

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



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The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 2016

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Advisory Editor: Richard Ward
Email: editor@kewguild.org.uk

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Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew

Cover: View of the Broad Walk and Hive

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The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2016-2017

Officers:

President: Alan Stuttard
 President Elect: Jean Griffin
 Vice President (elected 2016): Peter Styles
 Past President: Tony Overland
 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

Committee Members:

<i>Retire 2017</i>	<i>Retire 2018</i>	<i>Retire 2019</i>
Peter Styles	David Simpson	Leo Pemberton
Susan Urpeth	Jean Griffin	David Hardman
Stewart Henchie	Harold Heywood	Graham Burgess
Jim Mitchell	Alex George	Ian Lamont Smith

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: Sarah (Sal) Demain / Alex Little
 Year 2: Eliot Barden Year 3: Joseph Clements

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,

So, what has the Guild achieved this year?

Believe us the Committee have been voluntarily expending much of their time seeking ways to provide members with value for money. Happily we wrested the website away from SomCom during 2016 and the new website, hosted by WordPress, is now slowly developing with better and more up-to-date and useful information, thanks to David Hepper and Jonathan Rickards. Write to our Secretary if you wish to upload info. to it.

Thanks to technology and personal contacts we have reduced the cost of printing 500 Journals by nearly half for the next three years.

The direct result of a mere £12 increase in subscriptions, to £27, (the first increase for 19 years) we have lost over 100 members, which is both sad and disappointing. We believe that the Guild still provides great value – through our Journal, website, annual Dinner, AGM, outside visits and Events, Friends of Kew discount, and all the potential contacts.

You will see that the Guild have appointed a new archivist, and we urge you to pass your historical items on to her whenever you can. The archives are our very history. You are our history. Join with us, use us, volunteer with us.

Finally, read this Journal thoroughly! We have cajoled, teased and begged for ‘copy’; and we believe that we have succeeded! With all the authors’ help. If yours is not there then send us something for next year – now!

Thank you for David Cutler for botanical name proof-reading, Pamela Holt for news of Kewites and Graham Burgess for obituaries.

Floreat Kew.

Sparkle Ward
Richard Ward

Editor
Advisory Editor

Flat 2, 62 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4AT
Tel/Fax: (020) 8878 6696 Email: editor@kewguild.org.uk

President
Acting Secretary
Treasurer
Membership
Events
Publicity and Promotions
Awards Scheme

president@kewguild.org.uk
secretary@kewguild.org.uk
treasurer@kewguild.org.uk
membership@kewguild.org.uk
events@kewguild.org.uk
press@kewguild.org.uk
awards@kewguild.org.uk

Alan Stuttard
Sara Arnold
Linda Baharier
Sylvia Phillips
Pamela Holt
Jean Griffin
Chris Kidd

Alan Stuttard
President 2016/2017



Alan started his horticultural career as a garden apprentice with the Borough of Accrington in his native Lancashire during 1966. Over the next four years he learnt those essential practical skills working in the local Parks and Estates Department, whilst being supported in his studies by the Burnley Municipal College and the Lancashire College of Agriculture. Parks Departments in the 1960s gave young gardeners a great and varied amount of experience because every element of municipal horticulture was undertaken “in house”. Therefore by the end of his apprenticeship he had experience in tree work, grounds maintenance, glasshouse production, formal gardening and nature conservation. Where today would you be able to get such a varied experience range over such a relatively short period of time?

In 1970 he moved South to attend the student course at the Royal Botanic Gardens and found life in Kew Gardens, with the opportunities of being so close to London, much to his liking. Alan lived by the old adage of “work hard and play hard” and whilst enjoying the benefits of the course he fully embraced the social opportunities of Kew, being an enthusiastic member of the various societies, including the Kew Gardens football team, whilst also being known in the odd local hostelry! Alan’s only ever athletic success was at Kew, when he won the Clog and Apron race, proving that he was not built for speed, more for the longer haul. On leaving Kew in 1974 he remained in London working for the London Borough of Haringey, firstly leading the work of the Landscape Group, then becoming the Head of Operational Services followed by promotion to the Head of the Parks Service and finally heading up the Borough’s wider recreational services.

The horticultural world in the public sector of the early 1980s was fast changing and the old Parks Services were being swallowed up into the broadening Council Services Departments. In recognition of these changes, Alan moved to the midlands, taking on the

responsibility for the Parks Service, Museums Service and Tourism Services for Worcester City Council. The plan was to stay there for three to four years as a halfway stage on his journey back “up North”.

Alan became part of these times of change for local government in Worcester and saw his service remit continue to widen whilst revenue budgets continued to fall. His Kew training and belief that horticulture plays an essential part in improving the lives of communities spurred him in the development of an improvement programme of major parks, golf course and open spaces. This required the seeking of external capital funding and the design of new service management arrangements. By the end, all of Worcester’s major open spaces had been improved by this process. These “new” ways of providing public services against a background of reducing resources became the way forward for all Councils and Alan as part of the Council’s Senior Management Team oversaw a whole raft of changes as the authority grappled with the ever reducing funding arrangements from Central Government. His belief in the social benefits of horticulture, however, always ensured that the Recreation and Parks Services maintained their fair share of the Council’s purse.

Alan finally retired in 2010 as the Council’s Chief Executive and continues to live in rural Worcestershire with Di, his wife. He has four children, one living in New York, one in Prague (not sure what he said to those two) and luckily enough for visiting, the other two in nearby Cheltenham. Even with these commitments, he now has the time to get his hands dirty again, working on his own garden to which he has added extra land, allowing him to create a vegetable garden and an orchard stocked with many of the more historic fruit varieties. His early Northern gardening training has come to the fore as he enjoys the growing of Dahlias and Chrysanthemums all over again. The recreated links with the Royal Botanic Gardens, through the Kew Guild, now keeps him busy and he remains committed to improving the lot of the Kew student and further developing the general social benefits enjoyed by the wider Guild membership.

Outside his horticultural interests, Alan was involved in a Government sponsored project to improve local authority services in Adentan, a township on the outskirts of Accra, Ghana and he has therefore enjoyed a number of visits to Africa. After nearly forty years he has taken up golf and fishing again, remains a lifelong fan of Burnley Football Club and is a board member of Worcester Live, an organisation that manages arts and theatre provision in Worcester. However, whilst there have been successes in his life, it appears that he has still failed in his original plan to make it back to the North West!

Jean Griffin President Elect



I studied horticulture at Studley College and at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. I have had a varied and interesting career in amenity and commercial horticulture before specialising in horticultural education, with ten years of teaching horticulture as a therapy for students with special educational needs and this has proved to be a most satisfying part of my life.

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

serve on a Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom committee.

Perennial (the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society), Chestnut Tree Hospice and St. Catherine's Hospice are the three main charities I support by giving talks and gardening advice in order to raise funds. I give gardening related talks around the South East and am President of a local Cottage Garden Society.

Following a long association with BBC local Radio, I work every other weekend for Radio Kent as the expert for Sunday Gardening and once a month for Radio Sussex and Surrey on the 'Dig It' programme. This is a marvellous opportunity to share knowledge with enthusiastic gardeners all over London and the South East and, just to 'keep my hand in', I have an allotment as well as a garden which is packed with interesting plants!

Peter Styles Vice President

Peter was born in Bristol where he commenced his career in horticulture, initially learning practical skills as an apprentice in Bristol Zoological Gardens and then as a gardener at Bristol University Botanic Gardens. He later worked at Wyevale's Nurseries in Thornbury before entering Kew as a student in 1966. It was at Kew that he met his then wife Liz nee Baylis.



In 1969 he left Kew to join the landscape group at the GLC Parks Dept. At the same time he was working freelance for Land Use Consultants and also enrolled on the part time course in landscape architecture at Thames Polytechnic in Hammersmith. A busy time! This was the only London based landscape architecture course although he was offered places on the degree courses at both Newcastle and Manchester which he declined - wishing to stay in London. Peter eventually qualified as a chartered landscape architect in 1974 and was subsequently elected Fellow of the Landscape Institute. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

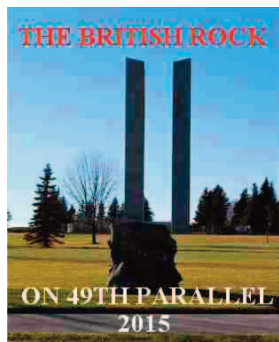
Peter subsequently went on to work as landscape architect with the London Borough Ealing architects department and as group leader setting up a new team of landscape architects at the London Borough Wandsworth architects department. 1976 saw a complete change in career when he joined the practice of The Ecology and Landscape Design Partnership in London. A year later he moved to mid Wales with his family to set up a new office for the practice. The intention was to stay in mid Wales for three years and then move back to London but this never happened. A case of sliding doors! The practice eventually changed its name to Lingard Styles Ltd with offices in Welshpool and Shrewsbury. Peter became managing director.

His work has taken him around the world with the opportunity to meet up with other Kewites. Community and academic work also forms part of Peter's activities. Previously part time senior lecturer in art, design and landscape at Glyndwr University he is now external moderator for the horticulture and landscape design degree course at Harper Adams University, schools mentor for the Welsh Governments 'Big Ideas' programme and vice chair of the Board for Oriel Davies Gallery. He also continues with his role as external examiner in landscape design and construction at Kew. Liz and Peter currently live in Welshpool and enjoy meeting up with other fellow Kewites on the Kew Guild trips.

New Committee Members

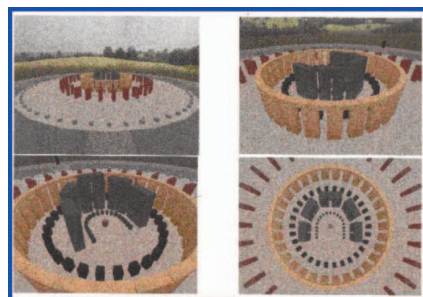
Graham Burgess

Stonehenge Connections: An old concept in design is “proportion is more important than scale”.



So one rock selected from the Preseli Bluestone quarry in Wales, source of the Stonehenge Bluestones, echoed the journey of past Kewite Henry Moore and after a journey round Britain being touched by all sorts of people as a symbol of friendship is now sitting on the 49th parallel dividing USA from Canada in The International Peace Garden. Graham Burgess and Bob Ivison are still working on the following stages of rocks coming from all over the world. <http://www.circleoffriendship.co.uk/>. If you have any interest and possible contacts to facilitate the formation of The Circle of Friendship please get in touch: graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk

On a larger scale Graham Burgess is leading a team to build a New Stonehenge complete with associated educational features second to none on Earth. It will be situated half way between the old Stonehenge and Salisbury Cathedral. It will not be a standard Theme Park but a Think Park where all the basic forces that have fed man’s thinking from thousands of years in the past through to the present day. So Astronomy; Geology; Wood Use; Geometry; Numerology; Various Measures Sound; Colour; Links to Animals, Insects, Birds; Agriculture and Art.



David Hardman

DMS, Dip Hort Kew, FLS



Until retiring in 2013, David was Head of Horticulture and Estate Management at Wakehurst, prior to that he was Deputy Curator at Kew from 1992. His regular annual reports about the gardens can be found in previous Journals. Before this he had spent 20 years working in local government in the North West of England having been a Kew Diploma student during 1974-77.

For many years David has been a regular member of the Kew Guild committee holding a range of roles including the Kew Gardens representative; as Archives Officer he worked with Kew’s Archivist to resolve filing and access issues leading to the development of the current system. Subsequently accepting the Website Manager post he worked with Bob Ivison to establish a new fully accessible website to present the Kew Guild professionally and enable searching of the Journals. Most recently he was honoured to be President (2014-2015) and so has just seen out his presidential roles and was surprised to be asked to remain as a Trustee. He hopes his experience and knowledge of Guild matters can be utilised as the Guild continues to move forward. With his partner Jan he now spends time travelling – this includes their involvement in Breast Cancer Survivors Dragon boat racing. Following over four years working with friends in San Pedro del Pinatar, Murcia, phenomenal success was achieved over Easter 2016, when Jan’s “dream”

became a reality – a major conference was held promoting the benefits of exercise from dragon boating which resulted in the formation of “Flamenco Rosas” (Pink Flamingos) the first Breast Cancer Survivors Dragon boat team to be established in Spain. Since then the team has flourished meeting regularly and racing has raised their profile which has attracted much media attention and has led to more teams being formed.

Further profile information can be found in previous Journals
 2006 Vol. 15 Number 111 page 8 – Vice President
 2014 Vol. 16 Number 119 pages 408-411 – President
 1998 Vol. 13 Number 103 page 234 – New Committee Members

Leo Pemberton

M.Hort.RHS. F.C.I Hort, V.MM

Rather too long in the tooth (at 88 years old) to be serving on the Committee. However as I live somewhat locally and in the absence of any younger volunteers I put my name forward. Yet another vacancy would show that it does not bode well for the future of the Guild, although I feel it is strange that today the older members are trying to encourage younger people to take an active part in its affairs – in the past it was the youngsters who pressing for the chance to participate! I retired 28 years ago and most of my activities at Kew are to be found in the Journals of 1964-1988; sufficient to say I was the first Principal of the School of Horticulture for those years. Today the future of the Guild is at a critical stage of its existence and I passionately believe that it has much to offer potential members but it needs a more active involvement by all. It is a truism that what you put in is what you will gain from belonging to any voluntary organisation. Past Kewites have much to offer the younger generations and it is up to us all to see what can be done to revive a very worthwhile institution for the benefit of a future possible membership.

Ian Lamont Smith

One thing that can be said for the year 2016, it was very different from the last few years. For starters, it involved four return flights between Canada and the UK, staying for most of the 50 days with Kewite Richard Ward and his family, a short stay with Kewite Leo Pemberton, and a day here and there with relatives. As the only overseas representative, I attended the Kew Guild Annual Dinner in May. A joyous occasion that I recommend to all Kewites. I managed to attend the Kew Guild’s AGM in September, and the October and December meetings of the Kew Guild Committee of Trustees.

The rest of the time was spent researching for my thesis of Women in Horticulture. I made repeat visits to Kew’s Archives, and the National Archives a short distance away. The Guildhall, Westminster and Metropolitan Archives all near to one another. The RHS Lindley Library, the R.I.B.A. Library, and the Architectural Association Library, and the Crystal Palace Museum all a bus ride apart. And train rides to Reading University and Swanley Archives. The sum total of this research suggest women, when given the opportunity, achieve more with less effort. The male dominated profession of landscape gardening, the exclusive toy of the wealthy, was transformed by Women in Horticulture into a social movement to bring relief to the families of the neglected poor classes who constituted a significant portion of the population in the burgeoning towns and cities of Victorian England. The women by their good works showed the way for better town planning, better housing, sanitation, clean air, schools, playgrounds, parks and attractive surroundings. The women’s achievements spearheaded the formation of the profession of Landscape Architecture in the UK. What women attained in the past goes largely unrecognised and continues today. This could be where the Kew Guild could correct an injustice.

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting of The Kew Guild
held on Saturday 10th September 2016
Jodrell Lecture Theatre, RGB Kew**

Those present

Committee:

Tony Overland
Alan Stuttard
Sara Arnold
Linda Baharier
Sylvia Phillips
Sparkle Ward
Richard Ward
Chris Kidd
David Cutler
Jean Griffin
Bryan Howard
Stewart Henchie
Martin Sands
Bob Ivison
David Simpson
Peter Styles
Jonathan Rickards

Members:

Jennifer Alsop	Paul Tomsett
Robin Bletsoe	Valentine Tynan
Nick Boyes	Tim Upson
Graham Burgess	Albert (Tom) Wood
John Edmonds	Tom Wood
Tricia Fisher	
David Frodin	
John Gaggini	
Alex George	
Jenny Grundy	
Allan Hart	
Colin Jones	
Ian Lamont Smith	
Barbara Pattison	
Leo Pemberton	
Anthony Ross	
Martin Staniforth	

Guests:

Liz Kidd
Wendy Staniforth
Diana Stuttard
Jan Overland

01.16 Welcome by the President, Tony Overland

The President opened the meeting at 2:08pm and thanked everyone for coming.

02.16 Apologies for Absence

There were numerous apologies for absence

03.16 Notice of Death of Members

The President asked members to stand to remember those friends who have passed away during the year; Eric Pymont, Peter Huggett, Laura Ponsonby, John Hale, Michael Harrington, Eric Curtis, Geoffrey Naylor, Michael Arnold-Gilliat, Frank Constable and any others we may not be aware of.

04.16 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 5th September 2015 printed in the Journal, Volume 16 Number 120 at pages 519 – 526.

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

05.16 Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda

There were no matters arising not being dealt with below.

06.16 Acting Secretary's Report – Sara Arnold

The Guild have met five times during the year and on one occasion the meeting was not quorate. Ratification of decisions was taken after the meeting. Other than this, meetings have been generally well attended.

The postal mailing group for the AGM contained no members when I was sending out the Notice but it appears there is a glitch on the database. There were 41 members who received the Notice by post. When the glitch was discovered Notices were sent immediately. Sara Arnold to liaise with Jennifer Alsop and David Hepper to find out why the mailing group is showing zero recipients.

07.16 Voluntary Treasurer's report – Linda Baharier – Financial Statements printed in the Journal at pages 621 – 622.

Linda Baharier has been dealing with the subscription increases and said a contentious issue has been raised with members under the general impression that the Guild is financially 'well off'. She wanted to make it clear that many of the Guild funds are for specific purposes and we act as Trustees to see that the money is spent as it was intended and not for the day-to-day running of the organisation. The subscription increase was the first increase for 14 years as the current subscription of £15 did not even cover the cost of producing the Journal. Linda Baharier to do a breakdown of Journal costs next year.

Jenny Grundy asked when the subscription information was sent out. Jennifer Alsop clarified: notification was sent with the 2015 AGM papers both by e-mail and post.

There has been a gradual reduction of interest rates but the Guild investments are not high risk so the loss is not as dramatic as it could have been.

Leo Pemberton asked if there was a way of tracking who received the AGM notice by post. Linda Baharier said reports can be generated on the Civi database. Jennifer Alsop commented that the system isn't perfect yet. Sylvia Phillips commented that the onus is on members to let us know of any changes in contact details.

Ian Lamont Smith asked how much money the Guild have after income and expenditure, Linda Baharier replied that we are breaking even. Any monies left could be the result of not giving away enough funds in prizes etc. The Guild does hold cash and at the end of the set of accounts, there was approximately 6k for running costs. The rest is for educational funds etc. The Annual Dinner cannot be subsidised, and there must be sufficient income by sale of tickets to cover the costs. The subscription rate did not cover Journal costs. We are a 'not for profit' organisation so money can only be spent on charitable activities. When the Guild was originally established it was not a charity, this happened in 1964. Charity law is complicated and members have been working tirelessly to comply with the rules of the Charity Commission.

Leo Pemberton commented that there is a need to encourage students to become and remain members. We cannot subsidise the Dinner but can help students in many areas, with the money being put to good use. Members assured Leo that the Committee are working on doing more to try to encourage membership among students.

Graham Burgess said money needs to be spent on commercial objectives in order to attract students, there used to be a knowledge sharing, but doesn't happen nowadays. Tony Overland suggested that the comments are considered by the Trustees at the next meeting and report back.

The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2015

The restricted funds increased by £2,360 and the unrestricted funds increased by £5,663. The reduction in the increase is due to the fall in interest rates. Income in 2015 totalled £39,772 of which £6,809 was from subscriptions, £21,342 from our investments and £1,263 from donations. We are very grateful to the Philip & Granville Trust for their kind donation of £1,184.

Awards and prizes of £8,109 were made. £6,963 was spent on producing of the Journal, which was of an excellent standard. £1,340 has been spent on membership database this and £3,000 is allocated to complete the project on the date base and this has been carried forward to 2016. The website project has had £1,512 spent on it and we have taken the step to move away from SomCom in 2016 so the website will be more up to date and in line with the needs of the Guild.

Governance costs which are now called Other Expenditure and Administrative Costs were £4,308 this year, of which £2,500 was for secretarial costs. There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £27,650. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units. £112,635 in the endowment funds, £79,536 in restricted funds, £353,718 in designated funds and £81,208 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2016.

The accounts were put forward for approval. Proposed by Linda Baharier, seconded by Leo Pemberton. Linda Baharier also asked for approval for the appointing of an Independent Examiner or Auditor for the annual accounts of 2016. The membership voted in favour.

08.16 Honorary Membership Secretary's report – Sylvia Phillips

Membership Type		2016	2015
Standard	Kew Staff	36	56
	Other	222	341
Kew Diploma Student		24	30
Library		1	1
Life		5	9
Honorary	Fellows	17	16
	Members	4	7
Associate		1	2
Total		310	462

New members 2015 – 2016: Total: 26

9 Diploma students, 13 from Science departments, 3? widows (Joan Woodhams [John]; Mary Curtis [Eric]; Valerie Hale [John]), 2 others.

Increasingly new members do not wish their addresses to be printed in the Journal. Under Data Protection laws, they cannot be put on the web site. If anyone gets a contact request, it should be passed to Sylvia Phillips or Sara Arnold to deal with.

Resignations: 16, mostly result of increased subscription. Returning lapsed members: 2 (Andrew Barnes, Paul Tompsett). Expired membership: 143 members who have not increased their subscription, including 20 staff. Deaths: 9, including Eric Curtis (President of Guild in 1989; former curator of Glasgow BG). 150 people have not responded to the request to increase their standing orders. Thanks to Stewart Henchie who phoned many people. As from June 2016, people not fully paid up will not receive a Journal. There has been a grace period of 3 months. It is then up to members to do something about it. The Committee have put lots of effort into contacting these people.

There has not been a single membership application from the School of Horticulture. Sylvia Phillips doesn't have any connections there and would like to have a representative from the different departments who would approach people who leave Kew to become members. Honorary members and Fellows categories are getting out of proportion and Sylvia Phillips has to be careful. There is a change in the definition of students and Sylvia Phillips put forward an amendment to the rules – see minute 15.16 below. Allan Hart has knowledge of at least four contacts and will liaise with Sylvia.

Sylvia Phillips queried the difference between Honorary or Fellow members. It was clarified that wives or partners should be invited to become members upon their spouse's death, which happens anyway. The need for a Fellowship category has fallen away. Allan Hart clarified that it means that if a partner dies they are eligible to become members in their own right, but not if they are alive. Martin Sands said an Associate is an honour in itself. Sylvia has not had any enquiries about Associate membership. Allan Hart asked how many students remain members when they leave. Sylvia said it was low but makes sure application forms are available for students at the prize day to encourage them to join.

