction to science, children's literature to cookery. From Thursday 24th to Monday 28th September, they welcomed a fantastic lineup of authors who spoke in six venues across the Gardens. Events included authors Ella Woodward, Jacqueline Wilson, Louis de Bernieres, Max Hastings, Michael Morpurgo, Michael Mosley, Richard Mabey, Simon Armitage, Carol Klein, James Wong, Thomas Pakenham, Sir Paul Nurse, Oliver Morton, Melvin Bragg, Dan Cruickshank, Claire Tomalin, Michael Frayn, Tracy Chevalier, and Lauren Child. Find out more at: [www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/write-on-kew](http://www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens/whats-on/write-on-kew)

**Gay Coley Leaving Kew:** Gay Coley, Director of Public Programmes, will be leaving Kew to lead the development of a start-up project that brings together her passion for education, the natural world and sustainable community development. During her two years at Kew, Gay has made a tremendous difference across all the areas for which she is responsible. She has brought a far sharper focus on understanding and serving our visitors and a wonderful spirit of ambition to raise our game and engage more intelligently with all of those who interact with RBG Kew. A great example is the Intoxication Festival last year. We also have a brilliantly refreshed corporate identity, improved commercial performance, significant growth in day-paying visitors and an ambitious future programme of events and festivals. She has also been a great advocate for innovation. Examples here include the new literary festival 'Write on Kew', the Kew Lates last summer and the hugely successful Christmas at Kew. More personally, I have really enjoyed working with Gay and have learned a great deal from her. I admire hugely her can-do spirit, her enthusiasm and creative energy. She has been a powerful advocate for RBG Kew externally and has brought good humour and a positive approach to even the most difficult tasks. I shall miss working with her. Gay will be joining a major new Public Education project, which is in the early stages of development and commercially confidential at the moment. Discussions are underway on the future leadership of Public Programmes. We will be arranging a suitable moment to say goodbye and thank you for all that she has achieved during her time with us. Gay would like me to pass on this message to you all: "It has been a difficult decision to decide to leave, but a compelling opportunity presented itself to lead the development of an exciting new project which resonates with me on both a personal and professional level. It has been an honour and a privilege to play a part in unlocking the wonderful potential that this remarkable institution has to lead the way in engaging the public in the importance of plants to all of our lives."

**Broad Walk Project Update:** The Broad Walk borders irrigation works started on site. The main contractor, Waterscapes, started work on Monday 7th September 2015. The first section they worked on was at the Orangery end of the Broadwalk and they then continued along the borders; the irrigation work was expected to be completed by 9th October.

**Professor David Simpson Retirement:** After nearly 35 years at Kew, Professor David Simpson retired on Friday 2nd October.

**Launching Kew's New MSc:** Kew welcomed the first intake of students for the new MSc in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy, Diversity and Conservation that is run with Queen Mary, University of London. A reception was held for the new students and other new staff joining Kew Science in the Jodrell labs. There are currently nine MSc students with a further two arriving early next week. There is a great geographic diversity with Canada, France, New Zealand, England and Ethiopia, amongst other countries, represented amongst this first intake. The Rugby World Cup was therefore inevitably a subject of some debate. These students will go on to be part of a powerful global network of Kew alumni – this is an incredibly important community and asset for Kew. It was inspiring to hear what had motivated them to apply to study at Kew. A desire to learn, a love of plants and an ambition to conserve floral and fungal diversity shone through.

Kew Science has taken the MSc from concept to delivery in less than a year. The idea has been developed, the course organised, the facilities built (thank you Estates), some scholarships have been funded (thank you Foundation) all within 12 months. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects incredibly well on all who have worked so hard to make this happen. Developing and inspiring the next generation of plant and fungal scientists is one of our most important tasks. The reception marked an important step towards this aspiration.

**Planting starts on Broad Walk borders:** Work on the longest double herbaceous borders in the UK is underway, with the Horticultural team (including some of our Horticultural volunteers) planting species including *Crocasmia*, *Kniphofia* and *Agapanthus*, some of the plants saved from last year's Broad Walk planting for Plantasia. The planting is due to finish in early June with the official opening planned for early July 2016.

## October

**How Kew's Science Strategy will make an impact:** The Science Strategy was published at the start of 2015. In setting the scientific direction, the guiding thought was to ensure that it was focused on science that would make a real and lasting impact on critical challenges and contribute to the UK's position globally. This blog has also been published on Kew's public website and the Campaign for Science and Engineering website. <https://kewnet.kew.org/news/blogs/sowing-seeds-science-our-future>

**Marianne North the Movie...is finally underway!** 'I promised when I gave up guiding to keep you all informed of progress with the proposed documentary on the life and work of Marianne North. Little did I realise at the time that it would take almost three and a half years to set up and, even now, we have yet to persuade a UK broadcaster to schedule the production. But we are optimistic, once the film has been completed, that a UK slot will be offered next spring. And, hopefully, that will be on BBC4 where Marianne's story really belongs. In the meantime we have secured US finance to ensure distribution in the States, and elsewhere, so cross your fingers. Rest assured, DVDs will be on sale in the shop and a special showing of the film will be arranged for the guides, whatever happens.' Jack Andrews

## **November**

**Collaboration Agreement with Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute Signed at Kew:** A new memorandum of collaboration between Kew and one of its major national partners in Ethiopia was signed on Monday. Dr Gemedo Dalle, Director of the Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute (EBI), on his first visit to Kew, was given a tour of the herbarium and heard an up-to-date status of some of the Natural Capital projects in Ethiopia before taking a brief tour of the gardens. EBI will be Kew's major partner for seed collection and research. Three EBI staff are currently receiving training in seed conservation techniques and undertaking germination research for their MSc programmes.

**Temperate House Restoration Progress:** Great progress is being made on the restoration of the Temperate House. This is a hugely complex and expensive endeavour involving £37 million of investment over a five year period to restore fully this magnificent Grade 1 listed Victorian glasshouse. The Kew team and the contractors are making good progress and are on track to have all the construction work completed by spring 2017 leaving a year to complete the landscaping and planting for it to reopen in spring 2018.

## **Kew Guild Update from Richard Deverell, Kew's Director**

The last 12 months at RBG Kew have been incredibly busy, sometimes untenably, but we made tremendous progress in many different areas and now that we are into 2016 I can look back and see that this hard work represented important building blocks for our future. Without that groundwork, we would not have the Science Strategy, positive indications as to our settlement from government (though details to be confirmed) and world class attractions in the pipeline such as the Hive and the Broad Walk borders. I have been constantly inspired by the commitment and dedication of staff to overcome difficulties and deliver significant achievements. As a result we have accomplished a considerable amount over the past 12 months and I end the year full of optimism.

We have made amazing progress with our Science Strategy – the publication of which back in February was, for me, the most important moment in the year. We have also established a number of very important agreements that will greatly enhance our ability to bank 25% of the world's seeds by 2020, and have signed 17 new international research agreements since April 2015. We will also be launching our State of the World's Plants report in May 2016 which is a major milestone.

Our gardens and landscape (plants and buildings) look better presented and far smarter at both sites with some notable highlights – for example the new children's area at Wakehurst, the rose garden and commencing the Broad Walk borders at Kew. This has been echoed in a steady growth in visitor numbers, particularly at Wakehurst. Our events team have excelled, building on previous successes (e.g. Glow Wild and Christmas at Kew), improving financial performance (e.g. Kew the Music) and innovating – for example, our first literature festival – Write on Kew. I am pleased to report that in many respects we have exceeded expectations. The changes that we have introduced to develop our Marketing and Commercial activities will enable us to build on this success as we look forward to an exciting programme of activity for 2016-17 onwards.

The Foundation concluded the £100 million fund-raising campaign and, since then, have remarkably secured circa £7 million in pledges from private individuals to support Kew's science. That is an extraordinary vote of confidence in the quality of our scientists and fund-raisers.



It is tremendously exciting to see the great work underway to restore the Temperate House and to know that very soon the Pagoda will undergo its own comprehensive restoration. Alongside this we are also about to embark on a significant programme of redevelopment with the first phase of improvements to visitor facilities being taken forward which will see the creation of the Family Landscape area incorporating the Children's Garden and re-development of White Peaks. This will be followed (subject to planning permission and funding) by subsequent tranches that will see the redevelopment of the Pavilion to improve our catering facilities at the Southern end of the Gardens and the development of education facilities and interpretation and other enhancements to bring the 'science' into the gardens.

Another key priority for the year was to set our finances on a stable footing with the aim of increasing the level of funding we generate ourselves, particularly admission income which we can use for any purpose as well as donations which are often for a specific purpose. We have also made a step-change in our relationships with Defra and Government more widely. Among the many meetings and visits, we had the opportunity to host Elizabeth Truss, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, and I met with Jo Johnson, Minister of State for Universities and Science. This was also the year in which – for the first time ever – we published a comprehensive budget for all parts of Kew, available to all. This is symbolic of the many improvements in underlying systems, processes and business information across RBG Kew.

We have a new management team in place at Wakehurst and other senior staff changes have brought fresh approaches at Kew. The creation of Horticulture, Learning and Operations, and Marketing and Commercial Directorates following re-organisation of the public programmes functions leads to a more coherent and strategic approach to our visitors offer, and the re-structured Executive Board meetings have been a more effective weekly forum for decision-making. A fresh approach has also been taken with the articulation of our values and the conversations that these have engendered across the organisation. I was humbled by the dedication, commitment and values demonstrated by staff and volunteers nominated for the William Aiton Medal and Marsh Trust Awards this year.

The development of our corporate strategy, and within it the key priorities and initiatives that will help achieve our long term ambitions, is a major step forward and provides a platform for us to achieve a step change in engagement activity that will help influence perceptions about the value of Kew. There have been numerous other successes which we should celebrate. This selection is far from comprehensive but it does convey the brilliant work done throughout the many departments and different activities across Kew. To me, the theme that unifies all of this is 'ambition'. RBG Kew is raising its game and each of us has played an important role in this. I am full of confidence that 2016 will bring tremendous success for Kew. I hope that Guild members share my sense of pride and achievement at all that we have done.

## **2015: A Review of the Wakehurst Year** **A Year of Change** by David Hardman

This year has seen a number of retirements of long-serving staff in the Gardens and the Millennium Seed Bank which has necessitated new appointments to Wakehurst senior management team. Additionally the new Science Directorate has seen changes to the staffing structures in the Millennium Seed Bank linked to those at the Kew site.

Wakehurst Director Andy Jackson, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list, retired in May after 31 years at Kew, including 25 years at Wakehurst Place, where he was in charge for 12 years. In November, Tony Sweeney was appointed as the new Director of Wakehurst; he will drive a new development plan for Wakehurst's future aimed at enhancing visitors' interaction with the wild landscape and plants of Wakehurst and the conservation work of the Millennium Seed Bank. Ed Ikin, previously Head Gardener at Nymans, was appointed as Head of Landscape and Horticulture to lead the Gardens.

Members meet for AGM at Wakehurst: Members of the Guild were provided with guided tours of the gardens in the morning and 'behind the scenes' in the Seed Bank in the afternoon following the Annual General Meeting which was held in the Millennium Seed Bank Seminar Room. The garden tour focused on the top parts of the garden and through the water gardens, which all looked fabulous. The facilities in the Seed Bank proved immensely valuable enabling the detailed agenda of business matters to be completed successfully. The tour was incredibly interesting and emphasised the complexities from collection in the field to the process to store them in the bank.

Since the last AGM members encountered the new car park charging arrangements at Wakehurst but all agreed that the visit was worthwhile and there are reasonable options available to offset this charge even as a National Trust member. These charges were mentioned in my last report (2014) and since then the number of people visiting nearly halved with visitor numbers over the financial year in 2013-14 reaching 315,000 then fell to 180,000 in 2014-15 after the introduction of parking fees in April 2014. The decision was taken at the highest levels by the National Trust and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to introduce the £10 daily parking fee for National Trust members who made up 80% of Wakehurst visitors and came in to assist funding streams because the site had a £1.4 million deficit and running costs of £2.2 million.

A year on from introducing the new business model visitor figures are steadily growing. The spring and Easter periods were highly successful and the summer event, the Wild Wood Weekend, saw a 160% uplift in visitors against the same bank holiday weekend in 2014. Direct income from visitors has grown by almost 50% and annual membership has grown by 450%. These results are hugely positive and indicate that the decision to introduce the changes at Wakehurst will pay off in the longer term and allow Kew to continue investing in Wakehurst.

50 Years of Kew at Wakehurst: This year marked the golden jubilee of Kew's management of the Wakehurst estate. Much has been achieved, from the Millennium Seed Bank project and the creation of the Loder Valley and Francis Rose Nature Reserves to the introduction of the Visitor Centre, the Seed café and Stables restaurant. Wakehurst has become a world class visitor attraction.

As part of Wakehurst's celebrations, from 26 June to 23 December '50 Years of Kew at Wakehurst' showed a selection of photographs of Wakehurst taken over the last 50 years about the garden's history and how things have changed were on display in the Millennium Seed Bank.

Celebrating Wakehurst's golden anniversary the exhibition explored the history of Wakehurst as it transformed from a Plantsman's estate and agricultural farmland to the world renowned Botanic Garden now under the care and management of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. On viewing the display it was possible to discover the stories of Wakehurst and its people, examine never before publicly seen photographs of the gardens, and explore the images, artefacts and plants from Wakehurst's past.

Trails and Events: From 6 February 2015 to 31 December it was possible to take the Bark Challenge and get to know eight North American trees with brilliant bark by downloading a new Discover Kew app. This was available free from App Store and offered visitors the opportunity to be part of a ground breaking iBeacon technology pilot. The new mobile phone led Brilliant Bark Trail was available during garden opening hours.

Scythe and Cider Festival: For the annual two day family festival show-casing traditional rural crafts and artisan produce Wakehurst Place teamed up with Fantastic British Food Festivals to host the Festival on 18th and 19th July. With the sun shining and the meadow grasses high this rural idyll was the perfect setting for a weekend of high-summer entertainment with all the charm of an English country fayre.

The festival show cased a variety of local food and drink producers so that visitors could enjoy sauces, preserves and chutneys, bakers, artisan cheese-makers, wines and ciders, fruit and vegetables, fudge and produce from around the world including Spain, Vietnam, Italy, India, Germany and the Mediterranean. The food and drink theatre featured cookery and fascinating talks from local cider producers and experts on scything. Visitors were also treated to live folk music, rural crafts, birds of prey demonstrations and Morris dancing.

Glow Wild Winter Lantern Festival: This was a wonderful after-dark experience to follow the family lantern trail through the beautiful garden and to marvel at the UK's tallest living Christmas tree. The winding and whispering trail of Wakehurst's historic landscape and Mansion were brought to life with thousands of lights and handmade lanterns. Along the way the tree canopies had an amazing array of seed-inspired lanterns, crafted by local school children. The trail itself took up to an hour and a half to stroll round.

In addition to the trail there were lantern decorating activities for children in the Mansion, Festive food treats such as mince pies, stollen, Christmas cake, cookies and mulled wine along with hearty hot meals were available for all.

Weather matters: Of the last 14 years up to 2014 so far 13 have been the warmest years recorded and 2015 is likely to add to this group. The Conference of the Parties on Climate Change held in Paris in December has produced some amazing agreements to reduce carbon emissions which will be beneficial to reducing the increase in global warming. Only time will tell how well the many governments will deliver their own parts to this agreement.

Referring to Table 1 the Wakehurst totals shown indicate that the year was certainly drier than last year and that there were some significant days at Wakehurst especially 30th June and 1st July with high maximum temperatures. Elsewhere throughout the UK some high temperature records have been broken and as I write this report December is proving to be very mild with daffodils in flower. The consequences of recent storms in the Lake District and the Appleby area which brought severe flooding on several occasions over a few weeks in November and December was of great concern nationally. In conclusion the Wakehurst weather has again been much milder than normal this year and the chance of snow on Christmas day is unlikely.

Another year ends for Wakehurst and so, as a new team takes charge and prepares to lead it forward into 2016, I wish them well.