Ian Lamont Smith asked Sylvia Phillips to clarify that we have lost 156 members. Sylvia said no and she replied that many of them are still paying £15 and not the full subscription. There are only 16 that we have lost. Stewart Henchie phoned about 90 members and their response was good. There were similar problems the last time it was increased. The lesson is review subscriptions on a regular basis rather than leave it for so long.

Ian Lamont Smith asked what benefit members get – in comparison with the Friends of Kew which is much more value for money. The Guild are given a substantially discounted membership to the Friends of Kew, which is a benefit.

Leo Pemberton asked the Committee if they had thought of publishing an alumni. This could be circulated to all who would be eligible for membership and be a good way to advertise. The Guild don't seem to be moving forward and have the same problems every time the subscription is increased. This could come under the charitable mandate. David Hardman asked how we would find alumni? Leo Pemberton replied that members present must be able to provide names.

09.16 Events Officer's report – Pamela Holt and Jean Griffin

Guild members will have read accounts of the lovely weekend spent at West Dean Gardens in Sussex following last years AGM and the wild autumn weather at Batsford Arboretum, Gloucestershire in the Kew Guild Journal for last year.

This year an interesting February snowdrop visit was made to Welford in Berkshire where the carpet of plants beneath the trees caused a little girl to exclaim "Oh look at the snow!" The following day The Living Rainforest near Newbury with its glasshouses of tropical plants, free ranging birds, animals and reptiles certainly achieved its educational objectives.

April saw a return trip to Batsford where we were rewarded with fine weather and beautiful Magnolias together with many other interesting specimen trees highlighted by Head Gardener Matthew Hall. The previous day a guided tour of Pershore College with senior lecturer Duncan Coombes was made. The grounds, glasshouses and the new reception area with its plant conservatory and living plant wall were seen and admired. A walk down to the town and Abbey followed with an evening meal at The Pickled Plum.

In May the Dorothy Clive Garden, near Market Drayton was toured with Curator Marcus Chilton-Jones on a glorious sunny morning. From a *Rhododendron* dell created from an old quarry, a tranquil pool and rock garden to new open areas designed to add year round interest. The garden pavilion was booked for our provided light lunch. The afternoon was spent at a private plantsmans garden by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bourne at Bunbury near Tarporley. Unusual trees/shrubs, South African bulbs, exotic conservatory and *Protea* collection were seen and afternoon tea enjoyed with our hosts.

The following day two gardens were visited. First Hodnet Hall where the gardener in charge of the walled gardens met and greeted the group giving out plans to the wonderful 60 acre parkland, garden, lakes and walled kitchen garden owned by Sir Algernon Heber-Percy. Lunch was enjoyed at The Bear public house opposite. The afternoon was spent at Wollerton Old Hall – a classic English style compartmentalised garden recalling the Arts and Crafts movement full of interesting perennials, clipped hedging and flowering trees.

The Kew Guild Annual Dinner at Cambridge Cottage RBG Kew was blessed with warm fine weather where 71 members and guests enjoyed a convivial evening. The George Brown Award was presented to Jennifer Alsop and Honorary Fellowship to Ray Evison. Guest of Honour John Sales gave a lively account of his life in Horticulture. Despite some last minute glitches with the original caterer, our President and Jennifer secured new caterers, resulting in an excellent meal and service.

A very pleasant weekend in June was arranged by John Simmons around his part of Norfolk. Blickling Hall, a National Trust Garden, was showcased by the Head Gardener Paul Underwood, an ex student of mine (this caused me considerable embarrassment at the time as I could not recall him). Checking with the class black and white photograph afterwards, I can see why – he had a beard, moustache and scowl on his face! The obvious dedication and care of this marvellous Estate was a joy to behold. Lunch was a sumptuous affair in the home and grounds of Roger and Diana Polhill. Later in the day the group visited another National Trust property, Felbrigg Hall, with its well tended walled gardens of both ornamental and kitchen garden plants. That evening John and his family kindly hosted members at his own garden and home at Gresham on Saturday evening.

Sunday included a visit to Severals Grange, home of Hoecroft Plants specialising in grasses and foliage plants. Jane, one of the owners, kindly took the group around the show garden and nursery with many buying the good value plants before heading into Dereham to lunch at The George. The weekend concluded with a visit to the lovely garden of Graham and Sally Watts at Dale Farm. Rescued from dilapidation and obscurity, the lake is the focal point of this labour of love with so many interesting plants that the arrival of rain did not dampen one's pleasure. July in the Lake District was arranged by Graham Heywood and despite indifferent weather a wonderful time was had by all who made the journey North.

Saturday started with Larch Cottage Nurseries, four miles south of Penrith with its extensive range of plants, many rare and unusual together with a tour of the private garden and church. After lunch the 17 acre hillside gardens Holehird, near Windermere was visited with a guided tour by one of the Lakeland Horticultural Society members. The four National Collections, glasshouses, rock garden and fine collection of well named plants

are all maintained by volunteers. Sunday began with a tour of the intimate gardens at Dalemain Historic House and garden, near Ullswater where lunch was taken before setting off for Levens Hall, an Historic Garden Grade I near Kendal with Head Gardener Chris Crowder (former Kew Diploma student). Set in 10 acres of gardens designed in 1694 by James II gardener Guillaume Beaumont with renowned topiary in box and yew, plus magnificent double herbaceous borders.

Glorious weather prevailed for the final weekend of the year in August when a tour was made of Trentham Gardens, Historic Garden Grade II, near Stoke on Trent. With its refurbished Italian Gardens and wild flower and perennial displays by Piet Oudolf and Tom Stuart-Smith set in a Lancelot Brown landscape there was much to see and admire first with guide Danny who worked in the grounds then exploring the large estate, lakeside walks, shops and plant centre.

Sunday morning was spent at Dove Cottage, near Ashbourne, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Anne Liverman. A plantsman's garden noted for hardy foliage plants and shrubs, a woodland glade, bulb areas and collections such as *Astrantia* and *Allium*. The afternoon was spent at Alton Towers Historic Park Grade I, near Uttoxeter. Created between 1814 and 1827 by the 15th Earl of Shrewsbury, our guide enthusiastically described the history and background to the many unusual features seen in the grounds from a three-storey cast iron Chinese Pagoda fountain, rock garden, domed conservatory, and a Nesfield terrace. Many of the gravity fed water features were switched off owing to the risk of spreading *Phytophthora ramorum* to the Rhododendrons in the garden. Funding will shortly be made available to restore many of these features which through changes in ownership have been sadly neglected. Walking back past grand cedars and formal lake the visit concluded with an excellent tea of pastries and fruit cake.

The programme for next year is shaping up well and final details will be announced soon. An autumn visit to Thorp Perrow a 100 acre private arboretum near Rippon in Yorkshire is planned. February will be a day at Benington Lordship to see the fine snowdrop displays. April an exciting series of visits and events are planned on Guernsey including honorary fellow Ray Evison speaking about his work on *Clematis* breeding at a private dinner with a visit to his nursery. Exbury Gardens and Beaulieu are planned for May with a June weekend in Devon with tours of many interesting gardens. August will be in the Peak District where a variety of tours are being arranged.

10.16 Editor's report – Sparkle Ward

The Events of 2015 journal was published in time for the 26th May 2016 Dinner at a cost of £6,519 for 500 journals, including the cost of printing and Editors fee. There were 30 extra pages, which included the Index. The cost of the previous (2014) year's journal in comparison was £6,223.

Thanks are given to contributors and others for their voluntary input, particularly Alex George for indexing, David Cutler for botanical proof-reading, Graham Burgess for obituaries, Pamela Holt for News of Kewites, Judy Hancock and students for Journal enveloping, and secretary Sara Arnold for a myriad of inputs.

At the 2015 AGM members voted to continue with a printed Journal; although I had continued to investigate online options. At the December Committee it was discussed and agreed that although it is likely that the cost of inputting and editing online Journals will reduce below printing costs in future, for now the Guild should continue to produce printed Journals. The current cost of producing Journals is approximately £15-18 per Journal. I have sought Printer contacts from Committee members, and will submit quotes for the

next 3 years' Journals for the Committee to consider at the October Committee meeting.

I invite Members to make suggestions, or contribute pictures for the Events of 2016 Journal cover, to me by 30th December 2016. I would also invite members to send in their news of 2016, be it a new job, current developments 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.

Members agreed there is an excellent programme of events and the Journal is excellent this year. The Committee thanked Sparkle for her hard work.

11.16 Award Scheme report – Chris Kidd

The KGAS met twice, on 10th March 2016 and 14th July 2016 to consider applications for awards and the nomination for the Fellowship of the Kew Guild. The full report was circularised. Chris ran through his report. Pamela Holt asked if all the budget money is not awarded, does it roll over. Chris Kidd replied that it is returned to the next meeting. Only one award was rejected during the year, which was outside the brief of the committee. He needs more applications from the whole of the Guild body, not just students. Chris thanked the members of the committee who give a lot of time and effort.

12.16 President's Report – Tony Overland

I am pleased to present my report covering the work of the committee over this last year. At our first committee meeting we welcomed Linda Baharier in to her role as Voluntary Treasurer, Linda has become an excellent member of the team and has gradually taken over from Jen Alsop, who has been the guiding light on the Guild's finances and continues to be a source of advice and information.

In addition to the annual activities that needed to be considered there were some matters that have been discussed and worked on in the recent past and have now come to fruition and require specific actions. The first of these is the change in the constitution of the Kew Guild to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) It was hoped to bring this forward to this meeting with a view to implementing the changeover. Approval was given at last year's AGM to the arrangements that are required, including the appointment of new trustees. However, it has not been possible to submit the final application to the Charity Commissioners (CC) in time for it to be considered here. All of the new constitution is in place including the proposed bylaws and once this has received approval from the CC the changeover will be implemented during 2017.

As the new charity will not be in place there will be the normal election process and as reported at the 2015 AGM once the new charity has been approved by the CC the new Board will step forward as they will have been approved by the CC too, the assets will be transferred to the new charity and once complete the old charity will be dissolved and the existing trustees will step down. A copy of the report and recommendations, approved last year has been circulated with the agenda. I would like to record my thanks to Bob Ivison, Jen Alsop, Linda Baharier, David Hardman and Alan Stuttard for the work they have undertaken on this matter.

Subscriptions

The increase approved last year, as acknowledged at the time, was significant and has generated and continues to generate a considerable amount of work. There were many concerns expressed by members and in a number of cases misunderstanding about the

application of our funds. Some members felt unable to renew their membership or failed to change their standing orders. The committee agreed to a degree of flexibility with regard to the cut off date for membership and indeed for the distribution of the Journal.

All of this led to a considerable amount of correspondence and administration for Sylvia Phillips, Linda Baharier and myself. My thanks to Sylvia and Linda for the excellent way in which they handled these issues and for the amount of time that they had to spend on the task. The Finance and Legacy subcommittee has met on a number of occasions working through the changes that were agreed at last years AGM so ensuring that the Guild and its charitable activities can operate on a firm footing and meet its obligations as required by the Charity Commissioners.

The website

There have been concerns for some time about the cost of the website and new arrangements organised by Jonathan Rickards and David Hepper have been introduced, with a view to reviewing the content, reducing the annual operating costs and simplifying the way in which information can be added. It was decided to give one months' notice to SomCom that we would be moving the site to a new host. However, SomCom informed us that three months' notice was our contractual requirement. After taking advice, three months' notice was given, which expired at the end of June and will reduce the hosting cost by quite an amount. The new website will be maintained using WordPress.

Events

We enjoyed a variety of outings commencing with Batsford Arboretum last November, somewhat curtailed due to high winds and rain! Early in the New Year on 6th February we went to Welford Park, Newbury to view the snowdrops carpeting the woodlands alongside the River Lambourn. Followed the next day with a trip to the Living Rain Forest, an extensive collection of tropical plants, with birds, butterflies and lizards.

Saturday 2nd April brought a trip to Pershore College to see its excellent horticultural facilities. Followed the next day with a return trip to Batsford where this time we were able fully explore the arboretum.

Cheshire and Shropshire 14th and 15th May, we visited The Dorothy Clive Garden situated in an old quarry this was followed by a journey to a private garden at Long Acre, in Cheshire. To Hodnet Hall the next day where the gardens are laid out alongside a series of large pools.

Norfolk 11th and 12th June. This event was fully booked and provided a weekend of contrasting gardens; on Saturday we had a splendid lunch at Roger and Diana Polhill's home. Later in the day John Simmons took us on a tour of his gardens, pond and bog garden. John and Valerie opened up their home to provide a lovely buffet supper. The following day we toured the gardens of Hoecroft plants. Later we toured Dale Farm a large immaculate garden set around an impressive pool.

Lake District 9th and 10th July. We commenced with a visit to Larch Cottage Nurseries, Melkinthorpe. This has an extensive range of plants and a Japanese garden. It was followed with a visit to Holehird Gardens managed by the Lakeland Horticultural Society near Windermere. On Sunday a visit to Levens Hall, Historic Garden Grade I original garden designed in 1694, with renowned topiary. With a very informative tour by Chris Crowder, Kew Guild member and Head Gardener, finally finishing at Dalemain Historic House and garden, near Ullswater.

Staffordshire 6th and 7th August. Trentham Gardens to tour the Italian gardens and Piet Oudolf prairie style plantings, followed by a visit to a private garden at Dove Cottage. On Sunday we went to the extensive historic gardens and park at Alton Towers, which is undergoing a gradual process of restoration.

The Annual Dinner

We started early with the arrangements for this event and Jennifer Alsop and I were well advanced with the preparations and ready to confirm the details with last year's caterers. Unfortunately, just at that point we were advised that they had ceased trading and had been removed from Kew's list of approved suppliers. It was therefore necessary to proceed as quickly as possible to obtain an alternative company that could provide the right menu at the right price. This necessitated many discussion and meetings, but eventually we were able to agree a suitable menu and format at a reasonable cost.

I felt that last years' arrangement introduced by David Hardman worked very well and we proceeded on the same basis with this year's dinner. In the event we had a full turnout of seventy-two people present. Raymond Evison was presented with his Honorary Fellowship and Jennifer Alsop received the George Brown Memorial Award. John Sales as guest speaker spoke about his time as the National Trust's Chief Gardens Advisor, relating several humorous encounters with former garden owners. A choice of menu was provided and the food and service was of a good standard. The Kew Guild Journal 2015 was distributed to those members at the dinner and I would like to give our thanks to Sparkle Ward for producing such an excellent edition.

None of this would have been possible with out the help and support of Jennifer Alsop and Richard Ward with his attention to detail in setting out the arrangements and for undertaking the role of Master of Ceremonies. I would like to express my thanks to Jennifer and Richard for all the help and support they gave at this time.

Kew Guild Medal

Alan Titchmarsh was the 2016 recipient and the medal was awarded at a special occasion at the Coach and Horses on 15th June. Alan attended with his wife Alison and it proved to be a very relaxed and convivial afternoon with many opportunities for photographs, book signings and reminiscences. David Cutler has asked for nominations for the 2017 award.

This year's events have provided a full programme of activities for members and I would encourage people to take part in the visits that are arranged throughout the year. There really is something for everyone, providing a great opportunity to meet old and new friends and enjoy a weekend discovering new places and sights around the areas visited. At this point I would like to thank Pamela Holt, who puts in an enormous amount of effort into the arrangements for each event, liaising with venues, contacting members and ensuring that everything runs smoothly on the day. Also, Bryan Howard for his help on the Shropshire visit, Graham Heywood for pulling together the Cumbria visit and John Simmons for organising the Norfolk event

Finally, I wish to thank the trustees and committee members for all their support and help throughout the year and who have worked so hard in ensuring that the Guild continues to be an effective organisation for the benefit of members and those entrants embarking on their new careers.

Tony thanked Jennifer Alsop, Linda Baharier and Sylvia Phillips for their work on the subscription increase – a difficult area. Tony thanked all the Trustees and Committee

members for their help and support and said he had enjoyed the year.

13.16 Result of Prize Day

Prize Day took place on Friday 9th September 2016 and was a pleasant day. The President congratulated all the students for their awards. Richard Ward said there was no mention of the Guild during the whole of the prize day and said that Tony Overland should have been invited to the platform to promote the Guild. Sylvia Phillips gave out some membership forms at the event. There are about seven prizes given by the Guild.

The membership agreed that we need to forge closer links as we do make a large contribution. The students can benefit from the experience of our members. Tony Overland to write a letter to the Director and the School of Horticulture asking for future involvement at the awards ceremony.

Bob Ivison asked if there is anything we can do to support the students once they've left, for example, business development. He asked how we might extend the breadth of support. Pamela Holt is raising the awareness for the student prize day, and suggested the Guild needed to rekindle the relationship with Tim Hughes. We do not have good liaison with the horticultural side. All new students are given a talk about the Kew Guild. Sylvia Phillips said she needs to know when people leave and would talk to HR.

14.16 Changes to the Kew Guild Rules (new Constitution)

Bob Ivison has now submitted the application to the Charity Commission for the change in status and it will be some time before we get a response. If there are any queries on the submission they will come back.

15.16 Annual subscription rates

Annual subscription: at the AGM last year an increase for 2017 was agreed (£1) it is proposed to defer this for consideration to the 2017 AGM. This needs to ensure relevant increases happen regularly and at a standard time frame.

Redefining the classification of 'student': Sylvia Phillips has had a discussion with Jennifer Alsop regarding the student subscription. This has arisen because we have an application from a former Diploma student starting the Kew MSc course. We have discussed broadening the definition of 'student' to include Kew's students besides the Diploma course participants, but have made no firm decision about it. This is a decision to be made at the AGM and not just by committee members, so now is a good time to do something about it.

Kew has more formal training courses these days than it did in the past. I would like to see a motion at the AGM to broaden the definition of 'student' to include all those on a Kew training course lasting for a minimum of one year and leading to a qualification or certificate. This would cover the Horticultural Diploma students and apprentices and also our MSc students.

Kew students pay a reduced annual subscription, as determined by the committee, for the duration of their studentship. 'Student' is defined as "anyone undertaking a course of study lasting a minimum of one year and leading to a diploma, certificate or other qualification." Linda Baharier commented that it is likely that students will continue their membership after they have finished their course.

This would cover the Diploma students, apprentices, young people doing the new Kew M.Sc. course, and any others following courses which may be set up in future.

It was proposed by Sara Arnold and accepted by the members to broaden of the definition of ‘student’ in the constitution.

15.16 Retiring members of the Committee

Bryan Howard Sylvia Phillips Adrian Lovatt Clive Popham

16.16 Board of Trustees 2016/17

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

Ordinary Members:

To retire 2017	To retire 2018
Peter Styles	David Simpson
Susan Urpeth	Jean Griffin
Stewart Henchie	Harold (Graham) Heywood
Jim Mitchell	Alex George

Election of Trustees:

Vice President Second Year	Peter Styles
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 2019

Leo Pemberton
David Hardman
Graham Burgess
Ian Lamont Smith

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	Vacant

Ex officio:

Head of the School of Horticulture
 Student Representative Year 1
 Student Representative Year 2
 Student Representative Year 3

Tim Hughes
 Sarah (Sal) Demain / Alex Little
 Eliot Barden
 Joseph Clements

Consultants:

Kew Guild Secretary
 Kew Guild Journal Editor
 Honorary Treasurer

Sara Arnold
 Sparkle Ward
 Linda Baharier

The President thanked Graham, Leo and David for volunteering. The election of all the Officers above was approved.

17.16 Any Other Business

The Guild room is being refurbished in 2017. Sara Arnold to find out when and arrange alternative accommodation for meetings during this period.

18.16 Inauguration of the new President, Alan Stuttard

Tony Overland invited Alan Stuttard to the podium and handed over the Presidential Regalia. The committee thanked Tony Overland with a round of applause.

The new President, Alan Stuttard thanked Tony for his hard work and presented him with the Past President's Medal and Certificate.

Alan said he was looking forward to the next 12 months and that he hoped to see everyone at least once during the year.

19.16 Date of next Annual General Meeting:

Saturday 9th September 2017 in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre, Kew.



School of Horticulture
Presentation of Kew Diploma and Prizes
9th September 2016

Course 51

The Director, **Richard Deverell**, welcomed those present to the Jodrell Lecture Theatre to mark and celebrate the graduation of the 13 students of Course number 51 of the Kew Diploma.

He went on to say: “We also celebrate the completion of Course 6 of the Kew Horticultural Apprenticeship, and Course 1 of the new Historic Glasshouse Apprenticeship.

The Kew Diploma is an internationally respected degree-level qualification in botanical horticulture. Not only do these students know a great deal about growing plants – including a tremendous diversity of exotic and rare plants – but they also have a solid grounding plant science, taxonomy and conservation.

Our students today have worked extremely hard to reach this point today, including making a tremendously important contribution to the horticultural standards and daily running of these wonderful gardens here at Kew. In particular I would like to note their invaluable contribution on our two major projects here at Kew Gardens this summer – the opening of The Hive and the Great Broad Walk Borders. I hope all our guests here today will have a chance to see these today – and thus get a sense of our horticultural ambitions and a glimpse into one facet of the work done by our graduating students and apprentices. So, I would like ask you all to join me in thanking them, and to congratulate all our students for their hard work and completing their courses.

It has been a busy year for the School of Horticulture. In addition to the Diploma the school has developed some new programmes this year – Kew Specialist Certificates. These are paid positions like the Kew Diploma/Apprenticeship but differ in that they are one year in duration and students will spend their whole year in one particular specialism area, for example in Propagation or in Arboriculture. These have recently been approved by the UK Border Agency enabling us to recruit worldwide and not just limited to the EU.

Our graduating students and apprentices have all secured positions following their studies, either via continued further education or full-time employment. I am also delighted to report that Kasia Babel and Alex Hoyle will be staying with the Kew gardens team working in the Arboretum and Broad Walk borders respectively.

As part of their course the students and apprentices have undertaken various travel scholarships around the world. These trips enrich their horticultural knowledge and often tie in with their dissertation studies. Further information on travel scholarships can be found in the Prize day programme. The Kew Diploma Students also undertake two field trips to Bangor in North Wales and Eastern Andalucía in Spain. These provide the students with a wealth of hands-on experience in two contrasting landscapes. I know just how important and popular these courses are – many of the students tell me the week in Wales is the highlight of the three-year course.

Thank you –

- Judy Hancock, our guest of honour, as nominated by our graduating students
- Marcus Agius, Chairman of RBG Kew for attending and, in due course, giving a vote of thanks

- Family and friends of the students and apprentices attending the event
- The many sponsors of the prizes
- The garden staff who help in developing the students and apprentices practical skills
- The science staff who link in with the students studies either through project work or more formal lectures
- The library staff in assisting with their studies
- All the lecturers who deliver a whole wealth of subject topics during lecture blocks.

Our students today join an influential and global network of Diploma alumni. I am struck just how often, on visiting one of the great Botanic Gardens of the world to be shown around by someone who's first words are 'I studied at Kew' – then tell me just how much hard work the Kew Diploma was X years ago – as if they are somehow still scarred by the experience! But they also go on to tell me how important it was in shaping the entire trajectory of their horticultural career and how the friendships and networks they forged at Kew have endured and proved invaluable.

May I urge you to make the best of this community – to be an active part of it and, of course, to stay in touch with RBG Kew. And may I end by repeating my very sincere congratulations for all that you have learned and achieved on this course, and to congratulate you not just on what you have already done, but also for what I know you will go on to achieve in your careers in horticulture.”

Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations was then invited by Tim Hughes to give an introduction:

“Welcome, particularly to those who have travelled far to be here, and families of our students and apprentices. I hope that you are feeling very proud and excited.

To paraphrase (and slightly repurpose) a well-known opening sentence by Charles Dickens: “It is the best of days, it is the worst of days...” For we are both celebrating, but also fare-welling some of our Kew family. Course 51 started at Kew just after I arrived to take up the position of Director of Horticulture – so we were all fresh arrivals in the fascinating organism that is Kew. We were new, green, and discovering the wonders of Kew at the same time.

I was allocated an office at one of the furthest fetches of Kew, in Aiton House at the back of the Lower Nursery. I think I would be allowed to say that it is a slightly charmless building, but also at the time, a building largely lacking in people. I resolved to move office. My decision to move into the School of Horticulture in the first few months of my tenure was strongly influenced by the energy, the engaging spirit, and the sense of boundless inquiry of the students who I had met from the School.

Over the three years since then I have seen this group of students work hard, grow and mature, and meet every challenge thrown to them. Every challenge, that is, except the occasional skied ball on the cricket field, and the occasional run-out; Apart from these... and at least one dubious LBW decision...every challenge has been met.

And so now this is the biggest challenge – to take the many benefits that are wrapped up in the package called the Kew Diploma, and to step out and achieve your individual potential in the world. It is a time for being confident and bold, and I have no doubt that each of you will do that – not all in the same way, or in the same place – but each of you can make a positive difference in the world, with the knowledge and tools that you have gained during your time here. I also wish to recognise the graduating group of apprentices – some of whom are now Diploma students, but others will be also now moving forward

to new careers within horticulture. Congratulations to you all. You have worked hard and become part of the Kew family – and we now offer every good wish for the future to you.

Can I also just take a moment to recognise the tremendous team that supports the School of Horticulture – led ably by Tim Hughes as Head of the School of Horticulture. I would like to take this opportunity to specially thank Judy Hancock for the decade of wonderful unwavering support for the School and for the students. As many of you will know, Judy is retiring from Kew next month, and we are very grateful, Judy, that you have agreed to provide today’s formal address. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our lecturers and tutors, many of whom are Kew employees, who fit the teaching in to their ‘day jobs’. These, together with our external lecturers, ensure that the excellent standards of our courses continue to improve, and that they maintain pace with the evolving scientific thoughts, discoveries and understandings. Thank you all.

And to our graduating students and apprentices – even though most of you are departing, you have earned life-long membership to the Kew family – wear this badge with pride! Best wishes and good luck.”

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

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

Before I turn to the presentation of Kew Diplomas, Kew Apprenticeships and prizes, thanks must go to all sponsors of prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. 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. You make the Kew Diploma and Kew Apprenticeship a unique educational experience.

I would now like to invite our Guest of Honour, Judy Hancock, to make the presentations. I shall first read out the awards and prizes, followed by the name of the recipient, in alphabetical order:”

Kew Diploma Awards

Kasia Babel

Kew Diploma with Credit

Gareth Cox

Kew Diploma with Credit

Paul Eguia

Kew Diploma with Credit

Neville Evans

Kew Diploma with Credit

Rupert Harbinson

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize for the best overall performance in landscape studies
 The CP Raffill Prize to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition
 Kew Diploma with Credit

Gill Hobley

Kew Diploma with Credit

Alex Hoyle

The Kew Guild Cup for obtaining the highest marks in the first year vegetable plot project
 The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize for top practical skills
 Kew Diploma with Honours

Iain Middlebrook

The F Nigel Hepper Cup in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments
 The Donald Dring and Gilbert Memorial Prize for the student attaining the highest marks in Entomology and the Crop Protection project
 Kew Diploma with Honours

Beth Newman

The George Conrad Johnson Memorial Prize for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma course
 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
 The Alitex Glasshouse award, awarded to the student who has demonstrated the best practical performance during their work placements under glass
 The George Brown Prize awarded to the top student in the Arboretum and Horticultural Services Section
 The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize to the student attaining the top overall academic marks
 The Kingdon-Ward Prize awarded to the student attaining the highest marks in their final year dissertation
 The Proudlock Prize to the student attaining the highest mark in their plant propagation essay
 The Freda Howson Award 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

Gareth Porteous

The Kew Diploma with Credit

David Richter

The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize for the person attaining the highest marks in their Systematic Botany Project
 The Dummer Memorial Prize for the best Herbarium project
 The Kew Gardener Prize to the top student in Amenity Horticulture
 Kew Diploma with Honours

Peter Turski

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

Bob Wooding

Kew Diploma with Credit

Apprenticeship Prizes and Awards**Charlie Bancroft**

Prize for the highest test results in Plant identification
The best practical apprentice prize
The best weed collection prize
Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

Eliot Barden

Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

Siwan Clarke

Kew Apprenticeship with a Pass

Aoife Maher

Prize for the most comprehensive work journals and plant profiles
The best collection review assignment
Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

Jonathan Myring

The Apprentice showing most commitment to Kew
Kew Apprenticeship with Merit

Tom Poland

Best Practical Historic Glasshouse Apprentice
Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

Other Awards and Prizes**Olivia Stead-Mundin**

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture Prize for top first year student
The Tom Reynolds' Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this subject

Sophie Walwin

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

Tom Pickering

The Metcalf Cup for the top second year student

Miranda Janatka

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

Solène Dequiret

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

Tim Hughes then invited Judy to give a few words:

Judy Hancock began by thanking Course 51 and the Apprentices for the honour of being their guest speaker:

“It is particularly special for me this year, because it will be my last official Prize Day as I am retiring at the end of October - although I hope I will be invited back to attend Course 52 and Course 53's graduation, and enjoy being a rather more relaxed member of the audience! Following in the footsteps of many illustrious Prize Day speakers is quite a daunting task - even more so, when two of them - Nigel Brown and last year's speaker, Richard Bisgrove are here with us today.

Although a number of you in the audience know who I am, for those of you who don't, as mentioned by Tim and Richard, I am the Administration Officer in the School of Horticulture and one of my main jobs every year is to organise this special event. Therefore this year, if anything goes wrong, you can blame the guest speaker! Usually I also have to assist the guest speaker, but thankfully my colleague Jennifer is covering that role for me today!

I have been working at Kew for 16 years, originally in Personnel (now Human Resources) as a Recruitment Officer. I moved over to the School in 2007, following the retirement of the previous Administration Officer. As a passionate plant lover and keen gardener, the idea of working in the School, assisting the Diploma students, was an opportunity not to be missed. I applied for the job and was absolutely delighted to be offered the post by Emma Fox, the then Principal of the School and Greg Redwood, the Head of what was then known as Great Glasshouses and Training, the Section at Kew that the School came under.

It is traditional for the students to choose their own guest speaker. I should have known something was up, when David and Beth appeared at the office door and said “have you got a moment, we'd like to run something by you?” Working in the School, you soon become aware that when more than one student comes to see you, it usually constitutes a ‘delegation’ with serious intentions. When Beth and David posed the question inviting me to be the guest speaker, my immediate inside my head reaction was “Oh no, I'll have to make a speech!!”, but all of a sudden I heard myself say “yes, I would be honoured, I'd love to!”

Then, the cold light of day dawned – what could I speak about? David had said to me “you must have lots of anecdotes.” What could I speak about? “An insider's view of the School perhaps?” on the other hand, maybe not! As anyone who has worked with students knows, some things are best left unsaid! Then I thought, I spend my days organising ‘the Diploma’ and we are all here today to celebrate Course 51 having completed the Kew Diploma, but what is it really?

Whilst clearing out a filing cabinet in the School, I came across a copy of a typed (yes, on an actual typewriter!), unfortunately unattributed article, entitled ‘The History of Student Gardeners at Kew’ which gives a very interesting insight into both the changing attitudes towards gardeners (or horticulturists as we now call them) and the developing trends in education. The year 1859 marks the real beginning of the student course at Kew with the introduction by Joseph Hooker of evening lectures for students. The 1890s is the first really

well documented decade of the courses existence. Applicants for the two year course had to be British, unmarried, 20 to 24 years old and with at least five years practical experience in horticulture, part of which had to be under glass. The student working day consisted of a 6am start, interspersed with some ‘botanising’, lectures on most evenings and optional library attendance until 10pm!

The following quotation by the Director, Sir William Thiselton Dyer (1881–1905) in 1894, two years before women were admitted onto the course, shows the attitude of the Kew Administration to its student course: “Kew is a higher grade technical school. About fifty young gardeners are employed who are permitted to stay, on an average, about two years. They are not taught the rudiments of their profession, but are carried to an advanced stage in it. A large number of our young men are drafted on the completion of their course to official employment in India and the colonies. The general result of Kew training is not merely to impart to the men a considerable body of technical instruction, but also to infuse into them an element of seriousness and purpose, and to quicken their general intelligence...” Although expressed in the language of his day, some of what Thiselton Dyer said is relevant to the modern day Diploma. On our website we state the Diploma offers training in amenity and botanical horticulture and is suited to dedicated professional horticulturists with a determination to succeed.

Turning to C51. Well, Course 51, your determination to succeed has certainly paid off but the end of the Diploma is merely the beginning of your success, as you take on new responsibilities.

Luckily we will not be losing Kasia and Alex as they have both secured jobs as Botanical Horticulturists in the Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services Section here at Kew. Bob will be putting his gardening skills to good use as Estate Manager at Rosevean in Cornwall. Gareth Cox, Paul, Rupert and Iain have set up a Company called Captured Planet. They will be travelling making short videos about Biodiversity and Human Interactions with nature. Their first trip, at the end of this month, is to South America – to Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile.

Gill has secured the job of Senior Gardener, at English Heritage’s Wrest Park in Bedfordshire. Peter will be taking up the post of Garden Display and Plant Design Manager at Ginkgo Gardens. David will be studying for his Masters in landscape architecture at the University of East London and working freelance in garden design – so if any of you are looking for some professional design ideas – you know who to contact! Neville has been appointed Curator at Bicton Park Botanic Gardens in Devon. Gareth Porteous hopes to remain at Kew and participate on the Kew and Queen Mary University MSc course in Plant and Fungal Taxonomy, Diversity and Conservation. Beth will be Volunteer Manager, managing the horticultural volunteers at Chelsea Physic Garden and working with the Garden Team to help maintain the gardens and glasshouses. I am extremely proud of you all.

Before I close, as Administrator of the Diploma, I know how many people are involved in helping to bring about the student’s success, therefore I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- The horticultural staff who train the students in practical horticulture
- The staff and external lecturers and examiners who teach a diverse range of academic and practical subjects
- Our prize givers who support the school and recognise the achievements of our students and apprentices
- Family and friends – without whom none of us would survive

- And last, but by no means least, The School of Horticulture staff who somehow, in spite of everything, manage to keep it all ticking over.

I have no doubt the Kew Diploma and other horticultural training will evolve over the years. The School is, and should continue to be, a dynamic learning environment.

Earlier on, I posed the question, ‘what is the Kew Diploma really?’

You could say it is a three year, highly intensive amenity and botanical horticulture course encompassing a wide variety of plant related disciplines – which it certainly is... However, no course can exist without the people, the people who study on it, teach on it, support or administer it. We can all learn from each other, whatever part we play in the Diploma. Kasia, Gareth Cox, Paul, Neville, Rupert, Gill, Alex, Iain, Beth, Gareth Porteous, David, Peter and Bob for letting me share these last three years at Kew with you – thank you.

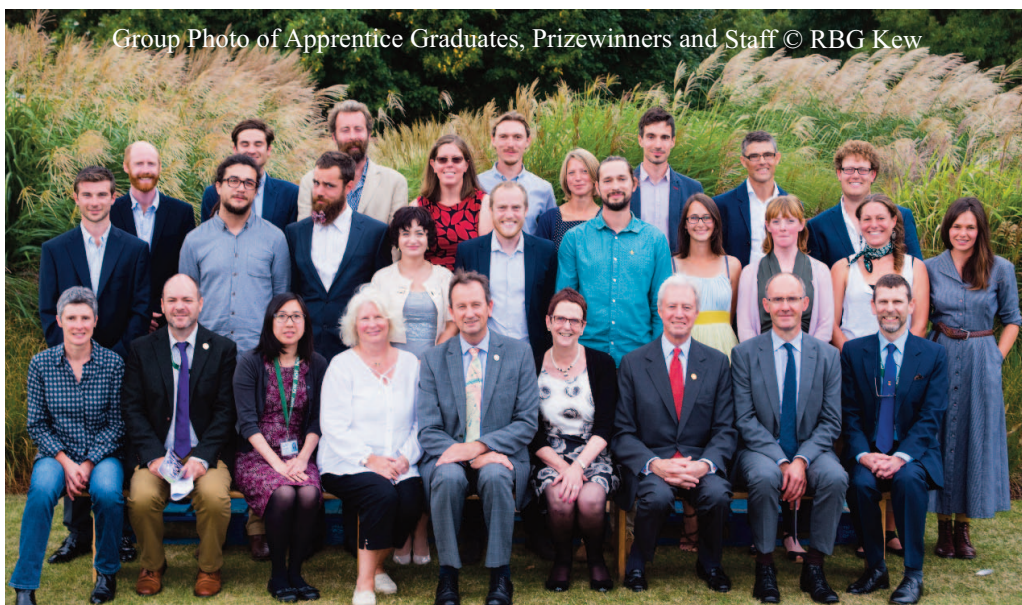
Marcus Agius, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, then gave a vote of thanks.

Peter Turski of Course 51 gave the Student vote of thanks, with accompanying video presentation.

Tim Hughes said in closing:

“I would once again like to thank Judy Hancock and everyone involved in making this special day come together. While there are too many people to mention individually, none of it would be possible without the patience and support of Judy, Kate Martin and Jennifer the staff of the School of Horticulture – so a big thank you to you and a big thank you to Carlos Magdalena helped by John Picton for today’s wonderful floral displays.

If I can ask the audience to please remain seated while the platform party, Diploma graduates, Apprentice graduates and prize winners follow Judy to the Grass Garden for photographs. Later on at 5 o’clock guests are invited to enjoy a tour of the Gardens on the Kew Explorer. The tour lasts approximately 35 minutes and departs from the Grass Garden. I would like to add my final thank you to all of you for attending today and I hope you will join us at the School of Horticulture where afternoon tea will be served.”





Tristan Agates
57657



Kathryn Bray
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Richard Choksey
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Sal Demain
57654



Hugh Fletcher
57660



Ailsa Kemp
57652



Alison Legg
57661



Alex Little
55409



Kate MacColl
57659



Ana Oliveira
57655



Luke Senior
57658



**Andrea Topalovic
Arthan**
57651

Course 54

Student Report

by Eliot Barden

September 2016 marked the completion of the first full year of the Kew Diploma for the Course 53 students. Following tradition, this milestone also meant that a new set of keen students would be joining the school of horticulture to be known as course 54 and a farewell bid was given to the graduating course 51 students. Course 54 were welcomed in the usual manner with a clog and apron race along the mini broad walk, around the roundabout and back again. In first place came Richard Choksey closely followed by Alex Little. This was followed by a well appreciated barbeque hosted by course 53.

Over the summer of 2016 the school of horticulture said goodbye to two much loved members of staff; Admin Officer Judy Hancock and Admin Assistant Pam Black, both retired after many, many years of service to the School and its students, they will be greatly missed. The students did however, welcome Jennifer Chan to the school of horticulture who would be the new fount of all knowledge and person to hand in projects to.

Course 53 began organising and implementing their KMIS lecture series with a combination of student scholarship lectures and external lecturers filling Monday evenings from 6pm–7pm. In addition, the exciting travel scholarship proposals were approved with students preparing to travel to a variety of locations including Romania, Cyprus, France, Italy, South Africa, Borneo, East and West America, Chile and New Zealand.

With second year lecture block to come back to at the start of 2017, an exciting array of subjects are lined up including arboriculture, turf, soil science, surveying, genetics, garden ecology, landscape design, conservation, protected cropping and garden history.



Course 54, First year Clog and Apron Race. Back row: Alex Little, Tristan Agates, Luke Senior. From left: Martin Staniforth (staff), Hugh Fletcher, Alison Legg, Andrea Topalovic Arthan, Richard Choksey. Front row from left: Ailsa Kemp, Ana Oliveira, Sal Demain (middle), Kate MacColl, Kathryn Bray. © RBG Kew



From left to right: Kate MacColl, women's winner, main winner Richard Choksey and second place winner Alex Little © RBG Kew

Kew Guild Events in 2016

Snowdrop Weekend and Living Rainforest 6th and 7th February by Pamela Holt

An interesting Snowdrop visit was made to Welford Park in Berkshire not far from Newbury. *Galanthus nivalis* grow in swathes along the River Lambourne, and in carpets beneath the trees, which caused a little girl to exclaim “Oh look at the snow!” Very tall ancient lime trees led one back to the formal grounds where rare species grow around the Queen Anne house. Here scrumptious tea and cakes are available in the old kitchens.

The following day a short introductory talk was given by one of the staff at The Living Rainforest, Hampstead Norreys, near Newbury. This charitable establishment exists to promote awareness and conservation of tropical rainforests. It covers several glasshouses, a children’s workshop and educational area, shop and café with outside sitting area suitably planted around with bamboos and exotic looking foliage. Within the glasshouses of tropical plants, free ranging birds, animals and reptiles can be observed with plenty of good interpretation panels. A special licence allows a two toed sloth to quietly climb up a *Ficus elastica* while tiny marmosets, armadillo and hissing cockroaches are contained in special enclosures. I was thrilled to see an agouti within a large enclosure whose fact sheet explained its teeth contained iron. This ability to crack open otherwise rock hard outer fruit cases of the Brazil nut tree, thus allowing germination to take place, confirmed what Professor J. Heslop Harrison had explained to my class all those years ago; this unassuming animal is the vital link to regeneration in the rainforests.

Cotswold Weekend – Pershore College and Batsford Arboretum 2nd and 3rd April by Alan Stuttard

For the second Kew Guild spring event of 2016 we all hoped for some good weather to welcome us to the Cotswolds, but as we drove south on the Saturday through heavy rain and squally showers this certainly didn’t seem to be the case. We shouldn’t have worried as when we drove the last couple of miles the heavy grey clouds began to lift, to be replaced by clear blue skies.



L to R: Pamela Holt, Batsford Guide, Rod Peach, John Sales, Phil Williamson, Tony Overland, Bryan Howard, Jan Overland, Joan Howard, Jean Peach, Peter Bridgman

By the time we had partaken of the coffee and biscuits provided in the plant centre by the college, things just got better and it all began to feel like the spring day that we had wished for. This brought out the ‘gardener’ in us all and we were soon loading up our cars with purchases made in the plant centre of high quality stock, much of which was grown by the staff and students of the college.

We were joined by Duncan Coombes, who had been a

lecturer at the college for over 30 years, and yet still managed to retain an enthusiasm that was totally infectious. For the next couple of hours he was a brilliant guide to our group as he took us round the plant collections, herbaceous and shrub production units and the incredible micro vegetable unit which grew salad stuff for Claridges in London. Micro vegetables are the plants that are harvested at a very early stage for their supposed intensity of flavour and just waiting to be picked was a bed of radish ‘Jolly’ that consisted of just two cotyledons. There was also a further advanced batch of radish ready for harvesting with the roots the size of petits pois. These, along with other salad stuffs at the same stage of development are collected weekly by Claridges and form a significant income stream to the college. I have to say that the old adage of “a fool and his money are easily parted” did spring to mind, but you have to acknowledge the College’s ingenuity for tapping into this lucrative market.

Duncan’s tour then took us around the college gardens and past the ever-developing buildings that are continually being provided to meet the changes and growth in the training programmes provided by the college as part of the Warwickshire Colleges Group. New accommodation blocks have been created and surrounded by new landscaping that links them to the recently opened £5.8 million ‘super centre’. This amazing building holds a ‘state of the art’ collections house, agri–tech laboratories, education suites, and new library and conference facilities. The development over the last 25 years has been truly outstanding and those of us who knew the site through the ‘round Bredon race’, all those years ago, would never have recognised the place.

As the weather had continued to improve we all took a leisurely picnic lunch out in the sunshine to rebuild our energy levels for the afternoon’s unescorted tour of the grounds and arboretum. The arboretum had a good stock of mature trees, amongst which quite a lot of work had been undertaken to clear some of the old shrub layers, create new pathways and under plant with spring bulbs; in all a very successful project. The joy of the arboretum is that it runs down to the River Avon and next to the modern road bridge is the original 14th Century stone bridge crossing into Pershore. This gave our group the opportunity to enjoy the spring weather in the delightful High Street where gift shops, book shops and tea shops were all visited along with the magnificent Abbey with its famous ‘carved tree’ in the grounds. This is always the joy of an unescorted afternoon as it allows us to do what we like best and just enjoy ourselves. This was further supported by an excellent evening meal in the local pub, the Pickled Plum and although the name could have given rise to worries about over indulgence, I am glad to report that all the Guild members left in a happy and genial condition – a great end to a most enjoyable day!