**Wakehurst Place Weather 2015** (2014 in shown in *italics*)

<b>2015</b>		<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Totals by Calendar year</b>
<b>Month's total rainfall (mm)</b>		116.2	86.1	20.3	17.1	87.3	27.4	54.8	108.4	67.3	70.1	96.7	113.6	865.3
Compare to 2014		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
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		83.1	119.8	85.5	18.6	26.7	58.2	14.3	120.7	58.4	117.5	85.0	67.0	854.8
2009		123.0	70.5	47.7	43.0	65.1	21.1	81.6	40.2	27.1	74.5	230.1	136.3	960.2
2008		129.5	28.6	112.7	74.0	93.0	47.2	99.2	95.5	74.4	80.7	127.2	67.3	1029.3
2007		80.3	126.4	59.1	5.8	96.3	122.5	125.9	92.9	31.1	49.9	82.9	78.5	918.4
2006		23.9	67.4	65.9	68.7	112.8	23.9	22.9	73.4	73.2	142.5	87.5	142.5	904.6
2005		49.6	29	57.5	36.8	37.4	18.1	72.2	53.6	30.6	109.6	63.6	53.6	611.6
2004		125.8	33	44.3	81.7	44.8	28.6	61.3	97.9	26	145.2	34.9	67.3	790.8
2003		114.1	37.6	18.9	37.3	54.3	38.0	87.0	47.9	6.6	51.8	141.1	94.0	728.6
2002		102.9	109.9	56.8	41.3	139.3	61.1	83.6	47.4	39.3	83.0	186.2	168.7	1120.0
2001		129.9	123.5	119.8	85.0	32.4	15.6	53.1	99.9	102	159.3	40.7	28	989.5
<b>Rainiest day (mm)</b>		12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	
		27.4	20.7	5.6	6.2	18.4	11.3	20.2	22.3	17.5	20.8	18.4	14.7	
		31.1	24.8	12.2	16.4	12.0	8.6	26.6	30.1	8.8	40.5	34.3	15.2	
<b>Rainless days</b>		2	8	15	20	14	19	10	15	13	13	2	2	133
		1	1	16	15	13	16	18	11	21	8	2	8	134
<b>Highest Max Temp</b>		13 <sup>th</sup>	13.5 <sup>th</sup>	15.2 <sup>th</sup>	27.9 <sup>th</sup>	23.7 <sup>th</sup>	31.9 <sup>th</sup>	36.3 <sup>th</sup>	31.6 <sup>th</sup>	24.6 <sup>th</sup>	20.7 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	15.5 <sup>th</sup>	
		9 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	
		12.3 <sup>rd</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22.9 <sup>th</sup>	27.9 <sup>th</sup>	28.6 <sup>th</sup>	31.6 <sup>th</sup>	28.3 <sup>rd</sup>	28.9 <sup>th</sup>	22.9 <sup>th</sup>	18.1 <sup>st</sup>	12.1 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>Lowest Max Temp:</b>		3.9 <sup>th</sup>	2.2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.2 <sup>nd</sup>	9.9 <sup>th</sup>	12.4 <sup>th</sup>	14.8 <sup>th</sup>	15.6 <sup>th</sup>	15.6 <sup>th</sup>	13.6 <sup>th</sup>	11.7 <sup>th</sup>	6.4 <sup>th</sup>	10.8 <sup>th</sup>	
		19 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	
		4.2 <sup>nd</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup>	7.9 <sup>th</sup>	11.2 <sup>nd</sup>	12.8 <sup>th</sup>	17.1 <sup>st</sup>	17.1 <sup>st</sup>	7.0 <sup>th</sup>	18.1 <sup>st</sup>	12.9 <sup>th</sup>	8.2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.2 <sup>nd</sup>	
<b>Highest Min Temp:</b>		10.6 <sup>th</sup>	5.6 <sup>th</sup>	8.5 <sup>th</sup>	9.7 <sup>th</sup>	13.3 <sup>th</sup>	15.4 <sup>th</sup>	19.9 <sup>th</sup>	18.3 <sup>th</sup>	14.8 <sup>th</sup>	14.9 <sup>th</sup>	13.3 <sup>th</sup>	11.9 <sup>th</sup>	
		10 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	
		9 <sup>th</sup>	7.3 <sup>rd</sup>	9.9 <sup>th</sup>	11.7 <sup>th</sup>	13.5 <sup>th</sup>	16.2 <sup>th</sup>	18.3 <sup>th</sup>	16.1 <sup>st</sup>	16.4 <sup>th</sup>	15.4 <sup>th</sup>	14.2 <sup>th</sup>	10.8 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Lowest Min Temp</b>		-2.9 <sup>th</sup>	-3.1 <sup>th</sup>	0.1 <sup>th</sup>	2.1 <sup>th</sup>	4.2 <sup>th</sup>	15.4 <sup>th</sup>	9.1 <sup>th</sup>	9.1 <sup>th</sup>	6.9 <sup>th</sup>	5.0 <sup>th</sup>	-2.7 <sup>th</sup>	4.3 <sup>th</sup>	
		23 <sup>rd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	30 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup>	
		0.6 <sup>th</sup>	2.1 <sup>st</sup>	0.2 <sup>nd</sup>	3.6 <sup>th</sup>	1.7 <sup>th</sup>	7.0 <sup>th</sup>	10.5 <sup>th</sup>	7.3 <sup>rd</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	1.0 <sup>th</sup>	-1.6 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>Nights - air temp below freezing</b>		7	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	14
<b>Windiest day</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
		15 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	11 & 8 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	
		S.W.	N.E.	N.W.	N.W.	N.	W.N.W.	WSW & WNW	W.S.W.	W.S.W.	ENE, NNE, N	S.W.	S.W.	
		27 mph	23 mph	24 mph	21 mph	30 mph	25 mph	25 mph	21 mph	24 mph	18 mph	26 mph	27 mph	

Table 1. Data kindly provided by Carol Hart, who records the details at Wakehurst.

## Kew Guild Medal recipient Christopher Brickell CBE VMH

by David Hardman



Chris Brickell (left) with President David Hardman at the Kew Guild Dinner

©Editor

experience at Carlisle's herbaceous and rock garden plants nursery. In 1954 he gained his degree in Horticulture then 2 years National Service in Germany followed. In 1958 he applied for the post of Assistant to the Botanist at the Royal Horticultural Society garden, Wisley. Moving up the ranks as Botanist, Senior Scientific Officer; Deputy Director; and in 1969 he became Director of Wisley. In 1985 he was appointed by the RHS to the new post of Director General from which he retired in 1993.

At the 2015 Annual Dinner the Kew Guild recognised Christopher Brickell for his outstanding contribution to international horticulture and botanical science awarding him the Kew Guild Medal. Through his initiatives and involvement in garden management, plant conservation, taxonomy and publication he has provided knowledge, interest and encouragement to a large audience, both professional and amateur to fully appreciate all types of plants and their care.

Chris has led and taken part in a number of botanical expeditions to China with Chris Grey-Wilson and Jill Cowley, to Sikkim with Brian Mathew, Asia, Georgia, Central Turkey, Greece and Patagonia, and continues to maintain his involvement in nomenclature, taxonomy, and the stabilisation of plant names. Current research projects include the genera *Anemone*, *Polygonatum* and *Daphne*. When preparing accounts of *Colchicum* and *Galanthus* for 'Flora Europaea' and 'Flora of Turkey' he received much advice and help from Kew Herbarium staff particularly Bob Sealy and Desmond Meikle and others.

Amongst the many other positions held Chris was the President and Chairman of the Board of the International Society for Horticultural Science (ISHS) from 1998-2002, having been a Vice-Chairman of the Board responsible for Scientific Affairs from 1994 and was Chairman of the ISHS Commission for Nomenclature and Registration. He was also a UK Council Member 1972-1999, a member of ISHS and since 1968 he was elected a Fellow followed by Honorary Membership of the Society in 2002. He was Chairman of the International Union of Biological Sciences, (IUBS) Commission for the Nomenclature of Cultivated Plants since 1979, chairing the Editorial Committee of that Commission for the 1980, 1995 and 2004 editions of the 'Cultivated Plant Code'.

A founder member of the Horticultural Taxonomy Group, (HORTAX) he also chaired the RHS Advisory Panel on Nomenclature and Taxonomy from 1994 to 2002 and is a member of a number of RHS Plant and Trials Committees as well as serving on the UK Plant Breeders' Rights Controller's Advisory Panel for herbaceous plants, (Plant Variety Rights Office). He is interested in the conservation of both wild and cultivated plants and in 1978 he initiated the formation of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG now Plant Heritage) and the establishment of National Plant Collections. He is a past Trustee of RBG Kew and RBG Edinburgh and is President of the Alpine Garden Society. He has authored, published and edited many botanical and horticultural



books, papers and articles, particularly on monocotyledonous genera and horticultural taxonomy and other horticultural topics. This involvement briefly includes; The RHS 'Encyclopedia of Gardening', 'A-Z of Garden Plants' and 'Plants and Flowers'. Accounts of several genera in Flora Europaea and Flora of Turkey, 'The Genus Daphne' with Brian Mathew, 'Pruning' in the Mitchell Beazley series, 'The Vanishing Garden' with Fay Sharman and for several years monthly articles in the RHS Journal. Until 2005 he was consultant Editor of The Plantsman.

### **The British Rock** by Graham Burgess

The first part of the story of The British Rock forming the start of the Circle of Friendship has been completed. The rock now sits on the 49th parallel. Graham Burgess, Bob Ivison and Henry Moore are all pleased. See journey on website: <http://www.circleoffriendship.co.uk/>



### **Committee Deliberations in 2015** by Richard Ward

There are up to 30 current or ex-Kewites on the Guild Committee, as well as others acting in an ex officio and advisory capacity. A wealth of voluntary expertise, goodwill and knowledge. The Committee meets four or five times per year and, in no particular order, discussed, amongst many other things:

The Guild constitution, rules, countrywide events and visits for members, the Kew Guild room in the herbarium, past donors and Presidents boards, liaison with and help for current Diploma students, Trustee responsibilities, budgets and investments policy, subscriptions, Paypal account, risk assessment, job descriptions, member database, postage and insurance costs, possibility of future online journals, current costs, indexing and advertising, Guild Award scheme, Kew Guild medal nominations and Honorary membership, annual dinner venues and cost, Press and Media, Kewites' contribution to world horticulture booklet, volunteer treasurer position, AGM venues, committee nominations, and archives. We even discussed procedures and Committee members' responsibilities for when Guild members pass away.

Thus, dear members, you can see that your elected Committee have not been idle, and strive to look after each one of you! Maybe you would like to put yourself forward for election at the September AGM? Just email our Secretary.

An added bonus for Committee members is that we traditionally retire to the Coach & Horses Hotel on Kew Green after every meeting, for a meal and drinks as required, and often enjoy far-reaching discussions about the good old days or tales of fellow Kewites. You would be welcome!

### **Kewites' Contributions to World Horticulture** by Alex George

This is a new project initiated by Jim Mitchell, when President of the Guild in 2012–13. The aim is to demonstrate Kew's contributions to world horticulture in economic development, establishing botanic gardens and parks (both public and private), enhancing urban communities, provision of memorials, conservation and the media. This will take the form of potted biographies of Kewites, up to 1000 words long, placed on a dedicated page on the Guild's website, managed by a coordinator. Any Guild member may suggest

new entries. Anyone who wishes to contribute should contact the present co-ordinator, Alex George, email address [a.george@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:a.george@murdoch.edu.au), postal address 'Four Gables', 18 Barclay Road, Kardinya, W.A. 6163, Australia. Please see further details about this project on the Guild website.

## **100 Years Ago**

by Richard Ward

There were 327 Life members. The Journal address list showed approximately 750 members overall (although all would not have been fully paid up.) The Annual Report mentions that 'when the 1915 Journal was posted to members over 200 copies of the 1914 issue had not been paid for.' The Guild 'year' started on 1st May. 45 members attended the Annual Dinner. 4.3 million people visited Kew Gardens, with 175,830 on 24th May. Many staff members were on active war duty with His Majesty's Forces.

## **Kewites Coping with War – The Path from Naivety to Endurance or Despair**

by James Wearn

Last year, I wrote for the Guild an overview of The Royal Botanic Garden (RBG) Kew's involvement in the First World War, and such was the enthusiasm with which this topic was received that I have been asked to write a follow-up on the theme of Kewites coping with war.

As Christmas 1914 faded away and the realisation of a new year on the battlefield spawned, the naivety of Kewites setting off to enlist began to fade and the realisation of the need to cope and survive set in. Indeed a cursory remark within a discussion of deferring the 1915 Annual Social of the Kew Guild asserted that "everything will depend on the duration of the war". Lyn MacDonald wrote a book in 1997 entitled 1915: The Death of Innocence, and it is with this sentiment in mind that I write this year.

### Tell me, Stranger

*Tell me, Stranger, is it true  
There is magic happening,*

*Are all the dappled fields of Kew  
Bowling to their Lord the Spring?*

*Are the bluebells chaste and mute  
Dancing in each dale and hollow.*

*Dew-sprinkled, with a glad salute  
To omnipotent Apollo?*

*Tell me, do the feathered creatures  
Flutter as in days of yore.*

*What are the "distinctive features"  
Of the Swallow's Flying Corps?*

*Here there is no magic, Stranger;  
Save within our merry souls —*

*For some wanton god in anger  
Punches earth with gaping holes.*

*Yet the stifled land is showing  
Here and there a touch of grace,*

*And the marshalled clouds are blowing  
Through the aerodromes of space.*

*Hate is strong, but Love is stronger,  
And the world shall wake to birth.*

*When the touch of man no longer  
Stays the touch of God from Earth.*

*Tell me, Stranger, is it true  
There is magic happening.*

*Are all the dappled fields of Kew  
Bowling to their Lord the Spring?*

I had not realised that among the, now famous, war poets was one who had written about thoughts of Kew. Poet-soldier Geoffrey Dearmer wrote ‘Tell me, stranger’ whilst serving in France. Its lines encapsulate the puncturing of the tranquillity at Kew and beyond, but also give a trace of hope for the future. Dearmer also hints that those from Kew held its ‘magic’ within their hearts, even when far away, which we know to be true.

#### A continuum of responses

Fog, gas, smoke, dust, mud and blood; acrid, blinding, throat-scorching fumes; screeching, booming, roaring and bursting shells; fear, nervous tension, flinching, ducking and shuddering; lice, rats, disease, death and decay – all of these were faced by those who served. It is hardly possible to comprehend that in terms of looking around at our colleagues and friends at Kew today. From the tranquillity of the Gardens, imagine being launched into all of that with them beside you. Take a moment to think, how would you cope?

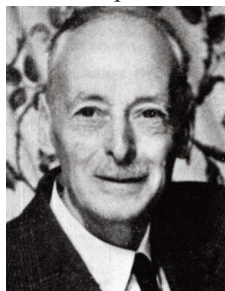
Kewites were representative of any cross-section of the massed ranks of servicemen during the war, with an associated continuum of responses to war. There were those Kewites about whom tales of heroism were reported (as shown by the examples of Major Thomas Chipp, post-war Assistant Director of Kew, and former Kew gardener Capitaine Léopold Digoy: Wearn, J. *Kew Guild* 16(119): 458-464, 2015). Unwaveringly patriotic views also continued to be expressed despite the awful things that had been experienced. One example was Company Sergeant-Major Walter Dunk. Dunk was a former pony boy at Kew who fought at Loos in 1915. Dunk later wrote to Kew about managing “to get through unscathed” and “never once have I regretted offering my services to my King and Country”.

Such tales of patriotism and bravery have generally overshadowed the, often long-lasting, mental traumas which developed insidiously among service personnel. An infantryman in a ‘Pals’ battalion commented after 1 July 1916 on the Somme: “we were two years in the making and ten minutes in the destroying” (Middlebrook, *The First Day on the Somme*, p.270, 1971). Much the same can be said of the friendship and service among Kewites.

Kewite Guy Neville expressed this relationship in a letter during 1918: "It cheers one up considerably to know one is remembered by Kew friends". Sergeant Henry Smith (a labourer at Kew) and 17-year-old Lance Corporal Frank Windebank (a 'boy' at Kew), both of whom signed-up in August 1914, were killed serving together in the 7th Battalion of the East Surrey Regiment at Loos on 10 October 1915.

Physical injury was obvious but psychological damage was less so. There were candid letters providing insight into the minds of men for whom endurance was at its limit. In lunar landscapes, barren and pock-marked by shell holes, devoid of beauty and natural life, any flower springing forth from the battered and bloodied soil immediately became a focal point of hope for many service personnel on both sides of the lines. Kewites' passion for plants was especially irrepressible and this helped them and many other servicemen to cope with the horrors and desolation that enveloped them. Indeed, for several, botany and vegetable-growing in the trenches was to be their salvation.

Alfred Bertram Melles was one Kewite who noted the psychological power of botany. His studentship at Kew began in 1914 and he worked mainly in the 'Decorative and Tropical



Alfred Bertram Melles  
©Kew Guild Archive

Departments'. He had joined HM Forces on 2 November 1915 and became a Bombardier in the Royal Garrison Artillery (RGA), serving at Ypres and on the Somme, and earning a commission in October 1917 (J. Kew Guild 8(70): 525, 1965). He wrote from 'somewhere in France': "A few lines to let you know that I am still very much alive and aggressively active...There are times when I should be absolutely miserable, were it not for the healthy pleasure which even my comparatively small botanical and other natural history knowledge provides me. Even out here my botany book is a faithful companion" (J. Kew Guild 3(24): 362-3, 1917). Melles continued: "In some parts the fighting was of an extremely difficult nature, and although the scene appeared very sad to one looking over it afterwards, it was easy to picture the bravery which had been exhibited." The Kew Guild continued activities during both world

wars and, unlike many publications, the journal was published throughout, much to the delight of members such as Melles, who commented: "I am glad to hear the Guild is going on well and that things are kept running in spite of the War."