Micro veg at Pershore College with *Radish ‘Jolly’* in the foreground

Weather seems to be a regular issue throughout this report which is mainly due to the weekend being arranged because of the gales and total washout of the previous autumnal visit to Batsford Arboretum. I’m glad to report that on the Sunday morning we drove back to Batsford through the Cotswold villages with the early morning mist lifting into yet another beautiful spring day.

As we gathered in the arboretum’s café our guide for the day was the Head Gardener Matt Hall, another man of infectious enthusiasm who explained the history of Batsford. In 1886 the first Lord Resedale

inherited the 55 acre site and through his love of plants developed in China and Japan, started to create a collection of plants in the 'wild'. The estate then passed on to family members until the second Lord Dulverton began erasing some of the neglect and replanted many of today's mature specimens using his edict for planting "the rare and the beautiful in a wild setting". Now the garden is managed by the Batsford Foundation who use their charitable status to maintain and improve the magnificent collection of spring flowering and autumn coloured trees and shrubs.

For our visit the magnolias were in splendid condition with *Magnolia campbelli*, *Magnolia sargentiana* var *robusta*, and *Magnolia denudata* 'Purpurascens' catching the eye along with some of the British modern and New Zealand hybrids. Other plants showing themselves to best advantage were *Genista* 'Porlock', *Lysichiton americanum* in the watercourses and *Prunus incisa* on the lawned areas with a lovely stand of *Fritillaria meleagris* on the edge of a woodland area.

After a two hour stroll of this splendid garden it was time to return to the café for a well-earned lunch and a chat about what was a superbly organised weekend enjoyed by all. Again, the gardeners amongst us took a last chance to purchase some great quality plants from the arboretum plant centre before we all headed for home.

Days out like these make you yearn for future visits when you can share great gardens and venues in a relaxed group of friends and ex colleagues. The group is always welcoming and looking forward to greeting new members so if you haven't been on a visit before, or for a while, look at the events list on the Guild website and make 2017 the year that you enjoy one of our visits.

Cheshire Weekend **14th and 15th May**

by Phil Williamson, Pamela Holt and Jenny Exley

The Dorothy Clive Garden is at Willoughbridge, Market Drayton, Shropshire TF9 4EU. They are open every day from 1st April to 30th September and every weekend from October to March. For our visit we were met there by the Curator Marcus Chilton-Jones, who gave us an excellent guided tour of the site.

The garden was initially created by Colonel Clive in memory of his wife Dorothy who, in 1940, had Parkinson's disease. She enjoyed walking round the grounds of the house which included a 2.5 acre abandoned sand and gravel quarry from Georgian times, and so he decided to plant the quarry area as a garden for her to enjoy. We visited at the perfect time to see and enjoy the rhododendrons and other woodland plants in this area. A woodland effect is created by the damp, shaded quarry and structural planting of 150 year old oak trees.

Unfortunately there were a number of outbreaks of *Phytophthora ramorum* on some plants until 2012. However, Marcus sees this as beneficial and an opportunity rather than a setback. By removing diseased plants and the immediate surrounding associates he has created 'holes' that he has used as openings for replanting and this has given the opportunity for adding a new range of plants. There are no restrictions on what to plant like some historical gardens, and so he has added some different species that like the conditions but were not included in the original planting, for example *Hydrangea*. He has used the opportunity to replace some of the original rhododendrons with species that have more indumentum because they are more resistant to *Phytophthora*. However, he has also replaced some rhododendrons that were known to have been planted there initially.

The benefits include the fact that there is now a wider range of plants than there was originally with a varied age range, which they manage as a 12 to 15 year rotation of shrubby plants. They are growing within areas delineated by some gravel paths which he has introduced as ‘fire breaks’ to isolate the disease if it should reappear at some future time. In the 1970s, the Colonel began to extend the original 2.5 acre woodland garden in the quarry at the top of the hill in the northern area, as he developed the area to the south of what is now the tea rooms. This was originally a bungalow in the grounds that he later moved into in 1985 when he decided to downsize his accommodation.

The gardens now cover about 12 acres and are comprised of about 50 percent woodland and 50 percent herbaceous and rockery type planting plus a new area of glasshouses. The car parking is situated at the bottom of the rising garden and the main entrance to the garden is via a winding willow ‘maze’, opening to a delightful pool area with extensive rockery plants rising up behind it. Beyond this, the garden opens up into grassy areas with shrubs, and at the time of our visit a display of spring flowering bedding plants including many tulips. A level area has a café/shop with a plant sales area and a small play area for children at the rear. The garden is still being developed with a recently planted *Laburnum*/golden hop clothed arch within an area that has been cleared of old dark, congested conifers to create a winter interest area which is now open and light. There is also a plan for a hot-red tropical look around the tea rooms. At present there is a bindweed problem that they are dealing with by a stale seedbed policy to eradicate the weeds before planting begins.

The main current development is a new glasshouse and central working area for staff funded by a £100,000 grant. Parts of the glasshouses will be developed for visitors with a display of Mediterranean plants “everything that you expect to see on holiday”, planted as a colour wheel in the shape of a Staffordshire knot. Green credentials are important to the plans for the garden with the provision of homes for solitary bees, a recently planted green wall, and the heating of the new glasshouses being achieved through two modern wood burning stoves. These are both fuelled by wood from the gardens which comes from pruning, thinning and rotational felling.

At present the gardens are staffed with two full time gardeners, one seasonal gardener and 3,000-4,000 hours of volunteer labour. It is funded through admission charges and sales of souvenirs from the tearooms such as jewellery, DVDs, key rings and postcards. They also have a pavilion for hire, for family celebrations, away days, parties and corporate events. There are currently around 25,000-30,000 visitors that generate circa £300,000 revenue funding annually.

Phil Williamson

The afternoon was spent at a private plantsman’s garden by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bourne at Bunbury near Tarporely. The house is slowly being overtaken by an eclectic mix of plant material, from exuberant Begonias to tender Mediterranean plants. In the grounds unusual trees, shrubs, herbaceous plants, South African bulbs, a *Protea* collection along with an exotic conservatory containing a fine collection of *Disa* orchids were admired. In the late afternoon sunshine in a secluded corner of the garden tea and cookies were enjoyed with our hosts.

That evening many members met in Market Drayton to enjoy an excellent evening meal taken in the historic Tudor House Hotel, a 17th Century listed Grade II half timbered building.

On the following day two gardens were visited, the first being Hodnet Hall where Graham,



the gardener in charge of the walled gardens, met and greeted the group, giving out plans to the wonderful 60 acre estate. This consists of parkland, woodland garden with bluebells, lakes and walled kitchen garden owned by Sir Algernon Heber-Percy. It was he who dammed the stream in the valley in the 1920s to create a series of pools with small cascades. A fine 1656 dovecote sits in the field not far from the very productive walled kitchen garden and tithe barn. The sandstone and lime free soil enables a large collection of rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias to grow well. We were too late for most of the magnolias which grow in a wild flower meadow with a quaint little summerhouse, but there was still plenty to see from a wonderful white *Wisteria* on the terrace to numerous bog plants and primulas along the length of the stream. A picturesque half timbered building contains a unique collection of Big Game Trophies where teas and snacks are available. Lunch was enjoyed at The Bear Inn opposite before setting off for Wollerton Old Hall, Market Drayton.

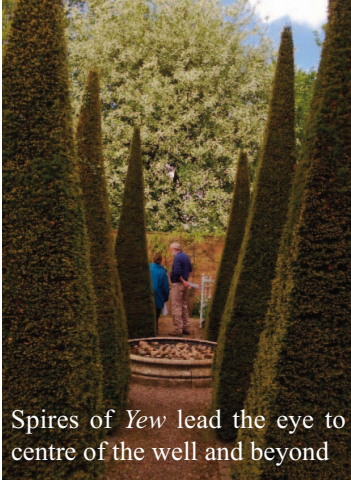
Pamela Holt

The entry drive leads through open lawn and fruit trees, calm and simple giving no preparation for the unexpected lattice work of many small courtyard type gardens that lie behind and to one side of the Hall. The 'old garden' is beautifully centred on the vertical facade of the house, with its clipped trees leading away through spire sentinels of clipped yew, over one of the finest elements of the gardens – the Rill Garden, to the Lime Allee which is entered through a tight gap in tall crisply cut hedging. These tightly knit spaces work as a whole, close to the house and create alternating seemingly cool green spaces with others of massed planting of herbaceous, and bulbs. Excellently detailed gates further subdivide the courts. Up with the best, the gardens are reminiscent of several of the early 20th Century gardens – of Hidcote Manor, Sissinghurst Castle, and Barnsley House.

One of the special places, the kind one likes to come upon by accident, is a link path from the house known as the Shade Garden, leading to the Rill Garden, its dappled shade of taller trees and shrubs emphasising incredible colour combinations with ebullient looser planting at their feet. Groupings of cottage style shade loving plants and gems of trilliums are tucked within them. As 'shades' of Arts and Crafts gardens, I saw a similarity with Rodmarton Manor, a lesser known but magical garden of the south Cotswolds, whose 'rooms' look across balls of box, and informality of wind-blown seedlings to a Juliet balustrade on the house, whilst looking back over one's shoulder to meadows, the glory of late spring and early summer. Precision of the Hall's cleanly cut repeating spires of topiary yew and high hedging and ball shaped box act as interconnecting elements with



Sharing a hearty lunch at The Bear. L to R: Pamela Holt, Di Stuttard, Phil Williamson, David and Chantal Taber, Jan and Tony Overland, Rod and Jean Peach and Alan Stuttard



Spires of Yew lead the eye to centre of the well and beyond

pools and rill of the formal gardens. These are juxtaposed with massed cow parsley of the outer reaches of this four acre plot and an extraordinarily floriferous froth of a large *Prunus padus*.

It was too early in the year to view some of the borders and midsummer sun loving plants, but I look forward to returning later to see these and how the Croft area of cow parsley embraces the later seasons. All indeed carry you into another time, another lifestyle where you can reflect and ponder.

Jenny Exley

Congratulations to Marcus Chilton-Jones on his recent appointment as Curator to the new RHS Bridgewater garden near Manchester. Marcus, who was Curator of The Dorothy Clive garden, gave the Kew Guild in May a wonderful tour and insight into the running and development of this fine private garden - Pamela Holt.

Kew Guild Dinner 26th May by Richard Ward

President Tony Overland presided over the Annual Dinner' held in Cambridge Cottage. 42 Guild members and 30 guests enjoyed free entry to the Gardens during the afternoon in perfect sunny weather. Drinks were available from 5.30pm at the venue and old friendships renewed, new friendships commenced.

The Dinner started at 7pm as members clapped in unison to welcome President Tony Overland and his wife Jan. After a break at 8.30 pm Bryan Howard was invited to propose a toast to 'Our President' and regaled us to stories of the day he and Tony started at Kew in 1963, of a tour of the Gardens with Rosemary Angel, of hoses in greenhouses used to



Bryan Howard
© Editor

gently urge members of the public out at closing time, of happy, and busy times, and efforts of students to leave their footprint in their horticultural careers whichever path they followed. He thanked Tony, and the entire Guild Committee during Tony's year, for their massive voluntary work on behalf of all members.

Tony Overland responded, and gave a toast to 'The Kew Guild and our Guests.' He talked of arriving at Kew 53 years ago, his first move into the Temperate House, of health and safety issues which were not recognised in those days, climbing ladders, balancing on balustrades, spraying chemicals, and lack of protective clothing. He became President of the Students Union and liaised with the hierarchy to improve the workers lot. In those days Tony had digs in Burlington Avenue, Kew with Miss Rose and paid £4 per week for half board! He met his wife-to-be, Jan, at the Inland Revenue Sorting Office canteen off Mortlake Road, Kew, where Kew students usually lunched every day – and only last week Jan and he had celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss! Tony concluded by thanking his Committee for their support during the year.

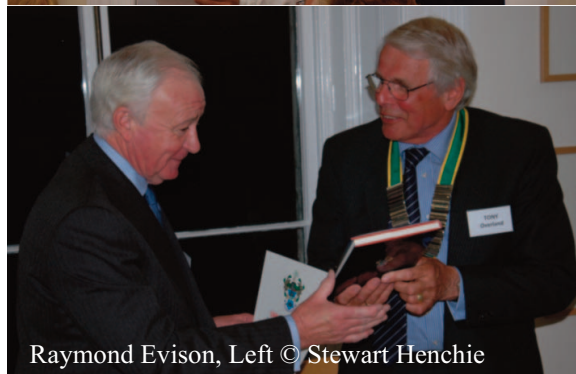
Guild member John Sales responded on behalf of the guests, firstly saying that in his

previous position as Advisor to the National Trust he had had the pleasure to work with several Guild members over the years. He paid tribute to the support of his wife Lyn, Guild Officers for their work, and the Guild for the lovely Dinner venue. He mentioned the diversity of everyone present and how they all had the love of plants, and the miracle of growth and development. If removed from it, John said, he would fade away. Compared with many of the people he had dealt with over the years, plants are easy! And so John concluded by entertaining us all with stories about past clients, owners of estates, donors and others.

First year Diploma student Harry Baldwin introduced his fellow students – Sophie Walwin, Julia Andersson, Mathew Rees and Tim Batchelor, and asked guests to drink a toast to absent friends. The George Brown Award scroll, kindly prepared by Allan Hart, was presented to Jennifer Alsop, with her name engraved on the Guild lectern – for furthering communication in the true spirit of the Kew Guild. Tony Overland thanked Jennifer for her sterling voluntary work for the Guild over many years. The Kew Guild Medal is awarded this year to Alan Titchmarsh, and will be presented on 15th June at a lunch at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Kew Green.



Student Harry Baldwin
© Editor



Raymond Evison, Left © Stewart Henchie

Tony presented the Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild to *Clematis* breeder Raymond Evison, together with a scroll and signed ‘Century of Kew Plantsmen’ and paid tribute to his great work and professionalism. Ray, in turn, thanked the Guild for his Fellowship and recalled how he had originally aspired to study at Kew, but instead had given lectures at Kew. During a long career in horticulture he had known and worked with names such as Thomas and Jackman. His greatest

satisfaction was to see *Clematis* bred by his company growing in gardens all around the world. His latest introduction, at Chelsea this year, is *Clematis* ‘Volunteer’, named after the thousands of people who helped at the recent Olympics.

There were eight Past Presidents of the Guild who stood up and were recognised at the Dinner; and one overseas member, Ian Lamont Smith. Five first year Diploma students, led by Sophie Walwin, organised a splendid raffle of books, vouchers and plants and £300 was raised for student travel.

In closing, President Tony asked those present to show their appreciation to Dinner organiser Jennifer Alsop, MC Richard Ward, and Journal Editor Sparkle Ward, and others who had helped the success of the evening. Floreat Kew!

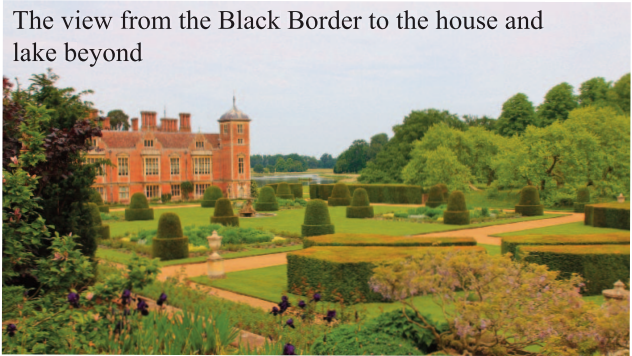
PS. Why not volunteer to be next year’s MC at the Dinner?! Contact our Secretary.

Norfolk Weekend 11th and 12th June

by Robin Bletsoe, Bryan Howard, Pamela Holt and Sandy Atkins

The group’s first visit, on this brilliantly orchestrated weekend by John Simmons and

others was to Blickling, a National Trust, complete Norfolk Estate set in North Norfolk. We were welcomed by Head Gardener, Paul Underwood, whose enthusiasm both for the magnificent gardens and the Trust's platoon of gardening volunteers was an inspiration – some 90 currently registered volunteers but fortunately not all present at the same time! We were also delighted to have with us John Sales, former National Trust Gardens and Horticultural adviser whose close ties to Blickling were evident at every turn.



The view from the Black Border to the house and lake beyond

Upon walking through the main gateway, the impressive ancient yew hedges lead to the Tudor red-brick mansion with its ornate chimneys and imposing facade. Entering the gardens we were in awe of the formal parterre with its manicured 'acorn yews' bounded on one side by the inspired 'double' borders of Norah Lindsay. In the 1930s Norah was responsible for converting the original Victorian sunken garden into the formal parterre we see today. In fact she was the principal creator of the ornamental components of the gardens. The double borders, recently restored in 2006, comprise a huge variety of shrubs, perennials and grasses exhibiting colour ranges from 'hot' to 'cool' and beyond the black and white borders established in 2009 are beginning to mature.

The arts and crafts movement, through Norah Lindsay, was a great influence on the informal ornamental plantings linking to the pastoral scenes and flowering meadows of the estate. Unlike Jekyll she did not write a great deal and was therefore not given the credit perhaps she was due – an underrated starlet of her time. One could wax lyrical about the *Rhododendron* borders which bound the vista leading down from the temple to the mansion and some of the magnificent trees, especially dare I say, the ancient *Platanus orientalis* which stands proudly leading the eye to the 'boomerang' shaped lake. The Blickling grounds have an incredible diversity of component and themed plantings, ornamentation, naturalised meadows and grasslands that here, space does not permit further descriptors.

Before departing we were given the opportunity to see and hear of the large walled garden restoration project, which is into its second year of the five year programme. Reinstating



Guild Members outside Blickling Mansion, L to R: Robin Bletsoe, John Simmons, Jan and Tony Overland, Alan and Di Stuttard, Brian Challen, Jo Dyke, Sylvia and Brian Phillips, Joan and Brian Howard, John Sales, Joan Hart, Graham Watts, Allan Hart, Susan Holmes and Gill Challen

glasshouses, walled grown fruits, growing vegetables and flowers for use in the property will exemplify horticultural mastery of the past. If it were not for the National Trust, Royal Horticultural Society and English Heritage our horticultural heritage might well have succumbed to the economic demands of this modern age. A splendid visit, brilliantly guided by Paul and to be commended to any Kewite to visit should you be in the area at any time of the year.

Members then travelled on to

Aylsham to partake of lunch at Parmeters, home to Roger and Diana Polhill, retired Herbarium staff and Kew Guild members. From a range of lovely homemade food and assorted liquid refreshments on the lawn, everyone was able to mingle, chat and wander in the garden. Most went on to visit the National Trust property Fell Brigg Hall with its well-maintained walled garden containing different sections, from apple trees and chickens to delightful perennials and wall shrubs. By late afternoon all assembled at Gresham to enjoy a relaxed stroll around Roamer House with its owner John Simmons pointing out plants obtained on his many expeditions as Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The evening concluded with a lovely spread in his house.

Robin Bletsoe

Many in our group would probably admit to being somewhat unfamiliar with the numerous horticultural highlights that rural Norfolk has to offer. However, that was soon overcome not least by the memorable and warm welcome extended by John Simmons (Curator 1972-95) and his wife Valerie to their home and garden, Roamer House, in Upper Gresham. Clearly it took considerable determination and hands-on physical effort for John to completely develop what was a difficult 2.5 acres of rough and poorly drained grazing land, with a heavy soil, into what is now a plantsman's paradise. Today the garden supports a wealth of established and fascinating trees and shrubs with drifts of hardy herbaceous plantings, much inspired by John's field experiences particularly in Western China that continued after he left Kew. The informal planting at 'Roamer House' is sheltered to the North by Cromer Ridge and it is very evident that John has applied his unique 'footprint' to the site with great skill and determination. Of course this diverse planting very much reflects his extensive plant knowledge and lifelong botanical experiences. Today over 600 different plant types including some 300 trees and shrubs are established across the garden, which also includes interesting water features. Many of John's plants appear in his book 'Coping with Wet Gardens' - Timber Press 2008.

Now happily retired from his full time 'harness' John conforms to the adage 'once a plantsman always a plantsman'. He not only tends his and Valerie's own large garden but in recent years has used his enormous plant knowledge and expertise as manager, and curator in the development of the now re-titled Yorkshire Arboretum at Castle Howard that was established as a joint Kew and Castle Howard venture. In addition to several other gardens and arboreta John has also advised Sir Timothy Colman over many years on the planting and management of Framingham Arboretum. Thank you John and Valerie for preparing such an interesting and successful programme of visits to several gardens and nurseries and not least for providing the substantial buffet meal enjoyed by all those 'Kewites' who joined this delightful visit to attractive Norfolk.

Bryan Howard

The following Sunday morning was spent at Severals Grange, Wood Norton near Dereham, home to Hoecroft Plants. This nursery specialises in ornamental grasses, variegated and coloured foliage plants. The proprietor is Jane Lister who took the nursery on in 1992. She exhibits at Chelsea, where John Major fell in love with her plants leading to a commission to design beds for him. Jane enthusiastically showed the group around the show garden pointing out mixed planting schemes to illustrate how colour, shape, and form can be created with very little emphasis on blooms. Novel ideas such as using honeysuckle as ground cover by pegging it. After touring the nursery her partner served coffee and biscuits. Meanwhile many were eyeing up the impressive range of plants for sale before wending our way to The George at Dereham for lunch.

Pamela Holt

The final visit of the weekend was to Dale Farm, which is situated a short walk from the centre of Dereham, and is the home of Graham and Sally Watts. Turning in off a busy main road, the house and garden come as a complete surprise. In front of a very pretty Georgian farmhouse is almost an acre of walled front garden, planted with cottage garden plants in large prairie-style planting. Drifts of nigellas, geraniums, poppies, foxgloves, all interspersed with tall *Stipa gigantea*, roses and large plants of *Cistus* in full flower. Also a large eye catching red *Physocarpus*. The whole view was breathtaking.



Come around the corner of the house towards the back garden, and one's breath is again taken away. There is a beautiful view of the lake, full of water lilies, surrounded by island beds and beautifully mown grass into the distance, almost as far as the eye can see. Along one edge, the view is cut short by a row of ancient lime trees. The lake is spring-fed, and wonderfully clear. I cannot name all the plants we saw, but some I noted are a beautiful tall specimen of *Rosa mutabilis*, a gorgeous young *Metasequoia*, large yellow *Iris*, *Salvia turkestanica*, and many many others. There are circular walks around the lake, and one comes across interesting bits of sculpture and statuary along the way.

We learnt that since Graham and Sally moved here nine years ago, and made the garden from scratch, they have raised £34,540 through the National Garden Scheme, for local charities. They are to be commended, and the garden is well worth a visit. Unfortunately, the rain arrived during our visit, but we were treated to tea under a canopy. The day ended about 4pm.

Sandy Atkins

Lake District Weekend 9th and 10th July

by Graham Heywood (aka Harold Heywood)

Nineteen members of the Kew Guild assembled at Larch Cottage Gardens and Nurseries near Penrith on Saturday morning, 9th July for a guided tour of the gardens, expertly conducted by Peter Stott, the owner of the gardens.

A somewhat unprepossessing car park and entrance to the gardens were our immediate impressions of the Nursery. However, the entrance opened to reveal a magnificent near total of 20 acres of gardens that represents a life time's work by Peter who gave us a warm welcome and a detailed history of the development of the site over the past thirty plus years. In March 2012, The Independent Newspaper voted the gardens amongst the top 50 garden centres in the UK. Further, it has been described by the Daily Telegraph as being one of the Lake District's hidden secrets.

Introductions and history of the gardens over, Peter conducted members through an amazing feat of dedication and lifetimes work. A large selection of more than 15,000 types of plants, trees and shrubs





depicting various animals and Roman and Greek Gods. A special treat for members was the access to the Chapel gardens, a two acre garden (normally only opened on Sundays with the entrance fees wholly donated to local charities) at the head of which and next to a large lake Peter has designed and built a small but wonderful private chapel, that itself is a marvellous achievement. The Chapel is comprised of old brick and cobblestones, topped off by a slated roof and bell tower. Is there no end to this man's talents and dedication we wondered?

A man who is a self taught landscape architect and former ballet dancer has battled critics and bureaucracy by the spadeful to provide even the most discerning horticulturist with a veritable feast of plants and landscaped gardens. The tour was rounded off with a visit to the tea rooms for a delicious and relaxing lunch before departing for our next visit – Holehird Gardens near Windermere.

Holehird Gardens is managed by the Lakeland Horticultural Society and its history reaches as far back as the end of the 1939-1945 war. We were met at the gardens by John Ashley, Chairman of the Gardens Council who gave an interesting introduction to the history of the gardens and explained how the gardens operated. Staffed and managed entirely by Volunteers (400 in number) the gardens are a jewel in the Cumbrian landscape covering more than 17 acres of the Holehird Estate with magnificent and uninterrupted views across to the Langdale Pikes and beyond.

The gardens host the National collection of *Astilbe*, *Daboecia*, *Meconopsis* and *Polystichum* together with an impressive collection of hydrangeas and hostas. Fell gardens, seasonal beds, Alpine houses, Rock gardens, Gunnera Pool and cascade, Woodland Walk and lower terrace combine to delight visitors. A walled garden is planted with an excellent collection of herbaceous plants and small trees and within which is also located the reception area and lecture theatre and a very well stocked library of Horticulture and Botanical books; the latter much marvelled at by Guild members. Saturday was rounded off by an excellent meal at the Lamplighter Dining Rooms in Windermere High Street and



Jo King (Head Gardener) explaining the history of the Dalemain Gardens to members

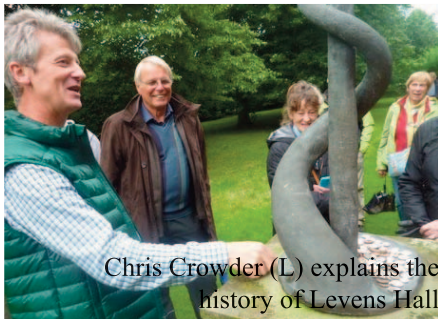
lots of opportunity for members to reflect upon the day's activities and catch up on other more personal matters.

Sunday 10th July started with members gathering at the Car Park within the Dalemain Mansion and Gardens near Penrith for our third visit of the weekend. Here our guide was Head Gardener Josephine King, who gave a very interesting tour of the gardens detailing the history of the gardens including some notable examples of rare trees and

(many rare and difficult to obtain) for sale are neatly displayed, beyond which the visitor progresses through a variety of garden settings. Peter has supplied plants to Kew, Royal Horticultural Society Garden Wisley, Shipley College, Oatridge College, Holehird Gardens, Worcester College, Warwick University and many more. The whole gardens are dotted with Romanesque follies, each one having been built by Peter and his team! These are further enhanced by a variety of statues

plants. The Estate is dominated by the house with its 12th Century Pele Tower; the house itself having evolved through the Centuries with the early Georgian pink ashlar facade completed in 1744, this being the last significant addition. The Estate is owned by the Hasell family who have lived at Dalemain since 1679. Josephine explained the gardens comprise some five acres of richly planted herbaceous borders; a terrace border concentrates on drought resistant and long flowering herbaceous plants; in the knot garden, the emphasis is on herbs and white flowers. The Apple Walk is of real interest, planted alongside old fashioned roses which are at their best in June. A walk through the wild garden which contains a greatly prized stand of *Meconopsis* 'Dalemain' (not in flower when we arrived sadly) completed our tour of the gardens. From here we tasted the many varieties of marmalade on sale in the gift shop and for more information about Dalemain marmalade see their website at www.marmaladeawards.co.uk. Our visit to Dalemain concluded with lunch in the tea shop, but will last long in our memories; in fact long after we have devoured our pots of award winning marmalades!

Now once more refreshed with food and drink we headed south for the final visit of the weekend – Levens Hall near Kendal. Levens Hall is home to the world famous Topiary



Chris Crowder (L) explains the history of Levens Hall

Gardens and has colourful seasonal bedding, a rose garden, herbaceous borders, a nuttery, massive beech hedges, herb garden, fountain garden, a deer park and much more to interest both the professional gardener and amateur gardener alike.

Assembling at the ticket kiosk we were met by our guide for the afternoon, Chris Crowder (Kew 1981).

The author introduced Chris to members and informed them he had known Chris since he (the author) had taken up the position of Deputy Superintendent to Chris's Father, George Crowder (Kew 1951) in 1972 when both families lived within Walton Hall Gardens at Warrington. Chris, who has been head gardener at Levens for more than thirty years, said he was delighted to be amongst Kewites again and said his appointment as head gardener at Levens was not part of his grand plan as he was keen to continue travelling the world at the time but applied for the post and was unexpectedly successful. Levens has benefited greatly from Chris's labours over these past thirty years.

The tour was a highly professional and a marvellously revealing insight to the development and day by day management of these famous gardens. We learnt the world famous topiary gardens were laid out in the 1690s by Guillaume Beaumont, Gardener to King James II and Colonel James Grahme and retain many of their original features. We viewed the massive beech hedges and heard of the struggle to deal with box blight. Regarding the



Don't step back! Members assemble in front of the oldest recorded ha-ha, in the country at Levens Hall

latter, Chris pointed out the various alternatives that had been tried and were still being explored to traditional box hedging; the most successful of which were *Ilex crenata* and 'Tidy Tips'. Chris said they had also planted up with blight resistant cultivars of box, namely, Faulkner and John Baldwin. Selection of these species was also underpinned by use of a specific fungicide known as Octave used on other areas of the topiary garden.

During the tour, a group photograph was taken at the edge of the ha-ha, the earliest recorded in England. No casualties here fortunately! At the end of our tour members gave a resounding round of applause to Chris for a wonderfully polished insight to the gardens that was further enhanced by his wit and humour.

To round off our weekend we retired to the Levens tea rooms for refreshments at which time the sun was shining brilliantly. But before departing there was one more thing to do. That was to accept the offer of Levens resident engineer responsible for managing Bertha the Steam Engine to view his pride and joy. Our party was led by our very enthusiastic President Elect Alan Stuttard who is clearly a closet member of the Fred Dibnah fan club and in another life was probably a steam engine driver! All in all, a wonderful, exciting and enjoyable weekend. Thanks to all Guild members who were able to support this event.

Staffordshire Weekend

6th and 7th July

by Pamela Holt and David Hardman



Glorious weather prevailed for the final weekend of the year in August when a tour was made of Trentham Gardens, Historic Garden Grade II, near Stoke on Trent. This visit was chosen not only because of the 300 year celebration of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown’s birth but to showcase modern plantings within an historic landscape.

In 1759 the Leveson-Gower family brought in Brown to re-landscape the 750 acre park from what was a previously forested area with allees and the river Trent running alongside. Kent and Bridgeman also

had a hand in designing at Trentham but Brown takes the credit for the huge mile long lake which is only four feet deep. Nesfield is responsible for many water features but it was on the flat site near the former Hall that Sir Charles Barry laid out the original three large shallow terraces descending to the lakeside with balustrades and loggias in 1840. These Italian flower gardens are one of the most important features surviving today. Ownership of Trentham has been variously the Duke of Sutherland who sold the estate in 1911 when the Hall was demolished, to the National Coal Board followed by the Local Authority and now St. Modwen the property developer in 1996.

Today the refurbished Italian Gardens and wild flower and perennial displays by Piet Oudolf, Tom Stuart-Smith and Nigel Dunnett give much to see and admire. There are plans and outline planning permission to create an hotel and apartments by restoring the remaining wings from the original demolished mansion building once owned by the Countess of Sutherland. Our guide who works on the estate took time to show how modern planting has been incorporated into the landscape starting by the bridge over the river. Here an area known as the River of Grasses has been created by Piet Oudolf which, because it floods, periodically informed the choice of plants like *Trollius*, *Astilbe*, *Fritillaria* and Bog Myrtle. The grass *Pennisetum* represents the River Trent with *Calamagrostis* ‘Karl Foerster’ and *Molinia* ‘Transparent’. As grasses can look less impressive at times the first thing visitors now see is a new perennial meadow planted in

spring 2016 to give flowers in early to late summer before moving on to the version of a romantic hay meadow.

Recent clearing of *Rhododendron ponticum* has revealed more of the lakeside with new woodland plantings of *Quercus ilex*, *Corylus avellana*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* and shade loving shrubs. The trellis walk has fine plantings of David Austin roses and the clipped box on the terraces are being replaced with *Euonymus erecta* and modern plantings add year round colour. The Floral Labyrinth created by Piet Oudolf along with Tom Stuart-Smith can be viewed from a raised grass picnic area and is a riot of colour using plants like *Lythrum virgatum*, *Monarda* 'Garden View', *Stachys officinalis* 'Rosea', *Veronicastrum* 'Fascination', *Persicaria polymorpha*, *Liatris spicatum*, and *Actea simplex*.

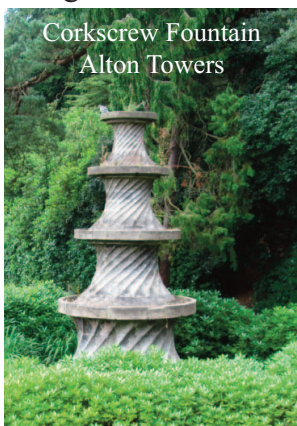
Nigel Dunnett's annual meadows have introduced a contemporary understorey to the newly revealed landscape. In its second year the main annual meadow of 21,000 square metres connects Trentham lake with Brown's historic parkland beyond. Three different mixes have been used from the classic which is mainly pink and blue, the gold mix which was developed for the Olympic Park to the pastel mix which is mainly blue with some red. Soft pink *Cosmos* appear for late summer continuing into late autumn when the mix changes to yellow and gold. A maze and series of show gardens near the tea rooms are also of interest. The rest of the day was left free to explore this large Estate, lakeside walks, plant centre and retail complex.

Sunday morning was spent at Dove Cottage, near Ashbourne, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen and Anne Liverman. A plantsman's garden noted for hardy foliage plants and shrubs, a woodland glade, bulb areas and collections such as *Astrantia* and *Allium*. With the river bordering one side of the garden and meadows on another it made a very tranquil setting. Our hosts personally conducted the group around this intimate garden before serving coffee and biscuits. Our group then drove to a local pub where a fine al fresco meal was taken in the garden before arriving at Alton Towers for our afternoon visit.

Pamela Holt

"Alton Towers has always been a theme park although not necessarily in the way you think of it today". Dan Williamson our guide explained as how historically the gardens contain many themes from around the world with influences from Japan, China and the tropics which included growing exotic fruits being extremely challenging with little knowledge about their cultivation. Reputations of the Estate owner and Head Gardener rested with achieving growth and fruit production!

Instigated between 1814 and 1827, enormous resources were expended by Charles Talbot, the eccentric 15th Earl of Shrewsbury to Towers Gardens employing architects Thomas Allason and Robert Abrahams. In 1827 John Talbot 16th Earl of Shrewsbury completed the layout of the gardens and in 1832 the estate was renamed Alton Towers. In 1860 the first tickets were sold for public entry to the gardens. In 1924 Alton Towers was sold to a group of local businessmen and a full complement of gardeners was re-employed. Up to 1945 it attracted thousands of visitors as a commercial leisure attraction and then in 1953 was reopened as a 'pleasure ground'. During the 1980s the theme park was installed to the north of the park with its constantly changing rides and with the retention of the garden, this is what we see today.



View from Prospect Tower, Alton Towers



feature in English gardens since the 1760s. Even a fairly large Matterhorn was created as the backdrop to one of England's earliest alpine gardens.

The Chinese Pagoda Fountain is said to be based on the To Ho pagoda in Canton, but only having three floors the intention was for it to have been much taller, with ten tiers similar to the Chinese original. It is currently nearing full restoration, and by the end of 2016, the height of the fountain when it is in use will be just below the cable car gondolas passing overhead. All the garden fountains are gravity fed from natural water sources above the gardens but currently are not in use due to the risk of further infection from *Phytophthora* spread from the spray. This includes the fascinating corkscrew fountain which runs to the lake. It was explained that the fountains will only become fully operational after five years from the last reported incidence of an infection.

The once spectacular curved conservatory is of a symmetrical design with domed glasshouses and an 'open' orangery having a coronet on the central and pineapples on the other finials which were once emblazoned with gold leaf. It must have been a spectacular sight! A fascinating structure captivated members' discussion about how its heating system would have worked and how the orangery plants were moved and protected during winter. With major restoration planned it will be interesting to watch and see how the large round pool in the main glasshouse will be integrated into the project for future uses, a wedding venue amongst others will be considered. Upon completion it will bring back what must have been a fantastic building in its spectacular garden location.

Renovation money comes from Section 106 funds allocated as part of other new major capital projects proposed for Alton Towers, the priority arrangements are determined by English Heritage and the local council who, with Merlin the current owner, decide to which projects funding will be allocated. Over the last 15 years over five million pounds has been spent on the house running budgets and now money is to be directed towards re-establishing the gardens.

We viewed the restored gothic 'Prospect tower' designed by Robert Abrahams and built in the 1850s and, to date over £150,000 has been spent on work to renovate it. From here we walked to the conservatory, under the Irish yew archway which is truly spectacular in its bulbous shapes and believed to be over 160 years old.

We were fortunate to meet up with three senior gardeners and ask them in-depth questions

In glorious sunshine members enjoyed a wonderful visit to the garden, organised by Pamela Holt. We were able to observe developments under restoration aimed at bringing back the gardens to their former glory and with new uses for extant buildings. Alton Towers' garden is an example of the mixed style of Humphry Repton's gardens which grew into a collection of gardens to include: a Swiss Cottage, a Miniature Stonehenge, a Dutch garden and Lysicrates' Greek Choragic Monument from Athens, a

Yew Archway at Alton Towers



about the serious topics that they are dealing with currently including: restoration projects, maintenance of difficult areas of the gardens and the aspirations of the future developments such as the restoration of the Pagoda fountain and the conservatory, in which they are fully involved. This proved to be very informative and helped us all realise the enormity of managing this large garden. There is a team of ten gardeners, many have over 20 to 30 years experience at the site. Previously more than 20 gardeners worked just in the immediate garden which is not the case today.

After looking down over the spectacular rock garden the group moved on towards the centrepiece hall 'The Towers' but we were unable to enter due to essential works being in progress. However, undaunted, we were taken to the conference centre where in a hospitality suite afternoon tea had been laid for us all. A well deserved rest after having walked the challenging topography of the garden gave us the chance to chat before finally heading home after another fabulous weekend of garden visits.

David Hardman

Kew Guild Awards Scheme 2016

by Chris Kidd

The Awards Scheme Committee (KGAS) for 2016 was made up as follows: Chris Kidd – Chair, Marcella Corcoran – Secretary, Linda Baharier – Treasurer. Other Members were Jennifer Alsop, David Barnes, Allan Hart, Christopher Weddell, Gillian Leese, Susyn Andrews, David Hardman and Joe Clements (student representative). Further to these numbers, three new Committee Members have been invited to join for the next meeting in March 2017, these being David Simpson, Tim Hughes and Sarah 'Sal' Demain (student representative).

The KGAS met on 10th March and 14th July 2016 to consider applications for awards and the nomination for the Fellowship of the Kew Guild. Many thanks to members of the Committee who continue to give support, often travelling great distance at personal expense, keeping good records and giving sage advice.

Awards

A total of £8,916 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available at the March meeting to be made as awards. Over the two meetings eight applications had been made; all but two were successful after individual debate. These are listed below:

- Joe Clements – Tree shaping in USA – Awarded £700 from Dallimore Fund
- Lauren Gardiner – Conservation Congress, Hong Kong – awarded £550 from Redman Fund and £350 from General Fund
- Jessica Lee – Study tour to Madagascar, two/three weeks – awarded £409 from Turner Fund and £291 from General Fund
- Ruth Bone – Attend IUCN congress in Hawaii two weeks – awarded a total of £1,138 from Redman Fund
- Misako Kasahara – Advanced tree climbing and chainsaw course – awarded a total of £1,236 from £604 Dallimore Fund and £632 from General Fund
- Tom Pickering – Study tour Western Cape of South Africa, two weeks – awarded a total of £1,000 from Ian Leese Fund

Of a total fund availability of £8,916 for 2015, £5,674 was awarded leaving £3,242 unallocated.

George Brown Memorial Award

Allan Hart nominated distinguished gardener Nicholas Boyes for the George Brown memorial award, this was wholeheartedly agreed by the committee. The award to be presented at the Annual Dinner 2017.

Fellowship of the Kew Guild

Allan Hart made a nomination for the Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship 2016. The Kew Guild awards sub-committee in attendance agreed unanimously and made the recommendation to the first full committee meeting following the AGM. After discussion it was decided not to create a Fellow on this occasion.

John Woodhams Award

Joan Woodhams has generously funded an annual memorial Award, of £1,000 per year for 10 years, to remember her late husband John, former Assistant Curator of the Tropical Department at Kew and Vice President of the Kew Guild 1992–1993. I have spoken with Joan and conveyed gratitude on behalf of the Guild, this is a wonderful gesture on Joan's behalf in memory of a rare and kind gentleman. It is hoped to make the first issue of this award during 2017. I am indebted to Richard Ward for his communications to Joan Woodhams following her initial approach with this most kind offer.

Proposal to increase Kew Guild Membership and promote Kew Guild Awards Scheme.

During the September AGM 2016 it was very clear that membership of the Kew Guild is significantly down. The membership secretary's report made it very clear that membership is falling particularly in horticultural sector, namely amongst the living collection staff at Kew. I considered this therefore to be a good time to begin to address this falling membership with a proposal to promote the Kew Guild, specifically through its Awards activity. I do however consider there is another debate to be had to address the role of the Kew Guild in promoting fellowship in an era of fast social media.

I made a proposal to the other Trustees to use Kew Guild funds to create colour posters for display at various sites within RBG Kew, on noticeboards in staff rooms etc. These posters to promote Membership of the Kew Guild primarily through the promotion of the Kew Guild Awards Scheme. From my distant position on the Isle of Wight I will need some assistance, and am pleased that Sal Demain, as student representative, has engaged with this task. Approval from the other Trustees has been given to create artwork, printing to take place as required. In conjunction we are hoping to utilise the artwork on Kew's intranet and other marketing opportunities as they arise. A central feature of this effort will be the promotion of the new Award in memory of John Woodhams.

Award Scheme Reports

Meeting botanical heroes of Hawai'i

by Ruth Bone

Thanks to a generous contribution from the Kew Guild, I recently travelled to the Hawaiian island of O'ahu to develop the Pacific regional programme for RBG Kew's Millennium Seed Bank (MSB). Since establishment in 2012, the Pacific MSB partnerships and collaborations have grown to include institutions and colleagues in Fiji, Hawaii, New Zealand and New Caledonia.

My aims for the visit were to meet seed banking colleagues from Hawai'i and the wider Pacific region while also attending the World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The 2016 'quadrennial' Congress numbered some 9,000 delegates including many from Polynesia and Melanesia.

I arrived in Hawai'i on August 30th, a day before the official opening ceremony of the WCC and in time to meet Hawaiian plant conservationists at the O'ahu Army Natural Resource Program (OANRP) Nursery and Seed Laboratory. The OANRP was established to protect the natural resources of O'ahu and has responsibility to balance the requirements of the US Army's training needs with nature conservation.

At the Schofield Barracks on the edge of these military operations, sheltered by Sharlon cloth and crowded on benches, I was introduced to some of the world's most imperilled and unique flora. According to the State of Hawaii's Division of Forestry and Wildlife, 366 Hawaiian plant taxa are listed as Endangered or Threatened and a further 48 are proposed as Endangered, comprising 44% of the threatened plant list for the entire USA. Long-term seed storage is part of an integrated conservation strategy implemented across Hawai'i, with 67% of the Hawaiian flora considered to bear orthodox seeds (i.e. those that can withstand desiccation and freezing for long-term storage, without significantly hampering viability).

On the edge of the Barracks in the OANRP Nursery, Matthew Keir from the plant conservation network Laukahi explained that Hawaiian mints (including the endemic Hawaiian genus *Stenogyne*) are among those threatened plants that occur on military training lands. *Stenogyne kanehoana* has been listed as Federally Endangered since 1992 and is cared for in the OANRP Nursery. In its altered native habitat - where it is susceptible to mould, drought, rat and mice damage, grazing from slugs and sucking insects - hand pollination and habitat improvements are underway as part of a recovery plan. I left the nursery, overwhelmed by the rarity and the beauty of everything in it. Over the clattering noises around us I asked Matt: "Is that machine gun fire?" He nodded and added: "Sometimes bombs, or drones."