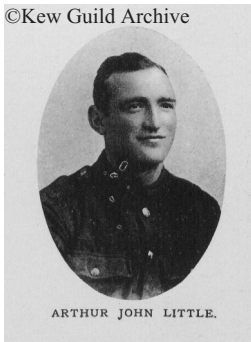
Melles survived the conflict but realised that his responsibility did not end there. He became one of several Kew men keen to transform the muddy wastelands into something more peaceful, for families and comrades of those who now lie dead to visit their graves in 'garden cemeteries'. Thus, in 1919, more of Kew's men became attached for duty with the Graves Registration Directorate. These were Lieutenants Grinham, Lynch, Melles and Tuck (reported in J. Kew Guild 3(26): 453, 1919). Melles and his colleagues were duly listed as "Horticultural Officer, France, Imperial War Graves Commission" (e.g. Supplement to the London Gazette, 3 June 1925, p.3777). He devoted much of his life to this work, receiving an MBE in 1925. He became Vice-President of the Kew Guild from 1965 to 1967 and passed away in 1968.

Inspiration from, and distraction enabled by observing local floras previously unfamiliar to servicemen, was significant. In Salonika, Kewites like William Turrill and Arthur Baker, as well as other men put this to the benefit of themselves and wider scientific knowledge. A Mr L.V. Turner serving in the British Army was independently inspired to collect plants, individually amassing 334 specimens which he too sent to Kew. After the war Turner stated to Turrill that "the occurrence of some tiny flowers, appearing just after the snow had melted, aroused my interest and decided me to do what I could in making a collection."

Even becoming a prisoner of war did not stop Kewite Guy Neville and others from carrying out botanical education! In extracts from letters sent back to England (J. Kew Guild 3(25): 416, 1918), he wrote from Ruhleben Internment Camp, reporting on the Ruhleben Horticultural Society, which had been established in connection with the RHS and: “I am instructor in theoretical and practical Botany, giving lectures in Plant Pathology in the Camp School, so find plenty of work to relieve the awful monotony of waiting for the end.”

French Kewite and former student gardener Capitaine Leopold Digoy looked forward to the serenity of Kew: “If I am not ‘ex patres’ after the storm is over, I’ll be glad to go and breathe the peaceful air of the Gardens” (J. Kew Guild 3(24): 359, 1917). Returning to thoughts of Dearmer’s poem, like many other serving soldiers, Digoy appreciated the mentally soothing effect of the tranquil gardens. Sadly, he was never to see them again, falling in battle on 28 April 1917.

©Kew Guild Archive



ARTHUR JOHN LITTLE.

The power of plants in the coping process extended far beyond traditional battlefields. The minds of the ‘shell shocked’ (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or PTSD, as realised now) remained as battlefields even when physically removed from the war zone. Guilt of being spared when so many comrades and friends were killed or maimed was insidious among survivors. One famous example was that of Lieutenant-Colonel Sandys, a battalion commander who wished he had been killed with his men in the ‘Great Push’ on the Somme of 1 July 1916. On 6 September that year he took to a hotel bed with a revolver. “Suicide whilst temporarily insane” was the verdict – a striking connotation of the times. Kew too felt this pain dearly when Arthur John Little, a former Kew gardener, who had become a Seaman in the ‘Public

Schools’ 2nd (‘Hawke’) Battalion of the Royal Naval Division (RND), was found dead in the garden of his new employer in Cornwall in 1919, an empty bottle of poison lying beside him. As there were more Royal Navy personnel than could serve on seagoing craft, a division was created for naval land-based service. ‘D’ Company of Hawke Battalion was formed by volunteers from the ‘Public Schools Battalion’. The division was deployed to Gallipoli where it suffered heavily. After serving in that fateful campaign he was treated for jaundice in Malta in September 1915, but was able to return to duty. In 1916, the division moved on to France in time for the Battle of the Ancre (final phase of the Battle of the Somme) and subsequent battles to 1918. Thus, his post-war depression after experiencing probably the two most horrific battlescapes of the war was unsurprising. Colleagues noticed that “it was soon apparent that the War had undermined his constitution”. They saw his mood swings, commenting that “at times he was bright and cheerful, but more often he was depressed”, yet were unable to prevent his eventual suicide, the culmination of his inner torment (J. Kew Guild 3(27): 504, 1920).

The First World War has frequently been called a ‘living hell’ from which few emerged unscathed – whether physically or mentally. An official figure of 80,000 diagnosed with shell shock is far below the true figure of sufferers, and it is now thought that many thousands more endured symptoms to some degree following their wartime experiences. Moreover, it is hard for anyone in civilian life who has not been exposed to fully comprehend. I recommend the recently published book ‘Shell-Shocked Britain: The First World War’s Legacy for Britain’s Mental Health by Suzie Grogan (2014)’ which provides an insight into the men, women and children affected by the psychological trauma of war and its aftermath. The mental anguish and social stigma of shell shock (or, as was commonly believed, ‘insanity’) did not stop at the service personnel directly affected, but pervaded family life and social friendships once these personnel returned. Coping,



therefore, was not a mechanism restricted to those in service and has affected generations ever since. Increasing research in the field of ‘epigenetics’ is showing that environmental stresses can alter gene expression patterns: adding a new dimension to the nature-nurture conundrum. Coping with the battle at the time of war seems to be only the beginning...

### Kew’s commemoration activities in 2015

2015 was another active year for Kew’s programme of commemoration of both world wars. In April, Kew joined forces with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in London to take part in an international project called Tulips for Liberators, marking the 70th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands from occupation (May 1945). This took the form of a mosaic planting, *Flags of Liberty*, on the lawn close to the Palm House at Kew, which contained 46,000 precisely planted tulip bulbs, and was in perfect bloom for the unveiling on 15 April. Their striking colours and accurate representation of the Dutch and British flags proved to be an attraction for visitors as well as a poignant reminder of past turmoil and future hope.



*Flags of Liberty Tulips Mosaic at Kew*  
©Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in London

In May 2014 we discovered an Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC) horticultural essay competition run in 1924 for Horticultural Officers (including Kewites) attached to the IWGC. This led to a revival of the historic association between Kew and the CWGC (now Commonwealth). Inspired by the competition of 90 years earlier, a new piece of CWGC-related Amenity Horticulture coursework was devised for Kew Horticultural Diploma students. The aim was 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. The coursework was successfully undertaken this spring by Diploma Course 50 students and we intend to continue this significant interaction with the CWGC in future years. The essays demonstrate that despite the passing of time we must still consider the past in balance with the future.

This was the second year of themed wartime tours of the Gardens, led daily throughout November by Kew’s excellent volunteer guides. Once again, these tours proved very popular and provided a wide range of little-known stories relating to the importance of plants and the experiences of Kew’s staff, both on the home front and overseas.

Also during November, Kew was one of just 10 cultural institutions selected to host a highly emotive and thought-provoking sculpture entitled ‘*Papaver Rhoeas*’. The poppy sculptures were handmade by internationally exhibited artist Paddy Hartley (funded by the Wellcome Trust, in collaboration with King’s College London) using ethically sourced, pathologically preserved lamb’s heart tissue, to address contemporary notions of remembrance and the cultural phenomena of memorialisation. In stark contrast to ritualised national remembrance through ceremonies, memorials and monuments, Hartley’s chosen medium was muscle tissue from the ‘engine of life’ – to emphasise our universally shared vulnerability of the flesh, the loss of the body, the passing of life, and the blood spilled during the war. Hartley presented the notion that a more vigorous and productive interaction with remembrance may well entail an ability to more fully comprehend and move forward.

## Discovering Capability Brown - Spot the London Plane

by Sarah Rutherford

Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown – a euphonious and familiar name, but our greatest landscape designer’s work can be elusive, until you get the urge to look more closely. In this 300th anniversary year of his birth (2016) he is celebrated far and wide, with the CB300 Festival at the heart of activities. I decided that a primer, a sort of Dummies Guide, was the thing to help us all, including me, to understand him better: his life, his genius and his work as the icon of the English Landscape Garden. I wanted to know more about him, and having been asked by the National Trust to write a book on him I needed to get under his skin. His masterpieces are well known – Blenheim, Petworth, Croome Court, and Stowe among many. But even at these, as at many of his other 250 or so commissions in England and Wales, exactly what he did is often difficult to pin down. I spent much of 2014 and 2015 following in his footsteps and visiting his parks to get closer to his genius on the ground.



Brown is closely connected with Kew. As Royal Gardener for George III he landscaped the river side west of Holly Walk in the 1760s. Here one particular planting feature still dominates around his Rhododendron Dell: London Planes. Yes, the Lebanon Cedar, darkly evergreen, strongly layered, is known as his iconic signature tree, but the contrasting London Plane is as much of a trade mark: pale green, billowing, deciduous. London planes are more robust and have lasted better than the fragile Lebanon Cedar, for seldom do you see a Plane with its top blown out. Most of his are in rude good health and speak boldly of Brown’s genius.



While touring Brown parks it became a bit of an obsession to find his London Planes to see how he used them. To be convincingly his, specimens need to be over 5 metres in girth and 1.5 metres high, but there are still plenty to be spotted. Huge old boys of nearly 7 metres girth dominate parks at Berrington Hall, Herefordshire, and Ickworth, Suffolk and show no sign of decline. The one at the south end of the Kew Dell, planted circa 1770, measured 5.5 metres in 1965 (thanks Bean) and is now 6 metres (thanks Chris Sumner) but, unusually, is looking a little worn and has had surgery.



Brown’s Planes mark features or view lines. Bridges were a favourite, often with a specimen by the drive at one end or the other (Compton Verney and Charlecote, Warwickshire). A group or a line might frame a view. The group on the dam at Wimpole, Cambridgeshire, lines the view towards the Gothic Tower. At Berrington a line of four stride towards the magnificent red sandstone triumphal arch gateway. The old boy at Kew has plenty of presence,

elevated prominently on the bank of the Dell to mark its southern entrance.

I learnt a lot about Brown looking for his Planes. So I recommend you search out Capability Brown in 2016, it's not just his lakes and drives to admire, see if you can find his London Planes. You too might become a little bit obsessed with trying to spot them and how he used them!

Sarah Rutherford, *The World of Capability Brown*, National Trust Books, 2016, £20.  
CB30 Festival 2016: [www.capabilitybrown.org](http://www.capabilitybrown.org)

## Bangor Meets Kew

by John Whitehead



Golden Lombardy raised by John Whitehead, planted in the colour clump by Tony Kirkham at Kew in 1979

In May 2015, I was returning home to North Wales via Heathrow, from botanising in Turkmenistan. Central London, with its iconic plane trees looked very colourful with flags from all over the world, displayed regimentally along famous streets as part of the celebration of the 70th year of VE Day.

I had planned two days research for measuring the girth growth rate of many of my trees collected for Kew from far off lands back in the days when I had a Kew collector's license. The trees have grown well and are impressive, now being 30 to 40 years old and many planted in prime locations by Tony Kirkham. Tony trained at Merrist Wood where a long time ago, as his tutor, I encouraged him to go

to Kew. Now, Tony must be the most travelled treeman on record as Head of the Arboretum at Kew, collecting plants from all over the world.



Students at Dartington Hall Gardens  
L to R Len Beer, Derek Robinson,  
Richard Ward

Living in North Wales for the past 20 years and having concentrated on global travels, I had not visited Kew during that period of time. Therefore, seeing the trees and recording their growth measurements in 2015 has provided dramatic results since my visit in 1995.

During my recent visit to Kew, in the School of Horticulture, the Administration Officer, Judy Hancock, indicated that they were now up to Course 52 of student intakes and it made me feel ancient when I reminisced that in 1969 I was in Course 7. Then Judy mentioned that they were expecting visitors from Bangor University who were due to arrive at 2pm that day, on Friday 8th May 2015. Later, it was a pleasant surprise to meet up with Nigel Brown, the Curator of Treborth Botanical Garden with the MSc students from Bangor University.

A chance to record the group followed when the Head of the School of Horticulture, Tim Hughes, kindly took a picture of us with my collected trees near the school building. The picture includes three of my trees. In the distance, is a tall fastigate golden crown of *Populus nigra* 'Lombardy Gold', a sport that I found on a tree in Normandy village near Merrist Wood College in Surrey. Tony Kirkham planted the tree in 1979 but unfortunately it blew down in the storm of 1987. I took a minibus of arboricultural students from Merrist Wood College to help out with the storm damage and we roped the Golden Lombardy



John Whitehead and his Himalayan pine tree with Treborth Botanical Garden Curator Nigel Brown

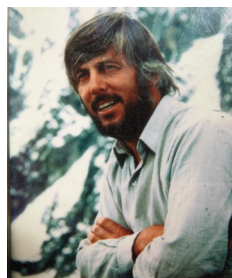


back upright and held the tree with a triangle of heavy-duty tree ties and stakes. The second tree in the middle distance by the Princess of Wales Conservatory, is the rare Moroccan Fir, *Abies pinsapo* var. *marocana*, collected in the Rif Mountains above Chefchaouen in 1984.

In the foreground, the group is standing in front of the third tree, which is a Himalayan or Bhutan Pine, *Pinus wallichiana*. I collected seed from the pine forest below the Sherpa village of Namche Bazar on the way up to Everest base camp in 1977. The tree has grown well at Kew and the fine specimen and the trunk now measures 2.11 metres at the base

and 1.33 metres in girth at 1.5 metres.

I stayed near Kew Gardens with Wiena and Richard Ward who is a Kewite from the penultimate certificate course in 1961. Richard is well travelled and cherishes the tales of his early overland journey to India driving his Mini Moke. His career included Technical Officer at Richmond, Harlow New Town, Deputy Parks Manager at Hammersmith and Fulham and 36 years a landscape contractor. For over 20 years, Richard was the energetic editor for The Journal of the Kew Guild (founded in 1893) and his two daughters, Alexandra and Sparkle, are continuing the family tradition in the editorial of the journal. The old photograph taken in 1958, shows students studying at Dartington Hall Gardens; Richard Ward on the right and Len Beer on the left. Eventually, Len went on a plant hunting expedition to the Himalayas with Roy Lancaster and is historically connected to Bangor where he was Curator at Treborth Botanical Garden, before Nigel Brown.



John Whitehead (Log) photographed by Barry Phillips at Alto de Pucaraju, 15,256' in the Peruvian Andes in 1986

## “The Maharajah’s Gardener” The revived story of Kewite Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel (1865-1956) by Anja Eppert

“Sir! I beg to excuse me by taking the liberty and ask you if there is any chance to get an employment as gardener at the Royal Gardens at Kew.” Words of one of the many applicants whose letters must have arrived for approval at G. Nicholson’s desk in December 1887. But despite the reply “No vacancy for 12 months”, this man had already taken his decision and moved from Germany to London from where he sent the third renewal of his application. This time with success. “Asked to come on 31st Dec” tells the notation on the letter margin and his career at Kew started. A career that should take him far-away to India.



G. H. Krumbiegel, circa 1893 ©RBG Kew and Kew Guild Journal Collection

This is the story of Kewite Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel, whose 150th anniversary of his birthday is celebrated with a special exhibition at Pillnitz Palace and Park this year. A story of early global networking and cross-cultural dedication. Born on December 18th 1865 in Lohmen near Dresden, G. H. Krumbiegel must have been influenced by the success and reputation of Saxon

horticulture. It was here, along the wide valley and in the gentle hilly surroundings of the river Elbe, where the end of the 19th Century generations of nurseries flourished, where the Flora Saxon Society of Botany and Horticulture promoted the knowledge and interest of horticulture and where one of the educational centres for German gardeners developed.

At the age of 14 and with a clutch of siblings to feed he started his apprenticeship as a gardener in the Royal Gardens of Pillnitz. The Pillnitz Palace, an ensemble of elegant buildings in Chinoise

Pillnitz Park near Dresden, circa 1900 ©Collection of the State Palaces, Castles and Gardens of Saxony



*Pillnitz. Kgl. Schloßgarten mit Wasserpalais.*

style and a vast surrounding park- and landscape along the Elbe has had a long tradition as summer venue of the Saxon Electors and kings, the gardens having been used for both pleasure activities and botanical studies. In the four years of his work under the supervision of Royal Gardener G. A. Wentzel, G. H. Krumbiegel got in touch with the world of exotic plants for the first time, as well as with the effort necessary to cultivate and maintain them: A Palm House, at the time Germany's largest cast-iron greenhouse, had been erected a mere 20 years ago, a more than a century old specimen of *Camellia japonica* had been grown to the size of a tree and a good amount of orangery plants had to be looked after. No wonder that his interest in rare, exotic plants aroused and that he took the opportunity to widen his knowledge in the Royal Gardens of Schwerin and in the private estate of Etatsrätin Helene Donner (1819-1909) at Hamburg-Ottensen, where head gardener Theodor Reimers brought the garden plantations to such a high reputation that its example was printed in Goetze's renowned book about carpet beds (Teppichbeete).