The network of dedicated plant conservation staff and volunteers, several of whom I was lucky enough to meet during my stay, work tirelessly to seek out and nurture individual plants and do what they can to ensure their survival. From gathering and storing pollen, hand pollinating and bagging burgeoning fruits and harvesting seeds, to hiking for miles carrying juvenile plants on their backs from meeting points where plants descend into clearings in a modern day 300 lb Wardian case hitched beneath military helicopters.

Other highlights of my visit included witnessing the dawn opening ceremony of the Congress at a gathering of Pacific island leaders. The group assembled on the beach



L to R: Dustin Wolkis, Seana Walsh, Susan Deans (National Tropical Botanical Garden, Kauai'i) and Ruth Bone monitoring and protecting developing fruits of Hawaiian endemic, *Capparis sandwichiana*.



O'ahu island coordinator for the Plant Extinction Prevention Program, Susan Ching Harbin, shows Ruth Bone (RBG, Kew) endemic buttercups at the head of the Poamoho Trail, O'ahu.

wearing traditional head dresses to meet a wa'a (traditional double hulled canoe), and to participate in an exchange of gifts and welcome speeches. During the Congress I had the opportunity to take part in a workshop led by the Plant Extinction Prevention Programme (PEPP) at the Lyon Arboretum (Honolulu) - arguably the most compact and species-rich haven of threatened flora in Hawai'i. Meeting the Lyon team as well as the Island PEPP Coordinators was a great privilege and a few days later I was invited to join the O'ahu PEPP coordinator Susan Ching Harbin and the Lyon Arboretum Seed Conservation Laboratory team Marian Chau and Tim Kroessig for a foggy (and very muddy) day of field work on the Poamoho Trail in the Ewa Forest Reserve, O'ahu. There I learnt more of Marian and Tim's work to conserve seeds of *Metrosideros* (Myrtaceae) species threatened by the fungal pathogen Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (*Ceratocystis fimbriata*) and their 'Ōhi'a Love crowdfunding campaign. Meanwhile Susan led me around gulleys and ridges to a secret PEPP re-planting site, where she checked on some of the incredibly rare plants that she monitors regularly, hiking for miles (or descending from helicopters) in the metal-pronged soles of her split-toe Tabi boots.

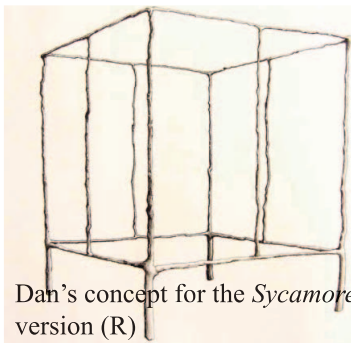
Ruth Bone: First worked at RBG Kew as a Kew Diploma student (C37) and returned to Kew in November 2010 to work on several technical and research projects in the Herbarium, Jodrell and more recently the Millennium Seed Bank.

Tree Shaping in the USA

by Joseph Clements

On the 7th of May 2016 myself and my colleague Rupert Harbinson set off from London to the USA, more specifically – Boston, Massachusetts. Our aim? To study the ways of the Tree Shapers – a handful of isolated artists who have dedicated their adult lives to experimenting with bending, pleaching, training and grafting woody plants into fantastical living sculptures, and useable structures.

Whilst working our way from one tree shaping artist to the next we stopped off at a number of gardens, and also observed some of the Native American flora growing in its natural habitat. The first stop on our quest was to the small country town of Northampton in



Dan's concept for the *Sycamore* box frame (L) and the real life version (R)

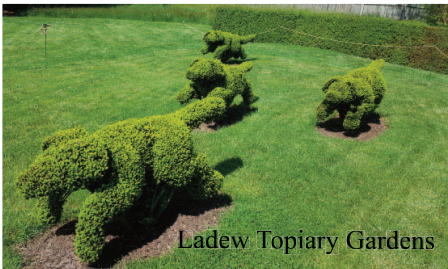


Western Massachusetts. Here we stayed with tree shaping artist Daniel Ladd. Dan has been a practising bender of branches since 1979, although only sporadically, as it is an accompaniment to his other living sculpture work.

We began our time with Dan by visiting the local Smith College, a prestigious women's liberal arts college; where Dan is the artist in residence. We had a chance to look around their modest botanic garden and glasshouse range, before heading off to their field station, where Dan's most recent living projects can be found. Once we arrived we set to work photographing and making extensive notes on each of his specimens. We had plenty of opportunity to ask probing questions, and try to get to grips with how horticulturally minded his approach to living sculpture is. Whilst at the field station we also came across a fantastic local initiative to save the American Chestnut, which has been almost wiped out by disease. As we arrived at the field station hoards of volunteers were in the midst of planting an orchard of cuttings, taken from very rare disease-resistant trees. This turned out to be the local chapter of a much larger conservation effort which ran all the way down to North Carolina.

The next day we drove a short distance from Northampton up to a small village called Putney, just over the northern border into the state of Vermont. Here we saw Dan's older tree sculptures, and they proved to be very interesting specimens. Not only could I enjoy the charming aesthetic of his living sculpture, but also the intriguing effects Dan's methods had upon the physiological processes at play within his tree sculptures. Dan's trees had developed several anatomical quirks as a result of being trained into unnatural forms – and most unusually, and uniquely of all; repeatedly grafted onto themselves. Once again we set about photographing, taking notes, and asking questions, until it was time to bid Putney farewell and head South.

In the coming days we had the chance to visit a number of fantastic gardens: The High Line in New York, Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, and Ladew Topiary Gardens in Maryland. At Longwood and Ladew we were toured around the gardens by the respective



head gardeners. Visiting gardens with the gardeners who maintain and develop them always provides a great chance to compare and contrast the gardens we have worked in with others, and connects us with gardens and gardeners around the world. I was particularly keen to compare the topiary garden at Longwood and the topiary at Ladew with that at Levens Hall Gardens in Cumbria; where I was formerly an apprentice gardener.

The next chapter of our journey saw us fly across the United States to sunny California, where we quickly got back down to the important business of touring gardens. Our first stop in the sunshine state was Lotusland, in Santa Barbara. Here we enjoyed diverse collections of palms, cycads, succulents, and many other exotic floral delights. Shortly afterwards we headed North West; driving along endless miles of dead straight roads; which bisect California's central valley. Finally as night approached we hit our destination – the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range – home to the world's largest trees.



Our first day in the Sierras began with a steep drive with lots of hairpin bends. We quickly ascended from scorched prairie to a cool plateau, which is the last refuge of the planet's largest organisms. On the drive up our view was dominated by California's floral cumulus clouds – California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) and Our Ladys Candle (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*). As we climbed the air became cooler, the terrain flattened, and the trees grew ever wider. We parked up, and set off down a trail into the forest. The Giant Redwood forest

is not exactly green and pleasant. Rather it is mostly a barren plateau ravaged by wildfire, with the occasional slump in the land filled with wet meadow. We were obviously very impressed by the size of the Redwoods, and also saw a family of marmots living in a wet meadow! Another unexpected highlight was seeing *Sarcodes sanguinea*, a stunning saprophytic inhabitant of the Giant Forest. A saprophyte is a plant that derives its energy from mycorrhizal associations, which allow it to derive energy from decomposing organic matter, it does not bear leaves.



The next stop on our agenda was a flying visit to Yosemite National Park. We were very impressed by the scale of the deep granite ravine, and spent the afternoon walking the

Rupert (L) and I stand by General Sherman, the largest living organism by volume

valley bottom, observing the local flora and fauna, intrigued to see whether the plants that grew here varied from those we had just observed in Sequoia National Park, just over one hundred miles South. We observed meadows of wild lupin, larkspur, and the lushest greenest grass I have ever seen. Following this we pressed on with our drive, back across the scorched central valley towards the slightly greener coast. Our next stop was Santa Cruz, home to famous local architect Mark Primack; whom we would be staying with for the duration of our time there.

Our visit to Santa Cruz, or rather to the nearby town of Gilroy, was the next phase of our mission to learn more about living tree sculpture. We were here to record the remains of Axel Erlandson's famous Tree Circus. Axel Erlandson, the son of Swedish immigrants to the USA, was born in Minnesota in 1884. He is the earliest known example of a tree shaper, and arguably the most accomplished to date. Beginning his working life as a farmer and a land surveyor, he went on to practice the art of tree trunk topiary from 1928 until he sadly passed away in 1964. Mark Primack, our host in Santa Cruz, was the man responsible for stepping in and caring for the Tree Circus after Axel's day. He organised groups of guerrilla gardeners to break into the abandoned site to weed and water the trees. He also found a buyer for the trees, which has enabled many of them to survive to the present day.

Visiting the Tree Circus was extremely upsetting for me. It had been my dream to visit this Mecca for Tree Shapers since I was in my mid teens. When Rupert, Mark and I finally pulled up at the site I was quite horrified by what I saw. The current owner of the Tree Circus is the town of Gilroy. The trees are part of a much larger entity – known as Gilroy Gardens Family Theme Park. It would be a gross understatement to call Gilroy Gardens 'cheesy'. It is truly a tasteless, grotesque nightmare of a place, where a different cheery fairground song greets you every ten paces. Tea cups, rollercoaster's and puppet shows of singing dancing vegetables stand side by side with the great horticultural legacy of Axel Erlandson. All this would have been forgivable if it had enabled the Tree Circus to survive into the 21st Century. But unfortunately many of the trees were dead or dying. Those that remain in good health will not survive many more Californian droughts without adequate irrigation. Nevertheless we set about photographing, recording observations, and questioning Mark. We still obtained a wealth of invaluable data on the Tree Circus – and the trees themselves were of course awesome.



This archway was one specimen still in good condition

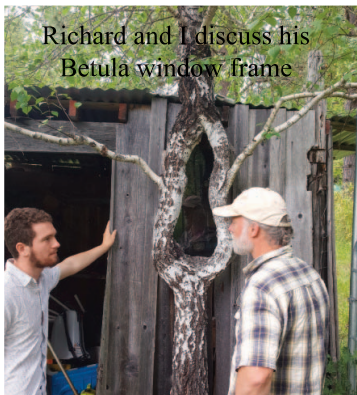
The next stage of our journey was a long drive North, where we were to explore the steamy temperate rainforest of remote Northern California. This habitat is home to the picturesque old growth Coast Redwood Forests. A world away from the scorched mountain top home of the Giant Sequoia, these giants lurk in lush green valley's filled to the brim with ferns, mosses and other greenery. These are the tallest trees on earth. *Sequoia sempervirens* has a much more slender, needle like form in comparison to the fat, stunted *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. Its bark is almost black, and deeply fissured, compared to the spongier, reddish bark of a *Sequoiadendron*. One feature both superlative trees share is the fire ecology of their woodlands. Periodic wildfires triggered by lightning clear the forest floor of debris and create the perfect seed bed for Redwood seedlings to germinate. The older trees are almost entirely unharmed by the fire. *Sequoiadendron* is protected by its thick bark, and *Sequoia* grows very tall very fast, dropping all of its lower limbs – which helps it to escape much of the devastation below.

The next day we travelled up a windy dirt track, slinking our way up the side of a steep



hill, faced with a sheer drop to our right hand side, that would be fatal should the dubious road surface give way. However it was all for a good purpose. We were on the hunt for Californian specialities – *Cypripedium californicum* – a native Orchid, and *Darlingtonia californica* – a native carnivorous species. These species are both here because of serpentine soils; these soils are saturated with heavy metals, and as a result are very low in nutrients available to plants. *Darlingtonia* gets past this issue by snacking on passing insects. It is similar in many ways to the other American pitcher plants – *Sarracenia*, but differs in that the roof of its pitcher features translucent windows, which act as false exits to distract trapped prey from the real escape route; a tiny opening curled under the roof of the pitcher. This arrangement gives the plant a striking resemblance to a cobra in attack posture – giving it the common name ‘Cobra Lily’.

The final stop on our Tree Sculpture trail took us just over the state border into Oregon. The landscape changed very little as we meandered our way through rolling hills of pine forest; common to both Northern California and Southern Oregon. Nestled down in-between two of these rolling hills was a charming little stone and round wood cottage, hand built by the man we were here to see – Richard Reames. Richard has been practicing Living Tree Sculpture since the early 1990’s; when he found he was about to have a family, and needed to find a means of supporting it. He had some success in the release of his self published book ‘How to Grow a Chair’, and for a time made a living from forming living chairs for paying customers.



In the few acres of land that surround his cottage he has a menagerie of larger, more abstract Tree Sculptures. It would be fair to say that Richard is a bit of a hippy, and his simple words of ‘Peace & Love’ in *Malus x domestica* reflect that. He has a number of functional structures: An arbour, tree house, bridge, chair, window frame and archway to name but a handful. He also has more abstract living sculptures, one of which is reminiscent of the double helix of DNA. These days Richard is more focussed on his cultivation and breeding of Marijuana (fully legalised in Oregon) in order to provide for his family, and his living tree sculpture work has taken more of a backseat. But he was very open and willing to share his experiences with us, successes and failures. Although as I am now coming to realise, thanks to the Tree Shapers I have met, they are of course not failures; but lessons.

I feel so grateful I had the chance to witness and learn so much about the flora, ecosystems and great gardens of North Eastern USA and California. With regards to Tree Sculpture I have certainly gained a great deal from this trip, although it was not necessarily what I expected to gain. I was fully expecting to learn a great deal about Tree Shaping techniques, problems encountered etc. But I have also gained a greater perspective on Tree Shaping as a whole; the human problems that come with it (like having to wait decades to see a result), the attitude you need in order to stick it out, and a much better understanding of why Tree Shaping is not commonplace around the world, I think perhaps it would be much more at home in a garden setting than as a private sculpture collection or a commercial product, but we will see.

Rupert Harbinson and I would like to thank the following for making this study trip possible: The Bentham Moxon Trust, The Merlin Trust, The Kew Guild, The Hardy Plant Society, The Royal Horticultural Society, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Daniel Ladd, Mark Primack, Richard Reames, Longwood Gardens, Ladew Topiary Gardens, Ganna Walska Lotusland.

Attending training and assessments for CS38 Tree Climbing and Aerial Rescue CS39 Chainsaw in the Canopy

by Misako Kasahara



I have developed a keen interest in trees and tree care over the last five years or so and have gained certificates for basic chainsaw use and tree inspection previously. It had been my ambition to gain tree climbing and chainsaw use in trees certificates, even though my current position at work does not require them. I attended a course in Hampshire for CS38 from 19th September – 23rd September 2016 and for CS39 from 3rd October – 5th October 2016 and passed both assessments and gained the certificates.

These were very intensive and physically hard courses but I enjoyed it thoroughly with other attendees. I was amazed how much experience and confidence I gained in this short time. The course was taught by Tony Derbyshire, a very experienced arborist. CS38 involved learning different types of equipment, knots, techniques of climbing to gain high anchor points, branch walking along with health and safety regulations, environmental regulations and a basic knowledge of the industry. Aerial rescue was also an important component on the course and we had to learn both using ropes and spikes to rescue. I had never used a pair of spikes before and found them a little awkward to start with. However, after a half day of using them, I was able to perform well on the assessment.

Even though I had previously gained a basic use of chainsaw certificate, I have not been a regular user of chainsaws so using a top-handle chainsaw in tree canopy was a big challenge for me. As this is a high risk activity, the protection has to be higher than just climbing. Type C chainsaw trousers can be very bulky and hot and extra weight of chainsaw meant moving around in trees was harder work. Positioning myself in order to use the chainsaw in a safe manner, was also a challenge for us all and it took a lot of out of the box thinking. When one watches experienced arborists climb and work in trees, they make it look very easy but now I know, without the wealth of experience and physical fitness, it is almost an impossible task! The course involved learning five different types of cuts and we had to perform two each of these cuts at the assessment. Some cuts such as free-fall step cuts uses gravity to help the removal of the section. I often had to think carefully about the effect of gravity and other factors in order to decide which cut should be used. Hopefully, with more practice, these things will come more naturally. It is such an amazing feeling to be high up in trees and I hope to contribute in looking after trees, our important assets, in the near future.



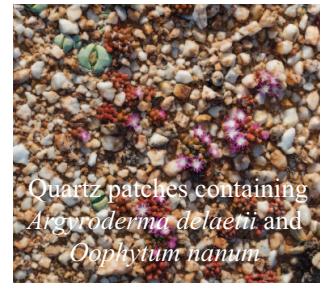
With the trainer and other attendees in a high canopy of oak

Acknowledgement: I would like to thank The Kew Guild and its Dallimore and the General Award Funds for the financial support. Tony Kirkham, Kevin Martin, Rory Ambrose, Stevyn Sargent and Wil Harding for advice and help.

Journey to the Land of the Halfmens

by Tom Pickering

The expedition started in Cape Town, where I spent a few days before heading North towards the Richtersveld. While in Cape Town I visited the Table Mountain National Park and Kirstenbosch National Botanic Garden. Table Mountain National Park is largely made up of fynbos vegetation (meaning fine bush), it is part of the Cape Floral Kingdom World Heritage Site and is a valuable biodiverse habitat. Fynbos is typified by plants in the Proteaceae, *Erica* species, Restios and a rich diversity of geophytes.



Quartz patches containing *Argyrodema delaetii* and *Oophytum nanum*

After a few days in Cape Town I began the journey North where I visited a private reserve outside the town of Vanrhynsdorp at Knersvlakte Farm. The reserve is a protected series of quartz gravel drifts which host a wide range of succulent mesembs and other xerophytic plant species. These quartz microhabitats can be found in a number of locations along the Western coast of South Africa and are often rich in highly adapted species. Quartz drifts reflect the sun's heat and create a slightly cooler niche habitat which is favourable for the survival of these plants. Some succulent plants are able to avoid predation by being pale in colour, blending in with the fine quartz gravel surrounding. Quartz patches are often small but contain a unique and varied species composition. The isolation of the quartz patches is a likely contributor to this speciation. The private reserve allows you to walk through the drifts without damaging the plant communities which grow there.

The next stop on the journey was Springbok and the Namaqua National Park. According to most definitions this region is classified as a desert and is barren for almost three quarters of the year, becoming green and colourful for only two to three months in spring to summer. The spring display of flowers in Namaqualand is unique in being the most diverse and extravagant desert flower displays on earth. The plants of Namaqualand have adapted to tolerate relatively cool and moist winters as well as exceptionally dry hot summers. Plants of this region tend to put on growth during the winter, flower in the spring and take on a range of strategies to survive the summer either as seeds or by laying dormant as bulbs or corms. Some plant species enter dormancy in the summer and maintain moisture in their succulent stems and leaves. The spring flowers on display when I visited included the species *Gorteria diffusa* subsp. *calendulacea*, *Gazania leiopoda*, *Lachenalia anguinea*, *Pelargonium incrassatum*, *Gazania* sp., *Grielum humifusum*, *Ursinia cakilefolia*, *Gladiolus* sp. and many more.



Wildflower meadow in Namaqua National Park

While staying in the town of Springbok I also visited the Goegap Nature Reserve. One of the most impressive sights at the park was a large population of *Aloe dichotoma* commonly known as the Quiver Tree. The population contained three clear generations, old plants with large



A large *Aloe dichotoma* population in the Goegap Nature Reserve

multi-branched crowns, smaller branched plants and single stemmed juveniles yet to flower. These clearly separated generations may be due to the fact that seedlings require a string of favourable years in order to establish. The likelihood of a string of favourable years occurring regularly is unlikely therefore new generation only form sporadically usually separated by a long period of time.

Interestingly you often find *Aloe dichotoma* branching right at the base with three to five or sometime more stems. These appear to be one plant however I believe they are in fact a group of plants, a cluster of seeds which have germinated in close proximity to one another. Eventually the swelling stems of these *Aloe* plants meet and press against one another giving the appearance of one plant. These multi-planted specimen often make impressive looking mature plants. Over a long period of time the plants graft themselves together to form seamless giants.

The expedition headed North to Alexandra Bay close to the entrance of the Richtersveld National Park and a curious habitat surrounded by diamond mines. In order to enter this site special permission must be granted by the mining companies due to high security around the site. The lichen fields at Alexandra Bay hold an amazing and unique ecosystem of xerophytic lichens and succulent plant species. Lichens are perhaps the hardiest group of all plants on earth. They are often the only living organisms found growing under such climatic extremes.

The lichens are mostly only found growing on the South West aspects facing the prevailing moist winds and atlantic fogs. They are orange and green in colour and cover both rocks and plants. The lichens are vital to the other plant species which grow here trapping



Orange coloured lichen fields at Alexandra Bay

moisture and creating a microclimate around the plants. Some of the plant species we saw included *Fenestraria rhopalophylla* subsp. *aurantiaca*, *Monsonia patersonii*, *Crassula pyramidalis*, *Euphorbia ramiglans*, *Othonna furcata*, *Crassula plegmatoides*, *Lithops* sp., *Conophytum* sp., and many more xerophytic plants. The diamond mines remain the greatest threat to the lichen fields together with the illegal collection of plants by collectors. A large number of endemic and red listed plants grow here and disruption of the surrounding landscape by mining activity

could significantly effect the lichens as they only grow on stable ground. Some of the lichens here are hundreds of years old.

From Alexander Bay I headed into the Richtersveld National Park, a place I have wanted to visit for many years. The Richtersveld National Park is a truly spectacular landscape tucked away in the north-western corner of Namaqualand. The Orange River forms the Northern extent of the park and marks the boundary between South Africa and Namibia. It traverses a landscape characterised by deep rugged gorges through mountains rising to 900 metres high and emerges onto the sandy Western coastal plain before meeting the Atlantic Ocean at Alexander Bay. The Orange River is a vein of life running through the area and is vital to much of the flora and fauna found there. The Western coastal boundary is part of the forbidden diamond area and cannot be entered. The diamond industry, which claims to restore habitat after mining, clearly causes huge amounts of damage to the habitats it disturbs and is perhaps the greatest threat to the flora of the park.

The landscape is vastly open, barren, mountainous and rocky, chiselled by ancient winds

*Pachypodium namaquanum*

and waters. The site is both a botanical and geological treasure trove with different rock types providing unique habitats for the xerophytic plants which can be found there. The colours of the rock are spectacular and constantly change in the varying light of day. At times the Richtersveld looks more like the surface of Mars than the Earth. The annual precipitation in the Richtersveld is minimal and falls almost entirely in the winter. On average only 54mm of rain falls annually in the central Northern area of Rosh Pinah near Sendelingsdrif. Plants cannot rely on rain as their only supply of water and many rely on moisture brought in on morning mists and fogs. During the summer temperatures in the Richtersveld are regularly recorded as over 40 degrees centigrade. The winter is cooler, allowing the cooler Atlantic airs

and fogs to linger for longer on the land providing vital available water to the plants that grow there.

I saw an amazing variety of xerophytic plant species during my four days in the park. The highlights included the iconic *Pachypodium namaquanum* commonly known as the Halfmens. According to Nama folklore the ancient Nama people that fled from Namibia southwards to the region were transformed into these half human trees. The 'head' of these trees always faces the North and is a reminder of those people looking longingly towards the beloved land they left behind. *Pachypodium namaquanum* is one of the few tall plants able to survive in the Richtersveld. It is extremely slow growing, often only adding two to three millimetres per year. Some of these plants have reached a height of three metres and are extremely old. It's hard to comprehend the timescale over which these plants lead their lives. Decades and decades may pass before a new generation emerges. The plant is naturally rare with a small distribution but does form populations on the rocky mountains of the Richtersveld. Loss of mature plants or populations is potentially highly damaging to the success and survival of a species which regenerates so slowly. Worryingly, many populations are being damaged by parasitic larvae which feed inside the stems of mature plants causing rot and abortions of stems. Research needs to be done on this pest to ascertain the threat it poses to the *Pachypodium namaquanum* and whether action needs to be taken to protect unaffected populations.

*Aloe pillansii*

I saw an amazing diversity of *Aloe* species while in the Richtersveld including the previously mentioned *Aloe dichroma*, the larger and rarer *Aloe pillansii* and shorter multi-branched *Aloe ramosissima*. These three *Aloe* species are all closely related to one another and throughout the park are examples of plants with mixed characteristics of the three species. These oddities are likely to be inter-specific hybrids between the different species. It would be interesting to confirm whether these plants are indeed hybrids and if so between which species. Other *Aloe* species observed in the park included *Aloe pearsonii* and *Aloe striata* subsp. *karasbergensis*. *Aloe pearsonii* has a very small distribution but healthy populations of the plant cover the mountainsides where it grows. When observing these plants in the wild, I witnessed dense morning mists drifting over the

landscape covering the surrounding vegetation in fine droplets of water as they condensed in the cool air. These sea mists and fogs are vital to the plants which grow in the Richtersveld providing precious water to the plants in the most inhospitable of environments.

The park also holds a number of plants in a group known as Stapeliads. These succulents

in the Apocynaceae family have an immensely intricate, highly specialised flower structure and are usually pollinated by carrion flies. The texture, colour and fragrance of the blooms mimics the remains of rotting flesh but, despite this slightly gruesome description, the flowers are incredibly beautiful. While in the park I saw Stapeliads like *Orbea namaquensis*, *Stapelia hirsuta* var. *gariensis*, *Larryleachia cactiformis*, *Notechidnopsis columnaris*, *Hoodia gordonii* and *Hoodia alstonii*.



Avonia papyracea growing in a quartz drift in the Richtersveld



Anacamseros baeseckeii

The park also has habitats containing drifts of quartz which can host a range of adapted plant species like *Avonia papyracea* and *Anacamseros baeseckeii*. These plants have white scales and hairs respectively which help keep the plant cool whilst also camouflaging them from herbivores in search of water and nourishment. These plants are extremely hard to find and in some cases took hours to locate.

After four days in the Richtersveld I returned to Cape Town following the West coast and stopping at the West Coast National Park along the way. It was a fitting end to the trip as the flowering meadows in the West Coast National Park were some of the best I had seen through the entire trip.



Flowering meadow in the West Coast National Park

Acknowledgements: Kew Guild Award, Royal Horticultural Society - RHS Coke Trust Bursary Fund Bentham Moxon Trust Award, Piet Van Herde - My Guide, Kirstenbosh National Botanic Gardens, SANBI - South African National Biodiversity Institute. A huge thank you to all the staff at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew who helped me organise this expedition.

Connecting cultures in the North-West region of Cameroon

by Lucy Wegner

I have grown up with a passion for tropical horticulture. For me, the importance of horticultural knowledge in safeguarding habitats and species has always lain hand in hand. Looking after the West African section of Eden Projects Rainforest Biome, the one thing I cannot access in Cornwall is first-hand knowledge of a rainforest. How do I create an immersive experience for visitors that mimics (as closely as I can) the real thing?

An opportunity to answer this came in February, when I travelled to Cameroon to assist Conservator Chris Fominyam in starting up Kimbi-Fungom National Park, the first of its kind within the North-West region. The park spans a variety of ecosystems with savanna grassland, transitional savanna forest, high elevation forest, to tropical lowland forest. Currently the park is unsurveyed, with no roads, its isolation has helped protect the habitat.



Lowland forest, Fang

Discussing sustainable value-adding opportunities from seeds and bark of the harvested plant products, Abaar village



discovered this is an easy statement to make, but this takes initiative and a change of mind set within local culture.

Firstly I visited Apiculture and Nature Conservation Organisation (ANCO), who work with locals, helping to provide an alternative livelihood for forest communities and help to conserve the rainforest in the Bamenda Highlands. I observed specialised horticultural training in action: setting up and running a nursery, stocked with local nitrogen fixing and nectar-rich species, which the community grew. Next I met Irene Damue, a consultant who focusses on growing methods and women's initiative development. I learnt that the main issue faced is empowerment of women, solved by providing them with knowledge and the abilities to follow processes through. I

From these experiences I could appreciate the application on a larger scale, to create a robust and sustainable future for a new National Park. I then joined the Kimbi-Fungom National Park team, visiting the four largest, isolated communities on the parks boundary: Fungom, Abaar, Kwep and Fang. Each of these villages resides in a different area of the park, enabling me to observe the vast differences in landscape and vegetation type. We carried out public sensitisation meetings, outlining the key aspects of the National Park, the prohibitions and the benefits. Primarily this was about giving ownership to the local communities and the opportunity to become a part of the sustainable development of the Kimbi-Fungom National Park. Part of my role during these meetings was to explore the role of women within the community, gaining their trust, and also their belief and understanding of the importance of the park including learning knowledge of the local plants, where they grew, how they were grown and used in society. This enabled me to identify species which were used every day throughout the four communities visited such as *Ricinodendron heudelotii* (njangsang), *Irvingia* sp. (bush mango), *Monodora myristica* (bebe), *Piper kamerunensis* (bush pepper) and *Afrostryax* sp. (country onion) as Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP's).

My time in Cameroon provided me with amazing experience in kick-starting Kimbi-Fungom National Park, also showcasing the extraordinary diversity of habitats and plant species growing in the wild. I am extremely grateful for the support of the Kew Guild which made this trip possible.

The Kew Guild Honorary Membership

by Allan Hart

This is a rarely awarded Honour and is restricted to either (A) those members who have given exemplary service to the Guild, but due to ill health are no longer able to join in the Guild's activities, or (B) those who are not members but have made a significant contribution to the Guild.

Category A: Brian Lowe was the first recipient of the Award. Brian was an original member of the Award Scheme Committee and was largely instrumental in formulating its rules, most of which have stood the test of time. Brian retired to Cromarty, Scotland after a very active professional career with the Ministry of Transport, leading a team of landscape architects at Wimpey Ltd. while at the same time running a plant nursery. A series of

strokes have not prevented Brian from producing a book of his experiences in the landscape industry.



Kenwyn Pearson has been a keen and enthusiastic Guild member, serving as Honorary Secretary to the Trustees over many years. He was also Chair and then Hon. Secretary of the Awards Scheme. A series of strokes left him with severe disabilities and reluctantly he was forced to retire in 2012 from the various posts he had served in, for many years. In 2016 the Guild recognised his services by making him an Honorary Member.

Although no communication, Kenwyn was delighted to receive the award and the Matron and some of the care staff came along and gave a round of applause. I was so pleased to do this for him. Best wishes to you all - Jean Griffin.

Category B: Kevin Wah was instrumental in organising, with Robert Hebb, the Kew Guild visit to the East coast of America in 2006 - a trip which, for the members, was an unforgettable experience! Through all the trials and tribulations, Kevin's calmness and good humour saved the day.

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

News of Honorary Fellows

Derek Edwards

The following is written by Alex Edwards on behalf of Derek Edwards, who continues to be very well cared for by his family: It's been a good year for the company sales wise – for the first time in Inturf's history we have sold more than two million square metres of turf. Lay those rolls of turf end-to-end and they would stretch from York to Australia. We're just glad we don't have to mow it all but, come to think of it, we have three million more in production which we do have to mow! We believe that our growth in sales can be attributed to an increased emphasis on quality of the turf we grow and the way we harvest and distribute it. Quality of the systems we've introduced to keep our environmental impact to a minimum. And quality of service.

Roy Lancaster

Much of my free time in 2016 and the previous year too for that matter, was spent in the research and writing of a book about my life with plants. Luckily, notebooks, scrapbooks and correspondence going back in some cases to the 1950s, came to the rescue of my at times, hard-pressed memory. My wife Sue was my one-woman support group, without

whom the project would not have got off the ground. She is also the only person who can read my hand-scribbled notes. One pleasant consequence of all this was the memories triggered of gardeners and plants people I have met and places visited many years ago. Some of the people are no longer with us while places have a habit of changing and not always for the better. One special memory I have concerns my very first contact with RBG Kew. It was in November 1957 and I was a 19 year old conscript serving with The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire) in Malaya. I had just returned from a long weekend leave in the Cameron Highlands having collected a number of plant specimens which I pressed and dried between sheets of newspaper under my mattress. Some of these I posted to Kew addressed to The Director. Some weeks later I received a letter from Dr George Taylor encouraging me to make further collections, adding that "if packages of specimens are addressed to the Director, RBG Kew there will be no difficulties with the customs." I wonder if I could get away with that now?

Memories of the past are one thing, promise of the future another which is why I have long found enjoyment and inspiration in the exploits of the younger generation, especially those in the horticultural profession. In April I experienced it first hand when giving a fund-raising talk for students at a Kew Mutual Improvement Society meeting and again in July when I hosted Class 53 final year students in my garden in Hampshire. Sue and I have been hosting student groups from Kew and RHS Wisley for a good number of years now, meeting at The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens for a morning tour before heading home for a wander round our garden followed by one of Sue's English teas, her sponges and strawberry tarts attracting more favourable comments in our visitor's book than my plants! We end these visits discussing with the students their plans and dreams for the future. Such occasions are red letter days in our calendar.

In May and again in October we attended the Journées des Plantes de Chantilly close to Paris, where I was a member of the woody plant jury. This was the second year the flower show has been staged at Chantilly having previously, for over 25 years been held in the grounds of the Chateau de Courson where it began. For plant lovers this is a show unrivalled in France, if not Europe, attracting nurseries from several European countries including Britain. Set in the impressive gardens of the Chateau de Chantilly, I find it impossible to leave the show without a boot-load of desirable plants some of which in my experience are as yet unavailable in the UK. Not surprisingly it is a regular destination for plantaholics.

John Melmoe

John Melmoe is an Honorary Member of the Guild and has been actively working for many years to encourage improved standards within the UK Landscape industry. Under his stewardship his Company, Willerby Landscapes, were awarded the Grand Award at the 2016 BALI Award ceremony for their landscaping of the King's Cross, an area to the north of King's Cross station in London that has seen enormous investment to create a vibrant new city quarter. This mixed-use development, which has sensitively incorporated some of the area's historical industrial architecture, has attracted some of the world's leading companies who have chosen to locate their headquarters there and the stunning landscaping has been instrumental in helping to market the area. The design of various pocket parks, including Handyside and Gas Holder Parks, has been undertaken by Dan Pearson. Spaces are often defined by networks of sinuous piebald hedges, made from native species, which follow the lines of the original sidings. The planting consists of a large number of pioneer species, which reference the plants often found on railway embankments where wild plants mix with garden escapees. The Developer, Argent, have been keen to engage with a wide range of Garden Designers and Landscape Architects. The careful integration of a diverse range of designs has been required to bring a



horticultural coherence to the whole development. The masterplan of which is managed by Townshend Landscape Architects.

Willerby Landscaping has once again displayed their mastery of the range of landscaping disciplines across this scheme, which is an exemplar for the landscape industry. Commenting on the company's record achievement, chair of the adjudication panel Greg Allen said: "This is a wonderful scheme, expertly executed by Willerby Landscapes. The company is without a doubt the country's leading landscape contractor with an enviable reputation for excellence and attention to detail, which has been demonstrated yet again at King's Cross. The landscaping works were complex and challenging and it is apparent that the huge success of the scheme is down to Willerby's emotional as well as operational investment to

ensure it is the best that it could possibly be. As an example of public realm landscaping, it is outstanding and a worthy winner of what is Willerby's sixth BALI Grand Award. On behalf of the BALI Awards judges I offer the company, and in particular John Melmoe who has led it for 33 years, my very sincere congratulations and admiration of their achievement."

This event was the culmination of an exceptional year for Willerby Landscapes Ltd. who have completed several complex projects, including the remodelling of the historic landscape frontage to the iconic Chelsea Hospital, London as well as an intricate roofscape at 30 Cannon Street where views over St. Paul's Cathedral can be appreciated. In addition the Company has continued to invest heavily in talented personnel who will take up the reins when, John, their Managing Director of 33 years retires in March 2017.



Dennis McGlade

In 2016 I began transitioning from being a full time partner at OLIN to being a part time retired partner. That year was my 38th with that landscape architecture practice headquartered in Philadelphia, PA. Where did the time go? It was a great way to spend my life but now it is time for new challenges. Change refreshes and energizes, at least it does for me. I gave all of my active projects to the younger partners but have stayed on three days a week to help with the transition. My full retirement will probably occur sometime in 2017. The extra free time during the week allowed me to design and manage the refurbishment of a new condominium that I bought. I will move sometime in the Spring of 2017. Although the new place has a generous balcony overlooking Washington Square here in Philadelphia (Fig. #1), I will miss my old home with its fifth floor roof garden (Fig. #2) that I have been tending for the last 27 years. It is a great perch from which to view the firework displays the city puts on periodically throughout the year. However,



Fig 1



Fig 2

climbing up and down five flights of stairs with plants, soil, and garden waste is not as easy as it was two decades ago. The future holds volunteer work at a few of the local public gardens here in the Philadelphia area, as well as at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

The spring and fall in Philadelphia are usually delightful; the winter and summer not so much. So I look forward also to being able to travel to escape the worst of Philadelphia's winter and summer weather for a few weeks every year. And I intend to continue to come to London and visit Allan and Joan Hart and attend the Kew Guild Spring dinner each May.

Anna Pavord

The year for me, I suppose, has been marked by the fact that The Independent published its last print edition on Easter Saturday. I'd written the gardening column for 30 years, since the paper was founded. I've been lucky to have been around that long, but I'm sorry it's gone! My book 'Landscape' was published by Bloomsbury in February and I seem to have spent an awful lot of time this year talking about it at literary festivals. It's about landscape and occupied me very happily for five years in the writing of it. Early in the year I had a flying visit to the US to speak to friends of the Berkshire Botanic Garden, which was thickly covered in snow. We walked about in it, but I was mostly concentrating on not falling over. In April I met a group of Australians travelling in the Netherlands and talked to them about tulips. In June, the Private Passions team (a programme on Radio 3 which is a bit like Desert Island Discs) came down to Dorset and recorded a programme here in the garden, with me talking to Michael Berkley. In late summer, I did a Proms interval talk for the BBC, about Capability Brown. I'm a Member of the RHS Bulb Committee and in October we visited the outstanding collection of *Nerines* planted at Bramdean House in Hampshire. This is a part of a long-running RHS trial of different *Nerines* and it was a most instructive (and memorable) visit.

Niall Kirkwood

In June 2016 Niall Kirkwood implemented an experimental site project representing the United States for the 2016 International Expo – 'City and Nature, Phoenix, Nirvana' in the City of Tangshan, Hebei Province, China. Tangshan was the centre of the 1976 catastrophic earthquake as well as intense national steel production that



developed a dangerous and dilapidated urban environment, yet it has undergone a rebirth to become a prosperous and revitalised region. Titled *Phyto Garden: A New Paradise – Renewal of Damaged and Polluted City Land with the Power and Work of Plants: Science, Horticulture and Design for People, Nature and Beauty.*



The site portrayed the power and ability of plants to extract, sequester and destroy industrial contamination found in soils and groundwater in this highly polluted manufacturing urban landscape. The Phyto project along with installations by landscape architects from Japan, Germany, China, Canada and New Zealand recorded five million visitors.

Adil Güner



Good progress was made on Volume 2 of the New Illustrated Flora of Turkey which will be published in 2017. Recent new plantings on Anatolia Island now provide attractive and colourful displays for the many visitors. With the help of a stonemason and his team, a larger crevice garden has replaced the earlier one on Central Island. So the new greenhouse facilities will be put to good use propagating new plants and raising the many seedlings required and to fill the new crevices. Landscaping of yet another area, Thrace Island, started in Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanik Bahçesi in 2016. Here several different types of sand dune habitats, each with their own special flora including endemics have been created. Another area provides a waterlogged habitat with young *Liquidambar orientalis* trees and three huge *Phoenix theophrasti* palms, (one female and two males), hoisted into position by crane. The species has a few small distribution sites in Turkey occurring in boggy areas by the sea on the South West coast. May saw the official opening of 'Çukurova University Ali Nihat Gökyiğit Botanic Bahçesi' in Adana on the south coast. This extensive tropical Garden was started in the 1970s, but was subsequently neglected and over grown. Some of the original plantings however are still flourishing including a very fine entrance avenue of *Washingtonia filifera* palms. Following practical training and financial support from NGBB, the Garden has been re-named, the barbed wire removed from the rusty gates and is now open to visitors.

Raymond Evison

2016 for me has been a most rewarding year. To receive the news that I had been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Kew Guild was a great surprise and an honour and to attend the Annual Dinner in May was a very special evening. That week was completed by being awarded my 28th Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal at the 2016 Chelsea Flower Show and followed shortly afterwards by being elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London. My work as the President of The Guernsey Botanical Trust has also been rewarding but this is down to the marvellous work of all the volunteers who are growing over 300 varieties of flowers, fruit and vegetables all from the pre-1900 period including varieties of tomatoes that have been rediscovered in the USA, New Zealand and Latvia that were once grown in the island tomato industry.

The development of new *Clematis* cultivars with my breeding company has also moved on well with many fine new cultivars been selected for the market. As the world sales of *Clematis* continue to build up we have expanded our production yet again in Guernsey to meet the increased demand, it seems that our new compact easy to grow modern *Clematis* varieties are much sought after in North America and for the Asian market too. My travels have taken me into Denmark and Holland where our genetics are also causing great interest for the European Market. Yet more honours were to come as I attended the Horticultural Trades Association Gardens Futures Dinner on the 12th October in Oxfordshire when I was awarded the HTA Pearson Memorial Medal for 2016 for special services to the

horticultural trade. It is such a great pleasure to be able to breed and develop new plants, see them exported and sold around the world, to make a business from them and to receive so many awards and honours in one year, I am indeed most fortunate.

The George Brown Memorial Award

For furthering communication and diplomacy in the true spirit of the Kew Guild

Jennifer Alsop

by Allan Hart



Jennifer Alsop was educated at Bilborough Grammar School, Uxbridge College and Thames Valley University, becoming an Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (ACMA). After a period working in local government Jennifer entered RBG Kew in 1991 as an Assistant Accountant, and was rapidly promoted to the role of Finance Systems Accountant - a post she occupied until her retirement in 2013. Jennifer's association with the Kew Guild began in 2003 when she took on the role of Honorary Treasurer. During her term she has been a member of the Awards Scheme Committee (2004) and an organiser of the Annual Dinner.

Those of us who have been privileged to work with Jennifer owe a great deal to her professionalism - always prepared to fight her corner to ensure that the Members worked within the Rules of the Guild and most importantly with the Charity Commissioners - all this being carried out with great good humour, however trying the circumstances. The Kew Guild would like to formally acknowledge her work, help and interest over many years. She has been a wonderful ambassador and an outstanding member of the Guild during her time at Kew.

Kew News: 2016

'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. Precise compiled by Richard Ward.

January

'A fantastic night': Christmas at Kew. Christmas at Kew has really taken off this year – it has been a tremendous success. We sold 172,000 tickets – that's 40% higher than last year. It is a huge and complex undertaking that we run jointly with our partners, Raymond Gubbay. This year consisted of a one-mile trail through Kew Gardens, open on 31 evenings, with a number of light installations, concluding with an illuminated display of the Palm House with fountains and music. – Richard Deverell

February

I am really delighted to announce that **'The Hive'** is coming to Kew Gardens this summer. The Hive is a wonderfully original and beautiful 17 metre high representation of a beehive. It explores the relationship between bees and plants and, through interpretation, explains the crucial role of bees as pollinators, including for some of our most important cereal

crops. All life depends on plants and life therefore depends on pollinators! It was originally created as the UK pavilion at the recent world trade show in Milan last summer. It won the gold medal for architecture and was amongst the most popular of circa 80 different pavilions on display, each sponsored by a host country.

I think it is a magnificent and striking installation and will be a stunning addition to the gardens. We are locating it on the mound between the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Broad Walk where we hope to open to our visitors in June. We are creating a wildflower meadow to surround it and new paths. Innovative interpretation will explain the vital relationship between plants and their pollinators. It looks especially stunning at dusk because it is illuminated by many thousands of constantly changing LED lights. In addition visitors hear rather unusual music composed for the Hive. Both the lights and the music change constantly because they are modulated by the activities of real bees in a beehive. It is a genuine coup for Kew to have secured this wonderful installation.

To me, the Hive is a great example of the ambition we need at Kew to raise our profile and draw new visitors to the gardens. It is world-class and will look stunning set amidst the wild flower meadow. Thank you to everyone who has worked hard on this project to date – and will continue to do so in the coming months. – Richard Deverell

Focus on the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB). By storing the world's seeds, the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) aims to provide an insurance policy against the extinction of plants in the wild. The MSB team initially aimed to store seeds from all of the UK's native plant species. It has now achieved this, apart from a handful of species that are either very rare or whose seeds are particularly difficult to store. It also set the goal of banking seeds from 10% of the world's flora by 2010. This was achieved in 2009 when it banked seeds from the 24,200th species, a pink wild banana (*Musa itinerans*) from China, which is an important staple food for wild Asian elephants. The aim for the next phase of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP) is to conserve 25% of the world's plant species by 2020.