Still, his thirst for knowledge was burning; "Now I intend to enlarge my knowledge in England" are the words included in G.H. Krumbiegel's application for an employment at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew in 1887. His lecture certificates of the following years include subjects like geographical and economic botany and in 1891 he was promoted to Sub-Foreman to the Tropical Department, Propagating Pits. During this time, he became an expert in the field of propagating plants from all over the world, a subject which in his own words is "the most important and responsible of the gardener's duties." He even published his prize essay 'a chat on propagation' in the first issue of the Journal of the Kew Guild where he tells about his pleasure to be

"in contact with all the fine and striking rarities of flowering and ornamental-leaved plants" and gives an expert's insight and advice in the practice of propagation by seeds, leaf-cuttings, root-cuttings, grafting, flower-fertilisation, crossing and hybridising.



*Lal Bagh, Bangalore.*

Lal Bagh, the Botanical Garden of Bangalore circa 1900  
©Collection of the State Palaces, Castles and Gardens of Saxony

It is in large part due to the stories and notes of the Kew Guild Journals that we are able to tell details about the life of a gardener which otherwise would have been stayed unrevealed. Strikingly, this man from a small German village was one of the founders of the Kew Guild, shortly before he left to India in March 1893. Kewite W. J. Bean (1863-1947) writes



Krumbiegel's retirement party, 1932

©H. Padmanabha



about the launch: "But the following week a young German gardener, Mr G. H. Krumbiegel, now of Bangalore, who had been discussing the question with his friends in the meantime, came with a scheme already prepared very much on the lines that were afterwards adopted. Mr Watson at once took the matter in hand with his characteristic enthusiasm and vigour, and after getting Sir William Thiselton-Dyer's consent and approval, the Kew Guild was started on its successful career, with Mr Watson as Editor of the Journal, Mr Aikman as Secretary, and myself as Treasurer."

In 1937 an article was published about G. H. Krumbiegel in the Kew Guild Personalities section, which gives a fairly good impression of his character and of his achievements in India. Truly, a life story resembling a fairy-tale and at the same time one of the early examples of transnational exchange as always afforded by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Since his recommendation to India in 1893 he dedicated his life to garden culture and open space development as well as to horticulture and heritage in India, especially as Superintendent of Government Gardens in the former princely State of Mysore, when he managed the Botanical Garden of Lal Bagh in Bangalore from 1907. Under the reign of Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV (1884-1940) he was also in charge of the maintenance and beautification of the Palace gardens and contributed to Mysore's reputation as the best administered state in the world. According to archival records and personal letters he was highly appreciated by the royal family of the Wodeyars. During his time, Bangalore was known as "Garden City", with avenues of flowering trees, production of fruits and vegetables and an annual Horticultural Show. Within his ideas about the development of horticulture in Mysore he clearly states "that work of the department does not begin and end in sweeping lawns and roads and planting a few flower beds, but that the development of its economic, scientific and educational work is its legitimate and ultimate aim." An aim, which seems like a reflection of D. Morris' text about the work of Kewites in the colonies: "Botanical Gardens [in the colonies] are maintained not only for the purpose of advancing the study of native and other plants, but also for turning the varied resources of the vegetable kingdom to useful and commercial ends."

Some more personal, not less interesting, insights extracted from the treasure chest of the Kew Guild Journal collection may be given here: In a letter written one month after his arrival in India G. H. Krumbiegel told about his first impressions of a country where plants didn't need any glass-house keeping: "It is wonderful the effect produced by tropical vegetation. [...] I like my duties very much; there is plenty of work and responsibility [...]. The workmen are a caution; they won't work unless you are standing over them, and require a lot of teaching." Three years later the Journal announces the wedding bells for Mr. Krumbiegel and Miss Kate Evans in Bombay and another four years later he visited Kew "with his wife and family, looking remarkably well." They had three daughters; Hilda, Freda and Vera. Whereas 1906 must have been a busy professional year with tours throughout the country to the Rubber Exhibition in Ceylon and reunion with Kewites there. Last but not least, Kewite W. Dallimore reveals that G. H. Krumbiegel, nicknamed "Krummie", was "a well educated man and a good plantsman" and was together with six other students part of a "coterie of students who appeared to command greater respect from their fellows than did the majority."

G. H. Krumbiegel died at the age of 91 years in Bangalore. On December 18th 2015, the

Consulate General of Germany, staff of the Lal Bagh Botanical Garden and members of the Mysore Horticultural Society came together to commemorate and flourish his grave where the little poem once published in the Kew Guild Journal is still to be read:

*"The bravely dumb that did their deed,  
And scorned to blot it with a name,  
Men of the plain heroic breed,  
That loved Heaven's silence more than fame"*



The Krumbiegel family, L to R - daughters Freda, Vera and Hilda, with parents Katie and Gustav. Photo kindly provided by Alyia Phelps-Gardiner (Hilda's granddaughter)

The State Palaces, Castles and Gardens of Saxony herewith convey their best regards and thanks to the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the Kew Guild for all given support and heartily invites all to its special exhibition 'The Maharajah's Gardener, A Saxon Enchants India' to have a glimpse at the life and work of G. H. Krumbiegel and to embark on a tour to far-off India. Pillnitz park will see the 'Indian carpet' rolled out during the summer months: special plantings in carpet style, floral arrangements, a photo exhibition, alongside with a programme of guided tours and cultural events will set colourful highlights.

### **30 April – 1 November 2016: Special exhibition at Pillnitz, Neues Palais, Dresden**

1 June - 3 October 2016: Garden season.

For further info, please visit: [www.schlosspillnitz.de/en](http://www.schlosspillnitz.de/en)

*A chance email from Dresden Parks Dept. to the Guild in June 2014 asking if our archives contained info/photos about Gustav Krumbiegel resulted in many exchanges and our invitation to Anja to write this fascinating article. Despite letters to Fulham newspapers and ads in shop windows asking for news of descendants (where the Krumbiegels had a house) I drew a blank. A 'where are they now' ad in the Ealing Gazette on 19.2.16, however, resulted in a 'phone call from Gustav's great granddaughter, Alyia Phelps-Gardiner, living in Wallington, Surrey! She has a mass of info about the Krumbiegels in her loft, and is now in touch with Anja in Dresden. We will be representing the Kew Guild at the opening of the Krumbiegel exhibition in Pillnitz Park on 4th June. How about you, dear reader? Read more about Gustav Krumbiegel, born 150 years ago, in next year's Journal. Be delighted that you are a Guild member! Richard Ward (Advisory Editor).*

### **Wood Identification: Keeping up with Worldwide Trade in Timber and its Products**

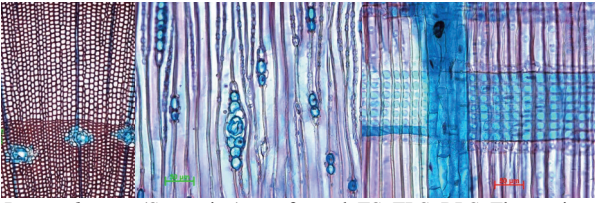
by Peter Gasson

Wood is our most important inedible renewable resource with many uses. There is immense demand worldwide for wood and its products, and although there are FAO figures for the value and volume of international trade and domestic consumption (see <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1757e/i1757e.pdf>) they cannot take into account illegal trade.



Examining mahoganies in Kew's Economic Botany Collection

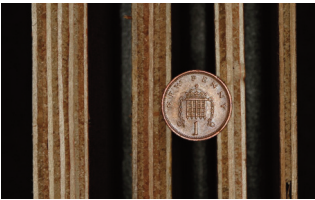
Before embarking on Kew's role in wood and its trade, I need to explain exactly what wood is and isn't! From a botanist's point of view wood is secondary xylem, the product of a lateral meristem called the vascular cambium (meristematic tissue is made up of cells that divide, the plant equivalent of stem cells in animals). In a tree or shrub the vascular cambium forms a sheath between the bark and wood, dividing inwards to form the secondary xylem which supports the plant and conducts water and nutrients up the stem,



*Pinus sylvestris* (Scots pine), a softwood, TS, TLS, RLS. The sections are stained with safranin (red) and alcian (blue)

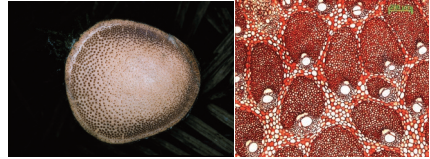
bamboos are monocotyledons and do not have a vascular cambium. All their stem tissue is the product of the apical meristem. Consequently there is no secondary xylem, although they can certainly be “woody” and some have similar uses to true wood, for example flooring.

So where do Kew’s interests in wood lie? Two questions constantly arising are what is this wood and where is it from? We can address these questions because we have one of the best collections of wood samples in the world (see Index Xylarium 4: <http://www.kew.org/collections/ecbot/wood-index/>), an extensive microscope slide collection of wood sections, and expertise built up over many decades. We constantly use the wood identification website Inside Wood (<http://insidewood.lib.ncsu.edu/search>) which provides inspiration and thousands of photographs of wood sections from most of the world’s wood anatomists including us. Reference collections are essential in achieving the aim that wood is traded and used honestly and sustainably. We use them for research on plant structures (see Cornish et al. 2013a,b, 2014 and references therein), and to identify plant material for a wide range of enquirers including palaeontologists, archaeologists, antique dealers, furniture restorers, medics, vets, the police and customs. Our first recorded anatomical enquiry was by Dr. C. R. Metcalfe in August 1932 (Keeper of the Jodrell Laboratory from 1930 – 1969), and we have identified vegetative plant material, especially woods ever since. Enquiries regarding CITES-listed timber species have increased, and with the introduction of the European Union Timber Regulations (EUTR) in 2013, many now concern the identity of timbers imported to the UK as furniture or in plywood.



Hardwood plywoods. The face veneers are barely visible.

So how do we identify a piece of wood? The naked eye or hand lens are usually sufficient to separate softwoods and hardwoods, and some softwoods such as pine and hardwoods such as oak or beech can be recognised with a little practice. However, we usually resort to light microscopy. We firstly soften a sample by boiling it in water. Lightweight balsawood (*Ochroma* sp.) takes only a few minutes to soften, but very dense and heavy woods such as ebony (*Diospyros* spp.) may take days and more extreme measures such as microwaving or treatment with chemicals might be necessary. Once softened we cut sections in three planes (15–40  $\mu$ m thick) using a microtome and examine them under a light microscope (see accompanying photos of



Transverse surface of *Euterpe edulis* and transverse section of *Geonoma pinnatifrons* subspecies. *vaga*, both palms, showing the vascular bundles in detail. Although woody, this tissue is not secondary xylem.



*Sterculia*, *Campnosperma* and *Palaquium*, all hardwoods used as face veneers, presenting their tangential surface.



transverse (TS), tangential longitudinal (TLS) and radial longitudinal sections (RLS)). There are hundreds of tropical timbers, and identifying them is challenging, especially if their origin is unknown. This is increasingly the case when trees are harvested in one country, exported to another on a different continent, and then re-exported as a finished product, where following a chain of custody is problematic (FSC – Forest Stewardship Council, and PEFC – Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification partly address this problem, but are not legally binding). Complex trade patterns are also troublesome for importers, who are legally required to show that their timber products have been legally sourced. In an effort to reduce illegal trading, there is legislation in much of the western world: European Union Timber Regulations (EUTR), the US Lacey Act and the Australian Illegal Logging Prohibition Act.



A 'solid' oak table leg made up of 16 pieces of oak (*Quercus* species). All are white oak except the pinkish piece (third from top) which is a red oak.

Solid pieces of wood are the most straightforward to identify, whereas plywood, chipboard or MDF (medium density fibreboard) are more difficult. Hardwood plywoods have face veneers about 200µm thick and are usually pale red or pink, and being rotary cut present a tangential surface. This is fortunate, since oblique longitudinal sections or planes, which often look good as veneers, can be almost impossible to identify. The veneers are so thin that we can only section the tangential plane and imagine what the transverse and radial planes would look like. So far we have identified them as

*Palaquium* (Solomon Islands), *Canarium*, *Camposperma*, *Sterculia* (West Africa), stained *Populus* (China), *Eucalyptus* (originally Australian but grown worldwide) or *Entandrophragma* (West Africa). The inner layers are mainly *Eucalyptus* or *Populus*. Solid wood products have included oaks from North America, Europe and the Far East (*Quercus alba*, *Q. robur/petraea*, *Q. mongolica*), 'Brazilian Pine' (*Pinus taeda* or *P. elliottii*), *Samanea saman*, walnut (*Juglans mandschurica*), beech (*Fagus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), alder (*Alnus*), Acacia, rubberwood (*Hevea*) and Dipterocarpaceae.

Common or trade names can be misleading, for example: Cedar (the softwood *Cedrus* or hardwood *Cedrela*), Pencil Cedar (the softwood *Juniperus* or hardwood *Palaquium*), Mahogany (*Swietenia*, *Khaya*, *Entandrophragma*, other Meliaceae and unrelated reddish hardwoods), and 'Brazilian Pine' (there are no native pines in Brazil, but *Pinus taeda* and *P. elliottii* from North America are grown in plantations. Many other of the circa 110 *Pinus* species are grown worldwide outside their natural range including *Pinus radiata* that forms the largest planted forest in the world in New Zealand).

Wood samples can usually be identified to genus (sometimes only family). Ascertaining their geographical origin usually requires stable isotope analysis unless assumptions can be made. Molecular methods show promise in identifying taxa to species, especially if sapwood is present, but reference datasets are incomplete, especially for large genera such as *Quercus* (525 species from the Colombian Andes across the northern hemisphere to Japan) and *Dalbergia* (pantropical, 250 species). Heartwood, and heated and glued plywoods and composites will be particularly problematic even with new molecular techniques, and chemical profiling using various mass spectrometry and near infrared spectroscopy techniques show promise. Many more taxa will be encountered in the future, and keeping up with trade patterns and the timbers harvested will be a major challenge for all concerned.



A slightly shortened version of: <http://www.kew.org/discover/blogs/kew-science/wood-identification-supports-legal-timber-trade>

## Birds at Kew

by Peter Gasson and Ray Townsend

Kew is a great place to obtain close views of common woodland and wetland birds, especially in the quieter parts of the Queen's Cottage Grounds, Rhododendron Dell, the Lake and overlooking the river. Even Jays and Magpies are easier to approach than in most places. There are bird feeders in the Queen's Cottage Grounds where you can watch tits (Great, Blue, Coal and Long-tailed), Nuthatches, Chaffinches and Rose-ringed Parakeets (now ubiquitous at Kew and in west London generally. When Peter Gasson started at Kew in 1977 they were only occasionally seen flying over!). This is also the area to look for Treecreepers and is good for Blackcaps and Chiffchaffs singing in the spring. Goldcrests can occur anywhere, especially in conifers, but Firecrests are rarely found. Green Woodpeckers feed quietly on the grass verges but usually don't allow a close approach. Great Spotted Woodpeckers are usually heard 'chicking' loudly before they bound across from one tree to another. The last Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Peter Gasson saw at Kew was in April 1998. They may still be occasional visitors since they are seen from time to time in Richmond and Osterley Parks.



Heron ©Peter Gasson



Jay ©Peter Gasson



Little Grebe ©Peter Gasson

Grey Herons and Cormorants are ever present. Herons nest along the river and can be seen year round from behind Kew Palace or Syon Vista. A very tame individual lives at the pond by the National Archives, and was joined by a Little Egret for a week in early August 2014. Little Grebes and Great Crested Grebes can be found on the Lake along with Coots, Moorhens and a mixture of wild and exotic ducks. Egyptian Geese are now regularly seen and breed. One of the more reliable wintering species is Shoveler, and Teal can be seen along the river. Kingfishers last nested on the Lake in 2005, but are still around, and occasionally even visit the Ornamental Pond behind the Jodrell Laboratory (12 Jan 2011). This area can be surprisingly good for birds. Grey Wagtails have nested on the School of Horticulture and still occasionally visit the pond. More unusually, six Reed Buntings have frequented the tall grasses in the Grass Garden (30 Nov to 4 Dec 2006), and on the evening of 15 April 2013 there were three males and a female Wheatear on the lawn in the late afternoon. These

records just show that you can't anticipate what you'll see next. Common birds such as Woodpigeons are quite tame here, and even Stock Doves can be confiding at times, and Mistle Thrushes are often around. Kestrels and Sparrowhawks are often present, and there is now the distinct possibility of seeing a Peregrine (particularly over Kew Green or the river) or maybe a Red Kite or Buzzard. Peter Gasson has seen all three at Kew, and not infrequently between junctions three and two along the M4 on the way to work. Owls are more awkward to find, but Tawny Owls are present, and Little Owls have been seen several times in the last 12 months near the Beech Clump opposite White Peaks. Kew is a particularly good place to watch Golden Pheasants which are usually elusive (but noisy) skulkers. They try and breed unsuccessfully as the local Fox tends



Stock Dove ©Peter Gasson





Golden Pheasant, Male ©Peter Gasson

to take the mother and the chicks. However, Ray Townsend and his colleagues are breeding some chicks in a protected area in the Stable Yard, and Ray has recently seen Snipe and Woodcock at Kew which are both difficult to see here. There are still a few House Sparrows in back streets in Kew but not in the Gardens. It is always worth being vigilant since you never know what might turn up. From 24 April to 1 May 1992 a hybrid male Ring-necked x Tufted Duck frequented Kew Pond with Tufted Ducks, and on 9 March 2011 Peter Gasson walked past several Waxwings in Kew Gardens Road, but it was an irruption year!

We haven't mentioned all the species one is likely to see at Kew. Various gulls, finches and thrushes occur depending on the time of year. For further information see the article on Kew's birds in the 1992 Kew Guild Journal, the Kew Information sheet K17 (2003) provides a systematic list, Dominic Mitchell's "Where to watch birds in London" has an entry on Kew, the London Bird Report is published every year by the London Natural History Society and there are occasional reports for Kew on the day of a sighting on London birders: <http://londonbirders.wikiw.com/wiki/LatestNews>.

## Kew Bloomers

by Ian Lamont Smith

Early morning of the 13th of January 1896, 19 year old Annie Gulvin and 20 year old Alice Hutchings, dressed in their Swanley workgarb of knee-length breeches, gaiters, loose blouse, jacket, coat and hat (it was winter), and dark blue cotton smock tucked under their arm, reported to the Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens (RGB) Kew to commence employment as gardeners. The first women to do so!

This didn't happen by accident, for a year earlier, Swanley Horticultural College had contacted W. T. Thiselton-Dyer, Director of RBG, Kew, to request he consider granting dispensation to the rules of acceptance for two of their most outstanding women students who, through no fault of their own, were short of the age of majority and lacked the years of previous experience readily available to male applicants.

The main obstruction was age: must be at least 20; experience: no less than 5 years, and gender: women considered not suitable for such work. Thiselton-Dyer must have been so impressed with the womens' credentials that he cut the Gordian Knot and gave his approval for women to be gardeners at Kew.

The women didn't disappoint, Gulvin proved so adept that within the first few months she was promoted to the rank of Sub-foreman, a first for Kew. By year's end of 1896 she departed Kew, to assume the position of Head Gardener of a Welsh country estate. The first woman Head Gardener in Britain. A Josephine Paxton Hutchings remained for the coming year to be joined by Swanley graduates Gertrude Cope and Eleanor Morland. Come 1898 Hutchings was promoted to the rank of Sub-foreman, a short while later Morland also promoted to the rank of Sub-foreman. Cope departed Kew, her place taken over by Swanley graduate Florence Potter. The next year, Hutchings continued as Sub-foreman. Morland and Potter left Kew, Swanley graduate Jessie Newsham taking on the gardener position.

Year 1900 saw Hutchings and Newsham leave Kew and the last of the women gardeners to arrive, Swanley graduates Ena Powell and Edna Gunnell. Towards the end of 1901 both Powell and Gunnell had left Kew. Apart from Lady Warwick graduate Annie Quelch's

brief appearance in 1902 was the last of the women gardeners at Kew until the Great War of 1914-18.

Women gardeners constituted about 5% of the gardener staff, no more than three at any one time, worked in designated areas mostly away from public view. It's debatable whether the general public was aware or interested in their presence. It took the Press a few years to notice, poking fun at the women as "London's Kewriositys", published a poem referring to them as 'Ladies in bloomers who gardened at Kew'. The joke is at the Press' expense, for the bloomer style of baggy pants tied at the ankles went out of fashion in the 1860s, thirty years before the advent of women gardeners at Kew! An 1898 group photo shows women gardeners Hutchings, Morland, and Cope dressed in a version of knickerbockers tied at the knee. A more tailored version would have been de rigueur for a country gentleman dressed for the shoot, or a game of golf.

Let's stand back a pace, with lesser jaundiced eye, and see what Thiselton-Dyer had wrought. A new flower. A beautiful bloomer. The Woman Gardener.

(This is a reconstruction of past events squirrelled away in Swanley's and Kew's archives and Journals of the Kew Guild, to which I am indebted.)

## ‘My Career’

In this feature, we hear from Kewites about their career to date. Send in your own story to [editor@kewguild.org.uk](mailto:editor@kewguild.org.uk)

### Ed Ikin

Head of Landscape and Horticulture at Wakehurst



My connection to nature formed growing up on a farm, spending my spare time walking through woodland and meadows, learning the plants in ancient hedgerows and fishing (amongst more typical teenager pursuits!) I studied Biology at university, but once I graduated was desperate to be outside and became a gardener.

After training in the Valley and Savill Gardens and RHS Wisley, I worked at Polesden Lacey, became Assistant Head Gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden and then Head Gardener at Nymans, where I worked for seven and a half years. After my team and I delivered a successful renovation of Nymans, I was asked by the National Trust to go on secondment as a General Manager in London, leading properties as diverse as Morden Hall Park and

William Morris' Red House. In this role, I was project client on Rainham At The Centre of the World which transformed an empty house in the Thames Estuary into a community hub, cafe and a new centre for creativity.

My spare time, predictably, is horticulturally focused: I'm on the management committee of the Open Garden Squares Weekend and a London Parks and Gardens Trust Council Member. I keep my hand in as gardener-in-residence for the close where we live and spend as much time as possible with my twin sons, playing cricket and building dens in our neighbouring woods.

The role at Wakehurst jumped out at me as a once-in-a-generation opportunity. Wakehurst is an extraordinary site: rich in soil, topography, natural diversity and plant collections. The presence of Kew, a globally focused, botanic institution makes us a unique proposition, forward-thinking and dynamic, with a strong emphasis on science, conservation and collections. We need to use our unique remit to make our conservation and horticulture dynamic, well-planned and brilliantly executed. We're going to spend 2016 reviewing Wakehurst to assess what's brilliant now, and which areas need to develop to deliver this aspiration.

### **Ian Lamont Smith**

Mid-September 1953, with Kew Certificate in hand I departed for the last time from Kew Gardens. Next day, aboard S.S. 'Columbia' outward bound from Southampton to Canada and Adventure. Across the Atlantic, down the St. Lawrence to Quebec City; by rail through miles of forest ablaze with fall colour to Montreal; more forest and farm to arrive at Toronto September 30, 1953.

First year, one of adjustments and short term landscape jobs, made easier with help from Kewites resident in Toronto region; A. Brown (1905) Sheridan Nurseries, J. Redman (1939) and L. Laking (1939) both of RBG Hamilton, J. Taylor (1936) Agricultural College, Guelph, C. Stone (1951) and A. Carson (1951) both Toronto City Parks, and a side trip to U.S.A. to meet T. Everett (1925) B.G. New York.

A year later, I was appointed Landscape Architect - Site Improvements, with Canadian Government. A hectic two years ensued with planning and landscape architectural site improvements for new towns, government installations (Department of Defence and Atomic Energy of Canada), and city expansions, with inspections and extensive travel over an area twice the size of England.

September 1956, two game-changers. Marriage; and the other, invited to join the office of Austin Floyd, Canada's most distinguished Landscape Architect, as his Job Captain for Toronto's show-piece of down-town Urban Renewal.

The following September, I enrolled in a four year undergraduate program in Landscape Architecture offered on combined campus of Syracuse University and New York State University. I received academic credits for studentship at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, literary prize for a paper on multiple use of parks and forests, Deans Honour list for academic excellence, President of forensic debating society. With Bachelor degree conferred and with pregnant wife, embarked on a two month camping trip across the States and Canada to arrive back in Toronto, August of 1961. Our son was born six weeks later.

Shortly after, I opened an office as a Site Planner and Landscape Architect. For the next 20 years, I offered problem solving know-how to a diverse client mix and projects from tree-house to large tree farm, bowling green to golf course, school to university, single house to multi housing, low rise to high rise, back lot to exclusive equestrian estate, local park to Martinique resort.

I was awarded a consultants contract with the Canadian Corporation for the Worlds Exhibition (CCWE) Expo 1967, Montreal, as Project Officer to co-ordinate planners, architects, engineers, landscape architects, and contractors for building of one third of the Fair grounds, set on islands in the St. Lawrence River. I partnered with consult-design build consortium to landscape the International Pavilions.

After the Fair, I was appointed by Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, Toronto to prepare and

deliver a curriculum for a two year Diploma program in Landscape Architectural Technology, with a third year in readiness for degree granting university status. It was the first of its kind in North America, and much imitated. I was awarded rank of Professor. After six years of teaching I left to resume full-time consulting and its eclectic challenges.

I closed the office in 1983, and moved off-shore for 15 years as a freelancer. I contracted with the Royal Commission, Yunbu, Saudi Arabia to expedite the transfer of streetscapes, recreation facilities and parks into an embryonic Parks and Recreation Department for the new emerging City. Job done I returned to Saudi Arabia to take-up the position of Landscape Architect to project management teams over-seeing housing, parks, schools, mosques, souks, clinics, and football fields of mile squared, 65,000 populated Military Cities of Khasm Al Aan and Dirab.

After world travel with the family, I signed on as Manager for the maintenance of parks, stadium, gardens, streets, boulevards, Diplomatic Quarter, Kuwait City appointed Supervisor, Civil Engineering program and founding staff member of the Higher Colleges of Technology, head-quartered in Abu Dhabi, U. A. E. Seconded as Construction Manager for additional teaching facilities for Men Colleges, and Women Colleges, located at Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Al Ain. I was presented with a Founders Award from his Excellency Sheikh Nahyan.

After happy holiday hiatus I returned to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia as resident Landscape Architect for the landscaping of Prince Abudul Aziz Bin Fahd's palace environs.

I returned to Canada, to take-up private research of women in horticulture and their role in advancing the the profession of Landscape Architecture. The beat goes on!

**Tony Sweeney**  
Director of Wakehurst



I grew up among the wild hills and dales of the Yorkshire Moors, which is where my lifelong love of nature and landscape comes from. I am an avid traveller, and I immerse myself in the sublime experience of nature in whichever part of the globe I visit.

I studied science at Southampton University, then decided to take a period out travelling before settling into working life. Roughly a year's travel

took me through some of the world's most fascinating, inspiring places and landscapes, across Europe, the Middle East and the old Asia Overland route to Australia. It is saddening to see how many of those places – Iraq, Syria, Iran, Afghanistan... - and their wonderful people, have been in such deep conflict in recent years.

Real life intruded eventually, and roots needed putting down. I started working life as an editor of scientific and humanities journals, reference works and trade titles at Pergamon Press, then Basil Blackwell Publishers in Oxford. I then worked at The Open College in London in open learning and television. The North then beckoned again as a place to bring up family, and I moved to the National Museum of Photography, Film and Television in Bradford, where I directed one of the first large National Lottery funded projects, re-inventing the Museum in the late 1990s.

For the past decade I have been living in the vibrant city of Melbourne in Australia, where I was Director of the Australian Centre for the Moving Image. This was a brand-new cultural centre for public exhibitions, festivals and live events in moving image art, film and digital media. By the time I left, ACMI had become the world's highest attended and broadest ranging film and moving image centre.

Though I love Australia, after a decade away, I missed the culture and green landscapes of the UK, and decided to return. Visiting Wakehurst for the first time earlier this year, I can only say I was completely 'blown away' by its inspiring beauty, and richness of landscape and plant life.

My great interest has always been in finding fresh ways to communicate with and engage a wide range of publics - from young kids to aficionados - in creative and cultural subjects and activity. And that is the link with Wakehurst: a place to connect my career developing innovative, exciting public institutions with my love of nature, place, art and creativity. I see the wonderful wild green spaces of Wakehurst as a place to engage people through the senses and the mind with the environment, nature - and plants, on which all life ultimately depends. Wakehurst has several hundred acres of immensely rich and varied landscapes, organised botanically and covering many of the world's temperate woodland regions. There are formal decorative gardens, arboreta, nature reserves, and the world renowned Millennium Seed Bank devoted to world plant conservation.

I'd like to bring new things to add to the already varied offer at Wakehurst, so that both seasoned visitors and newcomers can experience nature through fresh eyes - and be inspired as it evolves over the seasons and the years. We can develop new live events and activities to show the landscape - and especially the botanical science underpinning our work here - from different perspectives. On a larger scale and time horizon, climate change is inevitably affecting the ecology of our entire estate. We need to be responsive to the changes in plant life this will bring. But we also need to preserve many of our iconic beauties - such as our oldest tree, planted in around 1365 and still looking fresh today!

Fundamentally, I want to carry on the pioneering spirit which has always driven and created the foundations for the Wakehurst we see today - love of nature, a spirit of enquiry, and the enthusiasm to explore and share its astonishing diversity.

## **News of Kewites in 2015**

by Pamela Holt and others

**Mike Clift:** Surrey has changed in the last fifty years, in particular regarding its horticultural connections. This county then had a number of well established plant nurseries, which included: Fromow, Hilling, Jackman, Knaphill, Slocock, Sunningdale and Waterer. Most of the above came into existence after 1800, which was prompted by the wealth of new exotic plant material that the plant collectors had introduced, following their journeys to various countries and locations around the world. People such as The Tradescants, Joseph Banks, David Douglas, Joseph Hooker, Ernest Wilson and the Lobb brothers were just some who were involved in this quest. Production began and considerable numbers of these new plants were grown. Specialisation occurred in several of these nurseries. Rhododendrons, azaleas, clematis, camellias, hollies and conifers all became important crops and raising of new hybrid plants followed. Several of these nurseries became involved in showing their plants in London, from which the show now known as Chelsea evolved in 1913.



The last war inevitably introduced changes. Production of vegetables then became a priority and these were grown by a greatly reduced number of staff. After the war, it was a while before production could begin again and the staff level had reduced further, but there was demand for plants. Time honoured methods and materials were updated and with more mechanisation, increased production was achieved. By the late 1950s the introduction of Garden Centres, an idea that was first noted in the United States and then introduced here, made quite a change. Several nurseries accepted this idea to increase plant sales. However in the 1960s and 1970s a further major alteration from traditional open ground production to the concept of container growing was initiated. This made a great difference in the size of nurseries and to the range of plants grown. The excess land was usually sold off for new housing developments and useful revenue. Computers soon appeared to cause more change. Many who initially accepted the change to Garden Centres have since entirely disappeared from the scene.

What trends might we expect in the next years? Possibly a few small specialist nurseries, fewer but larger garden centres, which may well be part of larger groups, but some individual centres may well continue. It could be questioned what has evolved as a garden centre today, where sales of plants seem to be of low priority in these huge Emporia. Looking further ahead, more housing for our ever increasing population will be needed, more roads and other facilities will be needed and even gardens for those who are interested in growing plants will be even smaller, all of which will possibly mean that the horticultural scene in the future will indeed be very doubtful. The Old Stagers often commented that houses are more profitable than plants.

**Sheila Das** (2010) formerly Upper Gardens and Apprentice Manager, English Heritage, Wrest Park, became the Gardens Manager, with special responsibility for looking after the Student Courses, Fruit and Veg, Seeds and Gardens Volunteers, Wisley, during the summer of 2015. She succeeds Tim Hughes, who is now Head of the School of Horticulture at Kew.

**Jim Emerton:** My work has been published in the main Mensa Magazine, and I have created over 600 poems and published very many articles in journals, racing pigeon magazines and the net. My little life story is in Mensa Dig, gardening newsletter, and there are some original articles in Think, read by some leading intellectuals. The Biography is on the way, and people who know me may contribute to this life sketch if they wish. I buzz along with two walks a day, and tend my ecogarden which makes a colourful impact. Kew gave me a great deal of cerebral stimulation, and nurtured the academic juices.

**Allan Hart:** Another eventful year - not all good unfortunately! Friday 13th February - at the beginning of the Perrots Brook Snowdrop Weekend, Joan became unwell, but insisted on taking part in all the various events. On our return home I contacted our clinic and within ten minutes an ambulance arrived and the paramedics diagnosed the problem as an ITA. After undergoing many tests for a couple of days, she was able to return home. Happily there was no lasting damage, and lots of gardening proved very therapeutic and helped her back to normal life and playing badminton again.

In mid February we visited an Iris Society Show at Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park, where we met Sid Linnegar - an ex Kewite whom I hadn't seen for over 50 years and we still recognised each other! Sid has been a life long supporter of the Society. At the end of March we visited Dr. Shirley Sherwood at her home to present her with the Honorary Fellow certificate, as she is usually travelling abroad at the time of the Annual Dinner.

Later we attended the funeral of John Woodhams, which was a very sad and moving occasion. The wake gave us the opportunity to catch up with several Guild members. This was immediately prior to the Annual Dinner, a wonderful event at which we enjoyed the company of many old friends. We then travelled to Guernsey by catamaran for a few days, staying in St. Peter Port. After touring the island's scenic routes it was very distressing to witness the decline of the horticultural industry. Many hectares of derelict glasshouses which used to supply mainland Britain with tomatoes and flowers. A day trip to Sark, where there are no cars, only tractors - we walked to and enjoyed the superbly designed and maintained 'La Seigneurie' formal garden.

On Sunday 14 June we opened our garden for FISH, a local charity and to support the restoration of a WW2 air raid shelter which will be open to the public and to local schools. We had over 400 visitors between 2pm and 6pm which was amazing! Lots of interesting questions - some of which I managed to answer! In July we met up with the Kew Guild group to visit North Wales - well organised by Peter and Liz Styles - lots of castles and interesting gardens and good pubs. Our big event in August was a garden party to celebrate my 80th birthday. Long term friends John and Lyn Sales, Mike Clift and his sister Mary were able to attend. The day was very hot and sunny, amazing - as it was sandwiched between two weeks of torrential rain!

An additional treat was a three week trip to the USA - organised by Kew Guild Honorary Fellow Dennis McGlade. A few days in Philadelphia enjoying the new open spaces designed by his firm plus the sublime landscaping by Laurie Olin of a contemporary extension to the Barnes Foundation building. A highlight was attending a gala fund raising dinner held at the Bartram Gardens on the bank of the river. The Foundation is responsible for the restoration of the gardens which border one of the deprived areas of Philadelphia and the training of gardeners, providing allotments and promoting the use of healthy foods. We then flew to San Francisco for a two week tour of Botanic Gardens including Chanticleer, Filoli, Mendocino, San Francisco and Berkeley. We drove from the west coast of California, with its towering sand dunes, through the virtually flat Central Valley to Yosemite National Park and its awesome grandeur.

The return journey took us through the Sonoma and Napa Valleys essentially to sample and enjoy the marvellous wines and food, particularly at Chateau St. Jean at Kenwood with its reclaimed landscape and planting designed by Dennis.

We experienced our first views of California Redwoods - *Sequoia sempervirens* at Muir Woods, a remnant of ancient Redwood forests that blanketed many of the coastal valleys before the 1880s. The land was purchased in 1905, donated to the federal government and named after the conservationist John Muir who helped to create the National Park Service. Back in Philadelphia to explore more of the city before travelling by Greyhound coach to New York to walk the High Line restoration project, a very sensitive treatment conserving the railway heritage and creating a naturalistic planting palette designed by Kew Guild Honorary Fellow, Piet Oudolf. The creation of this extensive pedestrian route is a popular tourist attraction, a safe commuter walk and a major regenerator of previously derelict buildings. A similar treatment of the London Coal Line could have the same impact on its locality, far better than the proposed London Garden Bridge vanity project!



Overlooking Berkeley, California, Botanic Garden ©Joan Hart



Dennis (left) with Joan and Allan. ©Joan Hart

Back home for a few days then off to Cornwall with son Richard and family for a half-term break to visit the Eden Project, Cotehele and Morwelham Quay. The Kew Guild trip to Batsford Arboretum was sadly affected by torrential rain - but lunch was very enjoyable. The following day we went with John Sales to Compton Verney to see the modernist link block which forms an art gallery and a restaurant - all beautifully proportioned and detailed. The house is set in a wonderful Lancelot Brown landscape.

The work on the new Kew Guild Honours Boards is complete and they are awaiting installation in the about to be refurbished Guild room. At home - more garden surprises. *Clematis armandii* sporadically in flower from August, *Prunus pissardii* began flowering in December and *Nicotiana mutabilis* still going strong after three years. The Verdigris Toadstool, *Stropharia aeruginosa* reappeared in the summer and seems to like its new home. Joan continues to be a very active secretary to our local amenity society while I continue with garden designs and occasional consultancies - life is never dull!

**Stewart Henchie:** During April and May and October and November for two three week stints, he went back to Penang



Alice Lumb and Hans Mackrodt getting some cool in Haytor, Dartmoor before leaving for the tropics

Botanic Garden to follow up on his previous two years work there to improve the garden and its management. On the last occasion Stewart introduced and inducted Alice Lumb (Course 47) and Hans Mackrodt (Course 49) to the Botanic Garden. Before Alice and Hans travelled out to Penang they sampled the Devon air in mid September and were taken up to Haytor in Dartmoor National Park. During July, Past President Rebecca Bower travelled from Exeter to Teignmouth and “showed Pat and I and our grandchildren her exceptional skills in sandcastle construction.” A great time was had by all on the beach.



Past president Rebecca Bower (L)

**Ian Lamont Smith** (1951) Ontario Canada, visited the UK in September as part of his ongoing research of women in the early days of horticulture and landscape architecture with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew playing an important part. He was guest of Richard and Wiena Ward (1961), where they created the Mortlake Menu ‘Fish & Chips with Champagne’. He was able to visit Wakehurst Place for the Kew Guild AGM with Allan Hart (1956). Ian enjoyed meeting many wonderful Kewites including the outgoing and incoming presidents David Hardman (1974) and Tony Overland (1963) respectively. Ian was also kindly hosted by Leo Pemberton (1952) with whom he was a student with in the Palm House. Leo was a great help in chauffeuring him around the wilds of Surrey. By chance, Ian met Charles Funke (1943) in Godalming.

**Clive Popham** (1961) writes from down under Victoria that 2015 was not a great year whether it was a plague of grasshoppers eating anything in sight or his ill health with bowel cancer. Happily though he has responded well to chemo and radiotherapy and is determined to make a long trip in 2016. This will involve a stop off in China en route to the UK, then Canada, Alaska and Honolulu before heading home. Transport will involve planes, boats and kayaks although he and wife Julie have purchased electric bikes recently!

**Richard Ward**, Advisory Editor, took two colleagues in February to renovate the Gardens of a Chateau at Tillac, West of Toulouse, France, and followed up with establishing a wildflower meadow in April. The Ward family have offered their Kew flat as a meeting point for various guild get-togethers during the year.



Richard Ward, left in photo, was blessed by a visit from Graham Burgess, right, and Don Higham (1961-1963) on Wednesday 26th August. Over cups of tea the trio swapped stories (waiting for the rain to stop!) and later they enjoyed a visit to the Gardens - Don's first since 1998. Hopefully Don has re-joined the Kew Guild!

Throughout November 2014-18 Kew guides are providing free hour-long walking tours to enable visitors to 'gain insight into Kew's fascinating wartime history of both world wars through the sites, plants and people involved.' In this photo from Advisory Editor Richard Ward, on 26th November, volunteer guide Jenny Jones (centre) tells visitors about the War memorial. What wonderful work Kew's volunteers carry out!



Former Kew Guild Journal Editor **Alexandra Partridge** (nee Ward) and her husband Matthew welcomed baby Harry Richard into the world on 15th November 2015.



**Udai C. Pradhan** sends us News from the Himalayas:

Dear Friends old and new,

As Tej and I listen to ‘Morning has broken’ by Neil Diamond, sipping Darjeeling tea, it takes me down memory lane to 16 Kew Gardens Road where, listening to this song on a small transistor radio lent to me by my local guardians, the Streets, (during 1971-1972)



The Hooker sisters, Lucy and Diana, in front of *Rhododendron arboreum* var. *campbelliae* near Tonglu

each day, I used to gather myself to face the new and exciting world of plants and people that Kew would expose me to. Today, nearly four and half decades later, we are in some way or the other still connected with Kew through visits from students from around the world and reconfirming and strengthening the bonds built and fostered through the medium of plants. Interconnectedness, inheritance and awareness all come into discussion as we move on to meet the two sisters from Sir Joseph Hooker’s family, Lucy and Diana.



Barnaby and Jackson inquiring about our orchids

In May 2014, a student of Kew, Mathew Parker came visiting us after his tour of Sikkim and Darjeeling. He was following Sir Joseph Hooker’s trail in the Sikkim Himalayas and had gotten in touch with my son-in-law, Alister and daughter, Sanjivini to help him plan his itinerary. Soon after returning back to Kew he made a presentation on his trip and experience visiting some places that Sir Joseph passed during his epic journey to the Sikkim Himalayas in 1840s. Among the audience was Lucy Hooker Browne the grand daughter of Reginald Hooker, the fourth son of Sir Joseph from his first marriage. Lucy, enthused by Mathew’s presentation, got Alister and Sanjivini’s contact

from him and immediately planned a family holiday to the Sikkim Himalayas and Darjeeling in which her elder sister, Diana Hooker Collins, also joined the family. The group now consisted of Lucy and her husband Gordon Browne, Diana Collins, Lucy’s elder sister, Emily Browne, Gordon’s daughter and Lucy’s three sons from her previous marriage Finnian, Barnaby, and Jackson Sayce.

As a student of Indian orchids, I have constantly referred to Sir Joseph Hooker’s treatment of the Family Orchidaceae in his epic Flora of British India. Also having dedicated our book on Sikkim Himalayan Rhododendrons in his honour, Tej, Hemlata and I were delighted to learn that Sir Josephs great granddaughters along with their family would be spending a day in Kalimpong and visiting us. This was an excellent opportunity of learning about the descendents of Sir Joseph and getting to know them in person. My request to Lucy and Diana for more information on the family resulted in the following dialogues between us:

Lucy’s email dated 03.01.2016: “...In response to your enquiries, I have attached an updated version of the JDH family tree, and also photographs of the extended family tree from the back of a book published in the 70s I think, The Hookers of Kew by Mea Allen. I am noted in there with Diana, but not our children as the publication date was before we were married. I hope you can make sense of it.”



Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker Family Tree									
Focusing on Reginald Hawthorn Hooker and his descendants					with Lucy and Diana Hooker's input				
William Jackson Hooker (1785-1865)									
Maria Sarah Turner (1797-1892)									
1 William Dawson Hooker (1816-1840)	2. Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911)								
	First wife: Frances Harriett Henslow (1825-1874)								
	4 sons 2 daughters								
	1. William Henslow (1853-1942)				1914				
	Sarah Ann-Smith (1863-1952)								
	2. Harriet Anne (1854-1945)				1877				
	William Thistleton Dyer (1843-1928)								
	3. Charles Paget (1855-1933)				1885				
	Sophie Evan-Lombe (1857-1931)								
	4. Maria Elizabeth (Minnie) (1857-1863)								
	5. Brian Harvey Hodgson (1860-1932)				1888				
	Sophie Catherine Willan (1863-1943)								
	6. Reginald Hawthorn (1867-1944)				1911				
	Oliver Marion Rucker (1878-1933)								
					3 Oliver Nevil (1916 - 2013)				
					Alice Muriel Lemmy (1923 - 2013)				
					1 Diana Margaret (1947 -				
					Hugh Collins				
					1 Olivia Mary				
					2 Grace Elizabeth				
					2 Timothy Nevil (1949 -				
					Heatherlee Davies				
					1 James				
					2 Ben				
					3 Lucy Mary (1960 -				
					1. Simon Francis Sayce				
					1. Jackson Murray (1989 -				
					2 Barnaby Michael (1991 -				
					2 Finnan Rupert (1994 -				
					1. Geoffrey Gordon Browne				
					1. Emily Crane (1992 -				
	7. Grace Allen (1868-1953)								
	Second Wife Hyacinth Symonds (1842-1921)								
	2 sons.								
	1. Joseph Symonds (1877-1940)				1909				
	Constance Bell (1881-?)								
	2. Richard Symonds (1885-1950)				1912				
	Margot Peel (1880-1964)								

“As for our professions, Alister is quite correct I am a Maths teacher. My first degree was biology, as, having grown up with the Hooker family history, I didn’t realise there was anything else I could do! I then trained to teach Maths in a secondary school (aged 11 - 18) (better job prospects) and did so for a number of years with a spell teaching younger children when my own were growing up. I now work as an adviser, employed by the local government in Reading. I run courses for teachers, visit them in school, teach, demonstrations, lessons and coach them to be better at what they do. It is very varied. Every day is different so it keeps me interested..... The card tricks come from the time I belonged to a group called ‘Maths Buskers’. We would entertain people with ‘tricks’ that could all be explained using Maths. Great fun! I have done this at conferences and festivals as well as private parties.

I’ve copied Diana in to this so she may be able to give you more detail, but I can give you a bit of an idea and she can correct me if I’m wrong. Diana started life as a linguist, working in Germany and Switzerland before training as a speech therapist. When her own children were small she set up a very successful nursery which she ran from her home (teaching seems to be a theme in our family. My brother also worked as a science teacher - now retired). She also set up a franchised after-school Maths tutoring business, which she has now sold. Again, really successful. And after all that she is now training to be a psychotherapist and is, I think, in her final year.

We both definitely have the gardening ‘bug’ although have never been blessed with particularly huge gardens. I supplement my small garden with an allotment - a small plot that I rent on which I grow vegetables (and weeds of course!). Our Mother (not a Hooker) was a very keen gardener so between them our parents created beautiful gardens and we grew up with a great respect for all things natural. This year I have planted some Primulas in the garden to remind me of my time in Sikkim. Unfortunately our soil is too alkaline to grow rhododendrons and I’m not very good at keeping things alive in pots.”



L to R Gordon, Tej, Udaï, Hemlata, Barnaby, Lucy, Finnian, Jackson, Diana and Emily

Diana Hooker Collins continues on 04.01.16: "...I don't really have much to add to what Lucy has already told you that can be of use for your Kew article but, since you ask, I will tell you a little bit about my two daughters which may be of interest. First, though, let me say that our father, Oliver, would have been absolutely thrilled that we undertook to retrace his grandfather's footsteps in The Yumthang Valley. He would have very much liked to have become a naturalist himself, but his father (R.H. Hooker) who was a meteorologist and statistician said "engineering is the job for the future" and insisted he study that. He won all the Maths



Presenting a painting of *Pleione hookeriana* by Hemlata

prizes at school and after studying electrical engineering at Cambridge he had an interesting career in valve technology which became superseded by semi-conductors, transistors and now circuit technology, I think it is called, or maybe even that is out of date now too. He used to say that what an 8ins valve could do originally, could now be programmed electronically onto a space the size of a pin head. And that was 30 years ago. But he was always drawn to the natural world, primarily entomology, and he was also fascinated by the sky and clouds, the stars and astronomy, weather systems, the sea, flora and fauna, the laws of nature and anything to do with the life of JDH ( Joseph Dalton Hooker). It was a great pity that they lived 99 years apart and so neither he nor any of his siblings ever knew him. Curiously, he was never much interested in garden plants, that was our mother's domain, but he certainly enjoyed sitting in a deckchair and admiring her colourful flower beds. I like to think that the Hooker explorer gene is still passing down through the generations. I do feel that Dad activated the spirit of adventure in me by starting to teach me French when I was 10 and arranging a French pen friend for me. I have always been fascinated by the lifestyles of other cultures and have travelled to and lived in some foreign places. My current work involves exploring the inner world of the psyche which is every bit as interesting as the tangible, visible, outer world of jet travel. Each world is a treasure trove, however, and neither is exclusive of each other. My ex-husband was also a great traveller in his work as a telecoms engineer and he spent some months in Bhutan helping them to obtain a government licence for their wireless telephone network. My eldest daughter, Olivia, now 36, has also acquired the travel bug and has worked for several international aid agencies including Oxfam, and UNICEF. She has worked in some dangerous places including Afghanistan, Dafur, South Sudan, Chad, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Kenya and she and her husband, who works for UNHCR, are off to Cameroon in February for four years with their baby son, Felix. It is true that they spent the whole of 2015 in Paris, so I have been able to visit them regularly.....I am thankful that the days of leaving one's family at home with very limited communication are over. It must have been so hard for JDH's family when he took himself off on a long expedition with hardly any contact with loved ones back home.

My younger daughter, Grace, is thankfully more of a home bird. She makes jewellery and lives with her partner, Joe, near Brighton....Although not an explorer by nature she has inherited the Hooker sharp eyes which enables her to see very well even in the dark and which also enables her to carry out very fine, delicate work and detailed drawings.

So you see, dear Udai, inheritance is a precious gift, which in your family too is being passed down to your grandchildren as they learn to love and understand in their own way your work with orchids."

Sir Joseph Hooker continues to live on through his many descendents in places around the globe still caring and showing concern for the natural world and living the legacy of

an inquiring mind. He also lives on through students of Kew like Matthew Parker, who chose to travel and find out about his epic travel into the Sikkim Himalayas and giving a presentation at Kew. By doing so he inspired Sir Joseph Hooker's family members to visit and experience a part of the natural world Sir Joseph discovered in the Sikkim Himalayas and left behind an unparalleled account and discoveries that are treasures for all time to come.

Meantime, here in Kalimpong Hemlata and her students organised an exhibition and fundraiser for her Trust (Himalayan Trust for Natural History Art-HTNHA) titled 'Art in Nature, Nature in Art' from 6th to 8th February 2015, hosted by Vrindavan School, Kalimpong, as a part of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations. This was the first time that the students works were on view for the public. They had been preparing for this event from July until December, 2014. This was the first time that the exhibition was being staged in a public space and there was a lot of excitement and nervousness amongst the young students. Juggling between their regular school home-works and household chores and preparing for the art show, all at once, was not an easy task for them, yet their enthusiasm did not diminish and they managed to create a whole body of natural history art works that were truly amazing and beautiful. The exhibition was well attended and appreciated by many guests and visitors from Kalimpong, Darjeeling and the neighbouring states and countries.



Mural done by the students using natural colours of the African flame lily (*Gloriosa rothschildiana*)

The Trust also held its annual winter workshops during the months of January and February. The workshops were free and were held for children from underprivileged families and those sponsored by HTNHA keeping in mind our aim of highlighting education through art, conservation and sustainability at the grassroots.



Visiting tutor Lalita Manjunath talking to the HTNHA students about rock formations

Lalita Manjunath, a senior tutor from the Centre for Learning (CFL) School, Bangalore, South India, conducted voluntary workshops in terracotta pottery, jewellery making and crafts using natural raw materials like bamboo, wood and seeds of plants etc. and mural painting. She had an enthralling way of teaching art to the children through stories, songs, poems, dances and long walks in the nearby forests and riversides while also getting them interested in the natural world in the most practical way!

Chandan Panda, an artist from Kolkata conducted workshops in Batik printing. The children created some wonderful art pieces with natural history subject matter using this technique.

Prema Lakshman, again a tutor from CFL School, Bangalore, conducted voluntary workshops in the English Language. We decided to hold English Language classes for the children as we felt communication was important in the field of art and it would also help them in their high school education.

As the senior students at the school can now work independently, Hemlata gets more time to work on her botanical paintings. She says she would like to once again begin to exhibit her works, hopefully, beginning with an RHS Show and also, if she gets a chance, at Kew,



A terracotta pot with local birds and tree created by one of the students

where she began her journey as a botanical art student.

A day after the great Nepal earthquake in April, a stroke left me speechless for a day but fast medical intervention and care brought me back. The children took us to our farmhouse at Relli and we were able to spend three months convalescing and it turned out to be such a blessing in disguise. We could be with Satyam, Upashana, Yuvaan, Hemlata and Chris after a very long time. Going through the nursery, photographing and discussing plants and helping them with gardening was very rejuvenating.

We carry on losing some friends to old age and death but gaining more new ones with whom we can share our passion about plants and nature. I would like to conclude with a lovely note Diana Hooker Collins made in her email:

“I find it a fascinating thought that very probably our ancestors knew each other and that we all met up as a result of a chance encounter at Kew. Though the world is huge we humans are amazingly interconnected in all kinds of obscure ways. I like to think that friendships such as ours do help in some small way to foster happy relations between peoples and cultures and to preserve a peaceful, stable world for generations of our families to come.”

Tej, Hemlata and family joins me in sending you all and your families our greetings and very best wishes for 2016.

I am extremely grateful to Lucy and Diana Hooker for sharing the information on their families and also for the permission to use the matter and the pictures in this article. Thanks also to Alister Adhikari for the input.

## Obituaries

### Christopher Baylis

1931 - 27 November 2015

Christopher Baylis died on Friday 27th November 2015 aged 84 years after a heart attack. Christopher entered Kew in March 1954 from Southend Parks Department. From square one he was a communicator. In 1955 he won The Mutual Improvement Society Prize. In October of that year he gave a Mutual Improvement Society presentation on Irrigation. He left Kew in 1956 to live and work in Kent. In 1959 he was in Wargrave, Berkshire and then on 16th September 1961 when he was in Twyford, Berkshire he married Paula Tabraham at Burnham in Buckinghamshire. He was Landscape Representative to Messrs. John Waterer, Son and Crisp, for North-West Counties with a staff of 50 men. In his words; “On the landscape side we tackle anything including complete garden layout, swimming pools, hard-courts, etc.” His respect to Kew moved him to communicate with The Kew Guild Journal and celebrate other Kewites. He wrote - “Kewites are getting quite a stronghold with this firm...” The details which justify this statement are:

Mr. G. T. Naylor (1951) is the Landscape Representative of the South West Counties with a staff of 70 men.

Mr. J. O'Shea (1957) is in the Order Office at Twyford, handling the recordings etc., of



32,000 orders per year.

Mr. M. Clift (1958) is in the Shrub Nursery, Bagshot, working mainly in the Rhododendron Section.

Mr. S. Linnegar (1962) is an Assistant at the Twyford Nursery, where roses (250,000), herbaceous plants, alpines and fruit bushes are grown.

Chris always sought to improve skills and communication and in 1981 he played a key role together with Geoff Naylor in supporting BALI in respect of promoting innovative Design and Build. He was elected to the Kew Guild Committee for 3 years in 2007 and regularly attended Kew Guild AGM meetings. A lovely husband, father and grandfather who will be very much missed by all his family and friends. The funeral took place on Wednesday 16th December 2015 at Medway Crematorium, Chatham, Kent.

### **Eric Curtis**

- 8 November 2015

Before retirement Eric was curator at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, and President of The Kew Guild in 1989. He passed away on 8th November 2015. We send our condolences to his wife Mary and their two sons. A full obituary will appear in the next Journal.

### **Roger Davidge**

1927 - 4 May 2015

Roger Davidge, who was a member of the Kew Guild for many years, died on 4th May 2015, aged 88 years. Roger was a librarian at Kew from 1958 to 1967, and enjoyed his work there immensely. He kept in contact with several colleagues over the years, and always maintained his interest in Kew and its work. He was a keen amateur botanist. The funeral was held at 11am on Friday 22nd May 2015 at Randalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead.

### **Douglas Dawson**

30 June 1919 - 18 January 2015

One of Douglas' first jobs was at the nursery in Harrow, where he was inspired by a chrysanthemum grower, foreman or whatever he really was, but who answered, according to Douglas, to the rather delightful Welsh name of Owen Roland Owen. He then moved to Wisley Gardens and entered Kew in 1941, leaving at the end of the course in June 1944 to take a position in the Parks Department at Cardiff. In 1946 he was appointed Landscape Draughtsman in the Parks Department at Wembley. He once wrote: "The only real claim to such fame I can make is a plant I found in my brother in-law's garden in Holland (and he was no plantsman!) some 25 to 30 years ago and have called it *Brunnera macrophylla* 'Dawson's White' to distinguish it from another form nothing to do with me. Now in retirement thanks to amenable relationships all round I am still able to add to the collection I have tended for the Bank and also keep a fair number in my own private backyard, or garden I call a pocket handkerchief, and a greenhouse of PVC nicknamed 'my plastic bag', as the urge to acquire variegated plants goes irresistibly on; after all we all have to have some idiosyncrasies, another way of describing a 'nutter', but how boring a 'non-nutter' - someone with no peculiarities, if only that of collecting variegated plants and other 'wierdies'."

He worked at the John Innes Institute as Assistant Curator in the 50s and 60s, and when the late Professor C. D. Darlington wanted a collection of variegated plants for genetic investigation, he was a willing helper and participant. He left eventually and went to Oxford University where another collection was assembled. He had the great good fortune



to join the National Westminster Bank, which had a staff training college at Ware, Hertfordshire, and he was able to give vent to at least one personal interest and soon many plants in the gardens there were variegated! An even greater opportunity came later when the Bank purchased a property in Oxfordshire and 400 odd acres with two walled gardens, inter alia, in 1970. He implemented restoration of the gardens and grounds which had for many years been in a state of neglect. He was a Life Member of the Kew Guild. Father of Elsa, Frances and Nolan, grandfather and great-grandfather. He passed away peacefully at Juniper House.

**Mark Flanagan, MVO, VMH**  
1959 - 24 October 2015



Wakehurst Place. Opening part of the new phylogenetic plantings. Left to right: Professor Frances, Dr. Charles Jeffrey, Dr. Alice Takhtajan, Professor Takhtajan, Sir David Attenborough and Mark Flanagan.

Mark passed away on Saturday 24th October 2015 aged 56 years.

He started his horticultural career as an apprentice in the Manchester Parks Department, and then went on to undertake the horticultural diploma course at RBG Edinburgh, where he met his wife Lesley - and where he had already decided on his dream job: to be Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park. He went on to spend over 10 years working for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew including a period in charge of Wakehurst Place in Sussex. He held the RHS Master of Horticulture and a Honours Diploma in Horticulture from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh and was a Royal Horticultural Society Master of Horticulture. In the interim he worked first at Kew and then Wakehurst Place, where he became Deputy Curator.

In due course his dream came true and he succeeded the legendary John Bond in 1997 after leaving Kew, with responsibility for the world renowned Savill and Valley Gardens and the private garden at Frogmore House.

It was his great fortune, paradoxically, to be at Wakehurst when the Great Storm of 1987 struck. The devastation it caused at both Kew and Wakehurst Place was the impetus for a series of collecting expeditions to provide new specimens to rejuvenate the collections - and this catalysed a remarkable collecting partnership and deep friendship between Mark and his counterpart at Kew, Tony Kirkham. Mark joined the Board of Trustees in 2009 and took on the Chairmanship of the Advisory Committee in 2013. He served on many other committees including the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) Horticultural Board and the Woody Plant Committee. He wrote and contributed to many published articles. He kept in touch with Kew and lectured to The Mutual Improvement Society 'Among the Red Dawn Redwoods'.

He travelled extensively in search of hardy plants, with visits to Turkey, various countries in eastern Asia - Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Russia and China - as well as the United States and western Canada. He lectured widely and contributed regular articles to horticultural journals and jointly authored two books on plant collecting. He was chair of the RHS Woody Plant Committee, a trustee of the Chelsea Physic Garden and a member of the Gardens Panel of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum. His dedication, energy and enthusiasm for the Royal Gardens at Windsor was well known at every level. His family have set up a Just Giving page in his memory on which they ask those who knew Mark to leave a personal message with their memories, with proceeds going to Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity.

Tributes had also come from the highest places. As soon as she heard of Mark's illness the Queen appointed him a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO), an honour exclusively in her gift, and this was presented at Mark's bedside in Harefield Hospital in September. Horticulture was slower to respond, but rather remarkably the Royal Horticultural Society broke with 118 years of tradition to posthumously award Mark the highest accolade in horticulture, the Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH), news broken by Tony Kirkham in his eulogy. The VMH can be held by only 63 living recipients at any time and there is no doubt that as he approached the level of elder statesman it would have come to Mark: but now his name is inscribed on that list of the greats of horticulture, as it should be.

### **John Hale**

12 May 1933 - 11 May 2015

'Alfred' was known as John and he was born 12th May 1933 in Pontygwaith, Wales. He married Val on 24th March 1962 and they celebrated their Golden Wedding in 2012 and have lived in Ashford, Middlesex since 1963.

From 1957 the Temperate House was the early focus of John's supervisory working life at Kew. In those now past labour-intensive days the then poor internal environment of the ageing conservatory was compensated for by regularly changing floral displays produced in the Temperate House Pits (and there were still 'pit' propagation house there at that time). Most striking of all in summer were the many large hanging baskets of fuchsias all requiring daily love and care.

John demanded high standards and all was immaculately maintained from the deliciously scented, cinnamon barked *Maddenia* subsection rhododendrons in the Himalayan wing, delicate winter camellia flowers in the onetime old teak annexe, to the intriguingly bat-pollinated pendant inflorescences of the sausage tree (*Kigelia*) in the south wing.

As usual with the outgoing third year students the traditional 'pranks night' continued in style as it has done for many years. One of the most imaginative was the strategic placement of plastic fluorescent flowers into the larger cacti in the Princess of Wales Conservatory, which left the Supervisor of Cacti and Succulents, John, scratching his head for one moment, maybe thinking he had discovered some new species. The east-west orientated aluminium Australian House was then fairly new and used its high light gain to the flowering benefit of a very wide range of Australian plants, under the care of Jock Slater, John's only, but irascible permanent member of staff, all other work being undertaken by a team of Kew's horticultural students who changed every six months. Thus much of a supervisor's time in those days was given to training.

I worked directly with John for a few years from 1965 and was grateful for his support. Of personal memories I recall the calmness he conveyed from steadily drawing on his pipe and, if my fading memory is correct, his contrastingly impressive Allard car. Above all though, he was loyal and dedicated to Kew through all the subsequent changes to his lifetime's career in the gardens. He was Honorary Treasurer of The Kew Guild 1971 to 1975. He attended the 1973 AGM and presented the accounts year ending 31st December 1972 when income exceeded expenditure by £85.70, due to investments and donations. In October 1974 John Hale, Gardens Supervisor and Guild Treasurer, transferred from the Tropical Pits to the Staff Training Section, and at the end of November, after a last minute dash to obtain his tickets, he eventually manage to fly to Nairobi to join Dr. Peter Brandham on the East African Expedition. Although it was a rapid transition to temperatures of between 80 and 100 degrees Fahrenheit, in the shade they began collecting almost immediately and visited various parts of Kenya, northern Tanzania and southern

Ethiopia. At the 1975 AGM John retired as Honorary Treasurer and he was unavoidably absent. He retired from Committee at Kew in 1979, and liked nothing more than travelling abroad for holidays and had been as far afield as America, Canada, Africa, India, Singapore, Thailand and many places in Europe. He also had a passion for classic cars.

He passed away due to cancer on 11th May 2015 in the Princess Alice Hospice in Esher. A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held at the South West Middlesex Crematorium, Hanworth on 21st May 2015.

John and Val have two sons - Peter and Martin and also a grand-daughter Roisin who is the daughter of Peter and his wife Catherine.

### **Michael D. Harrington**

16 January 1943 - 27 October 2015

Michael ran his own successful landscaping/garden maintenance company from 1968 to 2014. His love of horticulture never diminished. In recent years he had visited Singapore Botanical Gardens, Hidcote and Powerscourt. He leaves a very close family of wife, Maureen, three daughters and five grand-children.

Maureen Harrington

### **Peter Huggett NDH AILAM FIH**

1929 - 30 November 2015



Peter passed away on 30 November 2015. He was fourteen years of age when he started work at the local technical college, helping the groundsman with the various pitches, borders and lawns. He then progressed to the public parks at Barking. He said that growing tomatoes in the glasshouses whilst bombs and shrapnel rained down and the resident gun emplacement banged away was quite exciting.

He became a student at Kew in 1950 and remembered that a high point was winning the clog and apron race one year. He enjoyed re-visiting Kew and seeing the improvements that had been made since he was there. Following on from Kew Peter moved to large-scale landscaping and his company worked on the early motorways, starting with the M1 and using the new 'hydraulic seeding' technique for difficult, inaccessible banks. He then expanded his work to other countries, managing landscaping works, including building golf courses in Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, France, UAE, Spain and Iraq. He lived and worked in France for some years.

In later years he developed leukaemia which eventually reached an acute phase in November 2015. He leaves his wife, Jean, four sons and ten grandchildren, to whom we send our condolences.

### **Patrick A. Nutt**

17 March 1930 - 4 June 2015

Patrick entered Kew in 1951. He was born on March 17, 1930, in Hendon, Middlesex, in northwest London. He completed the normal progression of preparatory education and

then took a gardener's apprentice position at the park department in Hendon. In 1948, he was drafted into the Royal Air Force and served two years, enough to make him an enthusiastic amateur military historian who always wore the RAF colours on his jogging clothes.

In March 1950, he left the Air Force and took a student internship at the RHS Gardens at Wisley using the English equivalent of the American GI Bill. The curator at the time was Francis Hanger, the former head gardener to Lionel de Rothschild of Exbury. Upon graduation, Pat commenced study at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, mainly to extend his greenhouse experience. There he had his first experiences with waterlily propagation and maintenance, and exposure to Victoria. One highlight was helping plant a new greenhouse of modern design featuring Australian plants. He was a great runner - our 1951 Journal records that he won the Clog and Apron Race in 49 seconds - probably a record that stands to this day.



In 1953, Pat moved to the United States, where he thought job opportunities might be better, to take a position at Louis Bromfield's Malabar Farms in Pleasant Valley, Ohio. Bromfield had advertised through *The Gardeners' Chronicle* for someone to work under his head gardener. At Malabar, Pat was involved in a progressive horticultural environment of growing vegetables organically, and reclaiming badly eroded agricultural land.

In 1956, after Bromfield's death, Pat applied for a horticultural position at Longwood Gardens to care for new outdoor waterlily pools then under construction. He was hired and began in February 1957. Longwood hoped to continue the work of waterlily expert George Pring, from the Missouri Botanical Garden and father-in-law of Longwood director Russell Seibert. Coincidentally, Pat had attended a lecture by Pring on his very first day as a student at Kew in 1951.

Pat worked closely with Pring, who, Pat remembered, "put me through the mill on water lilies. He used to cut up the flowers, mix them up, and quiz me on which one was which." Pat gained what was to be the base of his knowledge by propagating aquatic tubers and seeds, and by many lengthy conversations with his mentor. In 1960 Pat made the first cross of *Victoria cruziana* (female) and *Victoria amazonica* (male), resulting in the magnificent Victoria 'Longwood Hybrid' now grown around the world and he is best known for his exceptional work with aquatic plants. He was well respected by colleagues throughout the horticultural world. As Paul Redman, Longwood's Executive Director, notes, "When former students from decades ago visit, the first person they always ask about is Patrick. He was a legend in the professional gardening world, and he will be greatly missed. But his legacy will live on, especially in our vibrant aquatic displays which owe so much to him and which have brought so much pleasure to millions of visitors. In two Longwood greenhouses Pat began expanding the new waterlily collection. He also began building a collection of palms, cycads, bromeliads, and many other recently introduced tropical plants. Many of these were moved into Longwood's Palm House, which opened in 1966. One of his accomplishments during those early years was to successfully flower the giant aroid, *Amorphophallus titanum*, using bottom heat by placing the plant over a heating grate. Pat and two other co-workers nursed this plant for months, forcing it into bloom. It was a rare achievement at that time; in the USA it had been done previously only in the 1930s, at the New York Botanic Garden.

Pat worked closely with Gottlieb Hampfler, Longwood's staff photographer, filming day and night blooming waterlilies. The result was a 13 minute 1964 movie that has since been reissued on DVD with shots of Pat at work. He was promoted several times during his 38 years at Longwood, and even after retiring in 1995, he continued as an instructor. It was not uncommon to encounter him walking around the garden several days a week. He recalled great memories of the retirees at Kew and Wisley who would return as active participants, sharing their vast knowledge with current staff, and he followed in their footsteps.

Pat was a founding member of the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 1988. Tim Jennings, curator of Longwood's Waterlily Collection, fondly recalls, "I first met Patrick in 1986 when I was a student in our Professional Gardener Training Program. Little did I know then that a simple question about *Nelumbo* would lead to a lifelong friendship. Pat's successes as a horticulturist were many, but one of the most significant influences on me was the way he conducted his life around three basic values: thankfulness, generosity, and the sharing of knowledge. He was a humble individual who took great pride in mentoring, teaching, and watching others succeed. If you had Patrick as a friend, you had an ally for life."

Sharon Loving, Longwood's Director of Horticulture, notes, "Patrick made significant contributions to Longwood and to the entire field of public horticulture. With impeccable credentials, he was one of the most knowledgeable plantmen I've ever known. His encyclopedic knowledge was only superseded by his enthusiastic and engaging mentorship to hundreds, if not thousands, of horticulturists across the globe, including me - he was a perpetual teacher. Pat is an exceptional example of what lies at the true core of Longwood - passionate and generous in spirit, he always went above and beyond. Whether encouraging a new student, coaching one of us, or reaching out to his global network to bring unique plants to Longwood, his commitment to excellence was contagious and inspiring. He truly will be missed."

Patrick A. Nutt, 85, of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Thursday, June 4th, 2015, after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife Ann, three children, and ten grandchildren. Pat was a horticultural icon at Longwood Gardens, where he worked from 1957 until 1995, and an inspiration for thousands of students. He was a consummate plantsman.

*Editor's note. Patrick was one of the most prolific contributors of news to the Kew Guild Journal over many years. My father, Richard, and I sought him out on 8th. August 2013 during a trans-America journey. Despite suffering poor health at that time, in true Kewite tradition he took us for a 1 1/2 hour tour of Longwood Gardens.*

**Laura Ponsonby**  
1935 - January 2016



Laura worked at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for over 25 years, first as a Guide Lecturer and then as Education Officer before retiring in 1994. She continued her promotion and support of the Gardens long into her retirement but her passion was for the work of Marianne North on whom she developed an unrivalled expertise, regularly lecturing and promoting the work of this amazing artist both in the UK and abroad. She produced many important publications on the artist and was consulting on a current project up until 2015. One of her books sells for over £4000.



Laura died on 6th January 2016 after a short illness. Beloved aunt to Frederick, Julia, Rachel, Timothy, Emma, Harriet and Joanna. Her funeral service took place at 2pm on Saturday 23rd January at St Peters Church, Lynchmere. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her at Kew and thought of with love and respect by all her family, friends and colleagues.

### **Eric Pymont**

1925 - 15 October 2015

Eric entered Kew in 1942 when he was seventeen years of age and Guild member Charles Funke thinks he remembers Eric in the open ground Alpine Department. He left Kew in 1943 to join the Royal Air Force.

He then took up a post at Hartpury College and lectured there as Horticultural Lecturer until he retired thirty years ago. Hartpury College in Gloucestershire is focused on exceptional applied research and scholarship in the subject areas of Animal and Land, Equine and Sport. This is another example of skills gained at Kew being applied in a wide range of specialist areas. He was a member of The Sternians Association which was originally for former pupils of Lord Wandsworth College. It is named after the College founder, Sydney Stern, Baron Wandsworth.

Eric died peacefully at home in Seaton, Devon on the 15th October 2015, aged 90 years. Elizabeth his wife, and family, are mindful of the love and kindness shown to them during this sad time.

### **Sheila Storr**

27 May 1953 - 16 February 2015



Sheila was always fascinated by plants and as a little girl she would grow carrot tops and potatoes on the window ledge of the kitchen of her childhood home. She was also often to be found to be playing in the garden and digging around searching for worms.

Following stints at Tiffin Girls' School and Kingston College, Sheila furthered her love of all things green by studying Horticulture at The University of Reading (1970 to 1974). After university and a couple of sales jobs that didn't suit her temperament, Sheila was employed by Richmond Council to inspect the allotments and make sure people were not growing too many flowers! Sheila then secured a job as a manager at Syon Park Garden Centre around 1976. Whilst working there she met a handsome young northern man called Roger and after he picked her up for a few dates in his transit van full of grass cuttings she was smitten. They eventually married in 1980 and then settled in Richmond. Roger had previously set up and ran a landscape business in Richmond – Landscape Management.

They moved to Teddington in 1985 and Sheila worked first as a teacher and then as a full time mum. The house in Teddington was selected for the fact that it had a very large garden and Sheila and Roger wasted no time in landscaping it and turning it into a real treasure. The garden was opened on numerous occasions for Teddington in Flower and The Yellow Book, and received much praise over the years. The garden was also very family friendly and included a large tree house with zip line, draw bridge and trap door; although to protect the precious plants football was banned! As a result of this the garden also featured in the

best-selling book *Family Gardens*, which was published in 1996.

Sheila was never happier than when she was in her gardening clothes and muddy boots and sometimes used to pick up three children up from school in them, much to the disdain of some of the local Teddington mums! She continued to undertake private garden design and maintenance work throughout the 1990s and 2000s and was employed by the Lensbury Club in this capacity. She also worked with the famous landscape designer Bunny Guinness at the Chelsea Flower show on a number of occasions. Bunny recalls that Sheila used to get the tube home after a 12 hour shift at the show in muddy jelly shoes, which of course attracted a few strange looks!

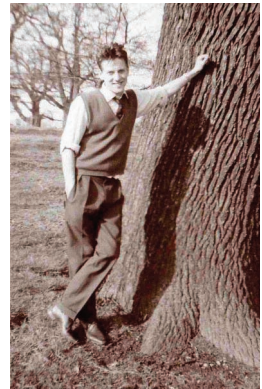
Sheila's life literally revolved around horticulture and she was, quite honestly, obsessed with it all! She had an encyclopaedic knowledge of plants and could rattle off the Latin names for things in a flash. She absolutely loved gardening and her face would light up if the conversation moved on to it. She joined the Guild in 2000 after Roger died, (see page 476 of the *Events of 2000 Journal*) and Advisory Editor Richard Ward accompanied her to the Kew Guild Dinner in 2013. She died in February 2015.

Sheila's love of horticulture has been passed on to all three of us who seem to have inherited green fingers!

An appreciation. From Helen, Matthew and Richard.

**John Raymond Woodhams**  
30 December 1940 - 1 May 2015

John Woodhams, Kew student from 1962 to 1964, Assistant Curator Tropical 1983 to 1995 and Vice President of the Kew Guild 1992 to 1993, died on 1 May 2015 following a long battle with many complicated lung problems especially Bronchiectasis and colonisation of the lungs with *Pseudomonas*. On 20 May 2015, some 150 family, friends and colleagues from Kew Gardens, the International Mycological Institute and the Fern Society gathered at the Mortlake Crematorium to pay their respects and say farewell. I had the privilege of giving the eulogy at the funeral and the following, without the emotion of the day, is an appreciation of John's life and career.



John was born in Corsham, Wiltshire, the son of a Head Gardener, and the family moved to Dorchester, Dorset when he was quite young. He soon picked up on his father's interest in plants and gardening and they built a small greenhouse together in their garden.

After leaving school John started work in the nurseries at Weymouth Parks Department and to further his knowledge attended a one-year course in horticulture at what is now Cannington College. He progressed well and was encouraged to go to the mecca of all things horticultural and botanical - the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. He started as an improver gardener in 1959 and then went on to the full studentship course in 1962. This picture shows John when he had received his certificate.

We will all have our first memories of John and mine is as clear as if it were last week. On 2 April 1962 we and eight other fresh-faced youths with one lady gardener met in the library near the Curator's Gate at the start of the two-year course. We were soon allocated our departments and John and I were off to the Alpines. We were given a couple of forks

and wheelbarrows and set to work moving a heap of manure. In all innocence we asked why we were moving this heap from one place to another and the answer was 'it wanted turning'. My grand illusions of the glamour of Kew nosedived. John Gaggini and Richard Ward were also on the 'rocks' at the same time; and they were both present at John's funeral.

As you do over a heap of manure, John and I started talking about our backgrounds. As if by fate we soon discovered we had much in common. We were both country bumpkins, neither of us was that academic at school but both had a great interest in plants and gardening from our early teens and obtained the necessary horticultural qualifications to enter Kew. We also discovered that we shared the same birthday, both being born on 30 December 1940. Yes twins, but of different parents and some 200 miles apart. Like all good things horticultural, our friendship blossomed.

John had a dry sense of humour and when the evening lectures ran a minute or two over time he would bring out his large pocket watch and during a brief quiet moment would proceed to wind it up as a hint to the lecturer; it always worked, John would chuckle and we all got up and went back to our respective digs.

It was during this time that we first heard of John's girlfriend, Joan. John's digs were close to Joan's family. I heard just recently that it was Joan who started it all when she sent John a Valentines card. He soon twigged who had sent it and invited Joan to the cinema. They went to see 'Move Over Darling' - and that song was played during the service.

We both completed the two-year course. I moved on into Local Government and John stayed on at Kew where, over the next 30 years, he became one of the leading lights in tropical horticulture and in particular ferns. He devoted his professional life to Kew.

In 1965 Joan and John purchased a house in Kingston and this became their home for the next 50 years. They married on 2 April 1966; I was his best man and Jeannette, who was at the service, was Joan's bridesmaid; she also had the good taste to marry Andrew Barnes, a Kewite.

By 1965 John was promoted to propagator, then Foreman in the tropical pits and from there to the Tropical and Decorative department where he helped oversee the planting of the Queen's Garden. He was always interested in ferns and when Bert Bruty retired in 1970 John took over his duties. The next ten years saw tremendous developments in the tropical department at Kew, led by John Simmons, but John played a very important part to the extent that he was awarded the Kew Medal in 1980 for developing, amongst other things, the fern collections. He was one of the first five initial recipients of this prestigious award. In 1981 John's progress was rewarded when he was temporarily promoted to Assistant Curator of the Tropical Department and that position was made permanent a year later.



One of his first major tasks was the planning of the Princess of Wales Conservatory, the most important new greenhouse at Kew and a long way from the garden greenhouse he built with his dad back in the 1950s. This wonderful structure contains ten computer-controlled climatic zones representing different parts of the world. John and Joan were invited to the opening ceremony in July 1987 and were presented to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales - a highlight of anyone's career.

In order to fully understand the growing of plants from these various parts of the world it is necessary to see their habitats and study first-hand the exact conditions required. This John did by trips - mainly with Joan - and his first visit to the tropics outside the Palm House was to Papua New Guinea (1973/1974). There were also visits to New Zealand, Guyana (1978), Singapore and Malaysia (1980), North Borneo, Germany and Switzerland, and a trip in 1989 to the Biosphere II in Arizona with Hans Fliegner; he too was at the funeral.

John and Joan were also very active with the Kew Guild arranging the Annual Dinner and the AGM tea from 1968 to 1975. John also served on the Guild Committee from 1969 to 1973 and again from 1983 to 1987. He and Joan also helped with the Journal, John compiling the 'News of Kewites at Home and Abroad' for 9 years 1996-2004. Also with Joan he helped to compile the five year index for 1991-95 and 1996-2000. John was made Vice President of the Guild 1992-1993.

In 1991 he showed Neil Kinnock around the gardens and appeared on TV's Gardeners World. In 1993 he gave a lecture to the Mutual Society and at the end they presented John with a This is Your Life 'Red Book'. He also appeared on TV's 'What's my line' and beat the panel. Another great interest of John's was the Fern Society, or more correctly the British Pteridological Society. He gave lectures on ferns throughout the country and was awarded Honorary Life Membership in 2009 in recognition of his services to the Society. He also carried out a lecture tour of Florida for the International Fern Society.

By the mid-1990's John's health was deteriorating and he took early retirement in 1995. He still kept busy with plants in his own garden and doing some private commissions. He and Joan continued to attend the Guild dinner and in 2001 he was presented with the George Brown Award for services to the Kew Guild.

We visited John and Joan regularly over the past few years but could see his health was worsening, with more and more periods in hospital. I know they were both very appreciative of the treatment John received at the Royal Brompton Hospital and this is why Joan has asked for any donations to be made to assist in their research into Pseudomonas colonisation of the lungs. When visiting John at the Kingston hospital recently we went up to the private ward and asked to see him and the receptionist simply said 'Oh yes, the lovely Mr. Woodhams'.

He was loved and cared for to the end by Joan who could not have been a better wife. John was a great gardener, plantsman and Kewite, a real friend to many of us, a brother to me and a wonderful husband to Joan. To the end he was a true gentleman, always polite and never complaining. We could all do with following his example.

Rest in Peace John.

Peter Bridgeman

My thanks to the numerous Kewites who helped me compile the Obituaries this year by sending caring comments. Graham Burgess.

*And our thanks to Graham for painstakingly and voluntarily carrying out this difficult job for the Kew Guild. (Ed)*

**The Kew Guild Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 December 2015**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2015	Total 2014
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	1,263			1,263	1,000
<b>Income from Investments</b>						
Investment income and deposit interest	3	14,193	7,149		21,342	20,922
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Membership Subscriptions		6,809			6,809	6,497
Annual Dinner		3,558	-		3,558	2,564
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	780
Other events and income		-	-		-	(25)
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	-		-	38
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		<b>25,823</b>	<b>7,149</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>32,972</b>	<b>31,776</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
<b>Expenditure on Charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		1,512	-		1,512	1,800
Journal of The Kew Guild		6,963	-		6,963	7,737
Annual Dinner		3,966	-		3,966	3,242
AGM Soiree		88	-		88	760
Seminar & Filming		625	-		625	500
Newsletter		62	-		62	51
Presidents' name bars		-	-		-	-
Presidents' medals		771	-		771	727
Other events and membership activities		-	-		-	80
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	440	6,989		7,429	7,289
Prizes	5	605	25		630	589
Student fellowship		140	-		140	135
Kew Guild Medal		727	-		727	381
<b>Other Expenditure</b>			-			
Membership database		4,340	-		4,340	3,000
Administrative costs		2,643	-		2,643	2,640
Other expenditure		1,665	-		1,665	37
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	6	<b>24,547</b>	<b>7,014</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>31,561</b>	<b>28,968</b>
Net gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	4,387	897	1,378	6,662	24,842
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>5,663</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>27,650</b>
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>		<b>5,663</b>	<b>1,032</b>	<b>1,378</b>	<b>8,073</b>	<b>27,650</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>						
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	429,263	78,554	111,257	619,074	591,424
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	12	<b>434,926</b>	<b>79,586</b>	<b>112,635</b>	<b>627,147</b>	<b>619,074</b>



## The Kew Guild Balance Sheet As as 31 December 2015

		2015		2014	
	Note	£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	8		544,998		541,742
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock of Kew Guild medals			1,436		2,154
Debtors	9		3,904		3,781
Cash at bank and in hand	10		84,079		74,843
<b>Total current assets</b>			<u>89,419</u>		<u>80,778</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11		<u>(7,270)</u>		<u>(3,446)</u>
<b>Net current assets or liabilities</b>			82,149		77,332
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>			<u><u>627,147</u></u>		<u><u>619,074</u></u>
<b>The Funds of the Charity</b>					
Endowment funds	12		112,635		111,257
Restricted funds	12		79,586		78,554
Unrestricted general fund	12		81,208		58,545
Unrestricted designated funds	12		<u>353,718</u>		<u>370,718</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			434,926		429,263
<b>Total Charity funds</b>			<u><u>627,147</u></u>		<u><u>619,074</u></u>

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 11 April 2016 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 Linda Baharier, 1 Castlehill Cottages, Outwood Lane, Bletchingley, Surrey RH1 4LR.