MSB scientists work with partners in 50 countries around the world. They tend to collect seeds from alpine, dryland, coastal and island ecosystems, as these are most vulnerable to climate change. Plants from arid locations can tolerate being dried out and frozen for many years, whereas those from moist tropical areas are harder to store. The MSBP targets plants that are endemic to their location (not found anywhere else), economically important or endangered. Its work around the world is aimed at helping nations meet international objectives, such as the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the Millennium Development Goals of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Millennium Seed Bank Collection Figures November 2015:

- Total collections 76,312
- Number of species 36,386
- Number of genera 5,676
- Number of families 334

Samara is the newsletter of the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership (MSBP). It aims to provide information and inspiration for MSBP partners and a flavour of the successes of the Partnership for other interested recipients. Issue 28 is available to read online. The theme is the MSBP 15 years on. <http://www.kew.org/science-conservation/research-data/publications/samara>

March

I am delighted to let you know that we have recently appointed **two new Science Trustees**: Prof Liam Dolan and Prof Sue Hartley. They will join Prof Malcolm Press and Prof Nicola Spence, our current science trustees. Science is the very foundation of RBG Kew and therefore we have traditionally had three or four Science trustees on the Board of 12 who oversee RBG Kew.

Trustees literally embody RBG Kew. They:

- Are ultimately responsible for its overall well-being
- Approve the strategy and hold the Executive Board to account for its delivery
- Are responsible for ensuring proper governance and financial health are maintained

More informally, trustees can provide invaluable advice. They are close enough to Kew to understand it well but also bring a certain perspective and independence alongside invaluable experience. I know this because I was a Trustee of Kew for six years between 2003 and 2009. Our new science trustees will provide both support and challenge for Prof Kathy Willis and her senior colleagues in Kew Science. They will ensure the science strategy is heading in the right direction and is being delivered.

Professor Sue Hartley studied biochemistry at Oxford before moving to the University of York for her PhD on plant defences against insect herbivores, and then the University of Sussex, where her research included projects on the factors maintaining the extraordinary biodiversity of tropical forests and the impact of climate change on plant resistance to herbivores. In 2009 she delivered the Royal Institution Christmas Lectures, becoming only the fourth woman to do so since they began in 1825. In 2010 she moved back to York to become Director of the York Environmental Sustainability Institute, a new interdisciplinary research centre bringing together leading environmental researchers from a broad range of disciplines to tackle the key challenges facing humankind. In 2015 Sue was elected President of the British Ecological Society.

Professor Liam Dolan is from Dublin and graduated with a degree in Botany at University College Dublin. He carried out PhD research on plant developmental genetics at the University of Pennsylvania. He then spent three years as a post-doctoral researcher at the John Innes Centre, Norwich, before becoming an independent project leader. After 13 years running his own group in Norwich, Liam moved to the University of Oxford as the Sherardian Professor of Botany in 2009 and is now Head of the Department of Plant Sciences. Liam was awarded the President's Medal of the Society of Experimental Biology in 2001, was elected member of the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) in 2009 and a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2014.

Trustees are appointed by Lord Gardiner, the minister in Defra with responsibility for RBG Kew. All appointments are made on merit – Trustees have to apply and are subject to a selection process. They are not paid. I am delighted that RBG Kew can attract trustees of such a high calibre – it reflects the importance, quality and impact of our science and conservation collections and programmes. I hope you will join me in welcoming Sue and Liam to RBG Kew. – Richard Deverell

Youth Volunteers Project. Many of you will already be aware that Kew has secured funding through the Temperate House Project to introduce a youth volunteering programme, recruiting 500 youth volunteers across five years (100/year) working collaboratively with organisations such as the Challenge Group, Princes Trust, and the Duke of Edinburgh Youth Forum. The programme aims to broaden the range of people who currently make up Kew's 600 strong volunteer task force, with targeted growth in

and diversification of trained volunteers to help run activities – the focus will be on the two most underrepresented groups at Kew – BAME volunteers and youth/teen volunteers. We have funding to recruit a Community Volunteer Engagement Coordinator from mid-2017 and plan to recruit the first tranche of 100 youth volunteers to be operational in 2018.

The youth volunteering programme will offer young people valuable work experience and experiential learning opportunities and, for this reason, we are keen to introduce such opportunities before mid-2017. In particular we have received additional funding from the American Express Foundation to run a pilot group of 10-15 youth volunteers, providing them with pedagogical training in informal STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects, focusing on plant science, so they can serve as youth visitor engagement volunteers on the Kew site. Visitor research reveals that people get the most out of their visit when they interact with staff and volunteers at Kew. The youth volunteering programme will engage the public and benefit teenagers at the same time.

The pilot will involve 10-15 young people aged 14-17 years and will allow staff to gain experience and feedback for the future development of the programme. Look out for more information as we develop the pilot.

Visitor numbers up for Brazil Orchids Festival. I just wanted to share with you the great success in terms of visitor numbers for the Brazil Orchids Festival this year. Running from early February to early March, this year we celebrated Brazilian biodiversity and culture. Alongside the carnival dancers in the main pond were a huge number of orchids, bromeliads and other exotic tropical flowers. A rather friendly-looking Anaconda greeted visitors if you approached via the temperate zone. This year we attracted 38,000 day paying visitors – that’s 50% up on last year. In total, we had 117,000 visitors during this period, 18% up on last year. We also hosted a series of ‘Orchid Lates’ – including a special Valentine’s Late – which featured Salsa dancing, cocktails and talks from some of our experts. These all sold out.

I think there are many reasons for this success. The horticulture was superb, the press team did a great job in securing media attention, the events team produced the ‘Lates’ really well and the theme Brazil resonated with the public. It was, in short, a good idea really well executed. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on this – it was a great success for RBG Kew. – Richard Deverell

April

Queen’s 90th birthday marked by re-planting of a ‘lost tree’ at Kew. A new persimmon tree, *Diospyros virginiana*, has been planted on the Orangery lawn, replacing the original, thought to have been lost when the Sun Temple was destroyed by a falling tree in 1916.

The persimmon is located a short distance from where the Queen planted a *Ginkgo biloba* tree in 2009 to mark 250 years of Kew Gardens. Head of arboretum Tony Kirkham said: ‘It was a great opportunity for us to honour the Queen’s remarkable life by bringing new life into the Gardens. The original tree was one of many brought to Kew by Princess Augusta in 1762 from the Duke of Argyll’s garden in Whitton. It is poignant that we have restored it to celebrate the birthday of Britain’s longest-reigning monarch.’ The original tree, native to the eastern United States, was 65ft high, with a trunk girth of 5ft 6ins. Four pupils from the Queen’s Church of England School in Kew took part in the planting ceremony on Monday morning, along with students Solene Dequiret, Anna-Lena Tack, Christopher Brown and Tom Pickering from the School of Horticulture.

May

Well-done Kew Enterprises – who have just reported a record profit for RBG Kew of £3.1 million. This is a tremendous result and a testament to the hard work, commitment and innovation of the Enterprises team. This is the first time that commercial activities at Kew have exceeded £3 million of profit and this figure is 25% up on last year. Every pound goes towards Kew’s science, horticulture and educational activities.

The biggest year-on-year growth came from commercial events with both Christmas at Kew (which sold 173,000 tickets) and Kew the Music both doing very well. Retail at both Wakehurst and Kew Gardens also performed strongly with total sales exceeding £3 million for the first time. Venue hire and the Kew Explorer also did very well, with both exceeding budget. – Richard Deverell

First ever Friends Week at Kew. A celebration of the 79,000 Friends of Kew, our most regular visitors and loyal supporters. Thank you for your help in making it a success. We wanted to bring together all that is unique and inspiring about Kew, offering Friends additional, unique experiences and access to our experts behind the scenes.

Friends Week in numbers:

- 12,211 Friend visits to the Gardens - 40% of the 30,045 total visits
- 54 special experiences and activities
- 1,144 Friends took part in the activities
- 60 Kew staff and volunteers helped to make these additional activities happen

A number of Friends even came all the way to visit from USA, Finland, Holland and Scotland. Friends Week is a great way for us to give additional value to our most loyal visitors and helps create a real buzz around membership, which helps towards improving our acquisition and retention efforts. Friend memberships make up £4.5 million of Foundation’s annual income and provide important unrestricted funds for Kew’s work. A membership is the most valuable ticket that a visitor can buy, given the lifetime value, repeat visitation, secondary spend and potential for further philanthropic support. Given this was the first ever Friends Week, we learned a lot and already have many ideas for improving the experience. Feedback from Friends has been overwhelmingly positive, and we’d love to hear your ideas too: Email Rebecca Chapman r.chapman@kew.org with your suggestions. We’ll be in touch as we start to set plans for next year. Thanks again for your support. – Claire Coussins, Director of Membership, Kew Foundation.

June

We have all now had a period to digest and reflect upon the outcome of last week’s referendum on the UK’s membership of the EU. There is inevitably a lot of uncertainty about what this means for the country at large. There can also be no certainty about what this means for RBG Kew – it is wholly unpredictable - but I am confident that we will be able to continue to find a successful path for our future.

I would like to stress three points: 1 – In a period of uncertainty, successful organisations thrive by being nimble; alert and responsive to change. We do not know what changes may be thrust upon us – or what opportunities might appear. But we must make the best of whatever happens. We now have a strong leadership and management team across the organisation and great depth of talent in all departments. I take great confidence from that.

2 – Our finances are far healthier now than they were 3 years ago. We are much better placed to withstand any jolts.

3 – May I repeat our absolute and unequivocal support for all our staff and students from the European Union and around the world. We value you and your contribution enormously. RBG Kew is an international and outward looking organisation that values diversity and partnerships in countries around the world. We are tremendously enriched by your presence – and I will do all I can to ensure this is not only maintained but also enhanced.

My final thought – my Mother always used to say that things are rarely as good or as bad as they first appear. I think she’s right. With best wishes, Richard Deverell

July

The **Prince of Wales** became the Patron of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The announcement comes as the Royal Botanic Gardens celebrates the opening of the world’s longest double herbaceous borders, the Great Broad Walk Borders. Richard Deverell, said: “It is a truly great honour to welcome The Prince as our Patron and we look forward to sharing our many exciting plans for a future in which Kew plays a very central role in the conservation and sustainability of our precious planet”.

August

Kew Horticultural Society Summer Show - Kew Green. The 72nd Annual Summer Show was held on Kew Green on Saturday 27th August. It is one of the few shows in a marquee, with a traditional village atmosphere. Although vegetables, fruit and flowers play the major part, there is something for everyone – photography, arts and crafts, cookery, and special classes for children. There are many stalls, a lively jazz band, a barbecue and a tea tent. Any profits from the show will go to local and horticultural charities.

The first **Science Festival** was held over three days in August, all events giving great confidence in the strength of our visitor offer. Here are some more festival facts:

- Around 65 Science staff were involved in planning and delivering the festival, with support from across other Kew’s other Directorates
- The Gardens received nearly 40,000 visitors over the three days, about double the average for this time of year
- We recorded about 15,000 visitor interactions
- Feedback (through evaluation questionnaires) from visitors attending the festival was extremely positive
- Extracting DNA from strawberries, cauliflower cloning, and looking at plants/insects under a microscope seemed very popular – although all of the stands were very busy all the time
- The festival also included a carnivorous plant display and sale, coordinated by the Carnivorous Plant Society.
- Ruth Cadbury, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, attended the Festival on Saturday and tweeted: ‘Kids not just pressing flowers but sequencing DNA & cloning cauliflowers #KewSciFest @kewgardens today & tomorrow’

September

Celebrating Sir David Attenborough. I was extremely proud to welcome Sir David Attenborough to Kew Gardens to commemorate, and to thank him for, all that he has done for RBG Kew over many decades. We held a small reception in Cambridge Cottage to mark his 90th birthday earlier this year, where we presented him with a beautiful painting of Darwin’s orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*) by Masumi Yamanaka. We also had an

impressive cake in the shape of the Palm House, baked by Balwinder Allan on the hottest day of the year, also the warmest September day since 1911. At the reception, I spoke about the many plant and animal species named after Sir David, including *Hieracium attenboroughianum*, a yellow daisy like wildflower found in the Brecon Beacons and the only one native to the UK. These species named in honour of Sir David echo the diversity of his lifelong engagement with the natural world.

Career highlights – Sir David’s career has spanned more than sixty years. ‘Life on Earth’, his landmark 1979 BBC series that made his name around the globe, was broadcast in 100 countries to 500 million viewers. Eight more Life series followed. Another career highlight was the ‘Kingdom of Plants’ filmed over the course of a year at Kew. This was Sir David’s first 3D film and the first time that 3D time-lapse had been used to film the flowering process of plants. At the time, Sir David said ‘One of the most wonderful things about filming plants is that you can reveal hidden aspects of their lives. You can capture the moment as one plant strangles another, and as they burst into flower. Time-lapse photography allows you to see things that no human being has ever seen before’. We also discovered during filming that Sir David’s favourite chocolate is Fruit and Nut, while Sir David made the less edifying discovery of the several thousand cockroaches that come out at night in the Princess of Wales Conservatory.

Sir David at Kew – As well as filming ‘The Kingdom of Plants’ here, Sir David has a long-standing connection with Kew Gardens and Wakehurst. He was a Trustee from 1986 to 1989 and 1991 to 1995, not to mention being responsible for burying the Kew time capsule in the Princess of Wales Conservatory in 1985, fronting the Millennium Seed Bank Appeal around 1996, and planting the Wollemi pine in front of the Orangery in 2005. He has also given many talks at Kew. In 2015 he was invited to meet Barack Obama at the White House. Most people would drop anything for the chance of a White House meeting with the President of the United States, but not Sir David. Having already promised to speak at Kew Gardens – at the Circle of Benefactors dinner – the night before the proposed date, he turned the President down, though the date was rearranged so the President did get the honour of meeting Sir David after all.

Supporting Kew – Sir David has also been vocal in his public support of Kew on many occasions saying, for example: ‘Kew is one of the world’s most important botanical institutes and this country depends on it for all kinds of things – for publishing surveys of our plant life, carrying out botanical research and pinpointing imported plants and other species that Customs cannot identify’. We at Kew are tremendously grateful for his support over many decades. As I said at the reception: ‘Not only have you supported us directly with your passionate and eloquent advocacy – but you have also inspired entire generations to look at the natural world with wonder, curiosity and respect. And, for that, we thank you – because, as you have said, if people do not understand anything of our natural heritage then they will not care for it – and if they do not care for it, then they will not protect it.’

Sir Derek Myers represented the Board of Trustees and also spoke, as did Defra minister Lord Gardiner who said: ‘You helped us to understand the complexities of the natural world. Your programmes and work encapsulated the drama of the natural world so well and this dramatic engagement has been so important. Few people have commanded the attention of generations in the way that you have and for that we are all extremely grateful.’ Thanking us for Masumi’s wonderful painting, which he said he will treasure, Sir David had more kind words to say about RBG Kew: ‘Kew has meant a lot to me throughout my life. Kew is a great, great botanical institution without peer. One of the most important things that happened during my time as trustee was the foundation of the Millennium Seed Bank. You are a scientific institution that leads the world. No botanist in the world would

say otherwise.’

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to organise this very special event, but more especially to everyone at Kew and Wakehurst who works to make RBG Kew, in Sir David’s words, a scientific institution that leads the world. - Richard Deverell

October

Kew plays its part in the #GlobalBritain campaign on World Habitat Day. The FCO is marking World Habitat Day by promoting RBG Kew as a key element of what makes the UK a truly global country. The focus is on the UK’s contribution to environmental protection around the world. The Foreign and Commonwealth’s FCO’s various digital channels - blogs, Twitter, YouTube - around the world are featuring a number of Kew projects. Look for the hash tags #GlobalBritain and #WorldHabitatDay.

Content online includes:

- Guest blog post by David Cope: ‘How the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew is leading the charge for a healthier planet’
- Facebook post about the flowering of Chile’s Atacama desert and the world leading research we carry out
- Mention of several Kew projects on Twitter including the vital conservation work carried out by the MSB

Promoting Kew in this way helps to raise awareness of the great work we do, and helps us deliver our mission to be the global resource for plant and fungal knowledge, building an understanding of the world’s plants and fungi upon which all our lives depend.

Help shape the masterplan for our built estate. We have just appointed Grimshaw Architects to prepare a masterplan for the built estate at Kew. The ambitious masterplan will confirm our estate vision and define our building requirements at Kew for the next 10 to 20 years. Based on a detailed briefing process and user consultation which starts this week, the emerging spatial masterplan will identify and test a number of options for capital investment. The projects that emerge will underpin our capital development programme, corporate strategy and our Science strategy.

The objectives of the masterplan are to ensure that we:

- Have science facilities that enable us to raise the quality, global impact and effectiveness of Kew’s scientific research
- Have public facilities that transform our ability to excite, educate and enable our visitors
- House our collections in world-class buildings to secure collections and provide better access to them
- Increase income generation and reduce operating costs to provide long-term financial sustainability
- Bring office-based teams together in modern office environments.

Potential projects include the refurbishment and/or extension of the Herbarium complex, improvements to Victoria Gate and a new Kew Discovery Centre – to name but a few. The Kew masterplan will be sensitive to our unique landscape, and will be coordinated with a parallel masterplan exercise at Wakehurst. For more information visit the capital development programme or masterplan for estates capital development pages. Volunteers are encouraged to contribute to the masterplan development process.

Jonathan Farley. Jon tells us about ghostly goings-on in the Guild Room:

Hello – how long have you been at RBG Kew and what do you do? Since 1998 – 18 years, I have been the Senior Conservator for the Library Art and Archives. It is my job to make sure that the LAA collections are still available for users in 500 and 1000 years time, as well as the researchers we have today... a very long term view.

What are you working on at the moment? We have just finished assisting in the set-up of the new Flora Japonica exhibition in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery and have several other projects on the go, such as preparing for the loan of some of our collections to other institutions for exhibition. In my spare time, I have been working with Ian Swan and the Explorer Team to develop the ‘Ghosts, Myths and Oddities’ tour for Halloween, using all the weird ghost and history information I have been jotting down since I started working at Kew.

Can you give us a preview? Well I don’t want to spoil the tour by revealing items in advance, so I will tell you about something that I am not covering on the tour as we don't go past it in the Explorer. It concerns the Kew Guild Room in the Herbarium: The Kew Guild Room was once the location of the library and it possessed a magnificent fireplace with a marble surround, fender and an assortment of fire irons. During this time, many people used to hear the fire irons rattling of their own accord. The fireplace was removed nearly forty years ago, and it appears that the sound of rattling fire-irons vanished with the fireplace, however sometimes at around 4pm people still smell the distinct odour of bread toasting in the room. It is thought to be the ghost of George Bentham still toasting his afternoon tea over the long-gone fireplace.

Jennifer Chan started at Kew in July 2016 as an Administration Assistant at the School of Horticulture after having previously worked in Cambridge, for 14 years. Following Judy Hancock’s retirement in October 2016, Jennifer took over the role of Administration Officer.

November

Remembrance wreath. As is the custom, Kew is provided a wreath to be laid on behalf of the Foreign Office at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday. A second wreath was also laid at Kew’s own memorial, commemorating members of the Kew Guild and staff who fell in both World Wars, on the Northeastern side of Victoria Plaza where visitors and staff can place their poppies in remembrance. Made by Carlos Magdalena and Lorraine Barker, each wreath includes at least one plant from each of the fourteen overseas territories. Some of the plants, such as the Ascension Island Fern, are unique to that territory. Other plants in the wreath include moss from British Antarctic Territory, Beach Morning Glory from British Indian Ocean Territory, myrtle and olive from Gibraltar, and a range of others from the Caribbean and Southern Atlantic territories. Kew’s wreath is the only one laid at the Cenotaph made from living plants and flowers.

December

The Hive wins Landscape Institute Award. The Hive received the Design for a Temporary Landscape Award at the 2016 Landscape Institute Awards. As the meadow develops and various plant species come into flower, the sounds and sights of bees within The Hive will be accompanied by real bees within the meadow, creating a multi-layered, multi-sensory experience. Judges were impressed by the way in which the design works with a sensitive landscape to provide a beautiful and functional temporary setting with a longer-term facility for events and education. For further information see: <https://www.landscapeinstitute.org/awards/2016-li-awards/>

Kew supports Mexico to protect incredible biodiversity. Kew is celebrating 15 years of partnerships aimed at protecting Mexico's biodiversity during this year's Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of the Parties – Mainstreaming Biodiversity – CBD-COP13, in Cancun from 2 to 17 December 2016. On 2 December Kathy Willis on behalf of RBG Kew signed a new agreement with the Mexican Fund for the Conservation of Nature (FMCN) and HSBC Mexico to support a two-year project focussing on arid areas in Baja California which are threatened with habitat loss, climate change and invasive species. Kathy said: 'We are committed to our existing partnerships and are exploring new ones so we can collectively buck the trends and foster greater collective responsibility for the solutions to the biggest challenges facing our planet.'

RBG Kew has been in partnerships in Mexico since 2002, principally with the country's largest wild plant seed bank at the Faculty of Higher Studies of Iztacala, part of the Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM) and CONABIO (The National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity). To date, the collaboration has resulted in 7% of Mexico's flora being safeguarded in the Seed Bank at FESI-UNAM, each with a duplicate collection held at the MSB. Kew is also just beginning a four year tree project in Mexico that aims to conserve seeds from approximately 300 priority tree species nationally, including endemic, protected and useful plants important for the livelihoods of rural communities. China Williams, Senior Science Officer will be participating in the Science Forum in Cancun and on the UK Delegation at the CBD, while David Cope will be hosting a side event, with Julia Willison sitting on the panel, which aims to foster a lively discussion with representatives from other botanic gardens about the wider role they play in communicating, educating and raising public awareness of biodiversity.

A special Kew Guild update from Richard Deverell, Kew's Director Innovation, risk and success at Kew

2016 was an incredible year of innovation, risk and success at Kew, and still I find myself asking: Are we too risk averse at Kew? Are we sufficiently innovative? Does the former stifle the latter? To me, the key thing about risk is to understand the nature of the possible downside. For example, when it comes to the safety of our staff and our visitors we very appropriately have an extremely low appetite for risk. Often discussions at Kew are about another type of risk. They relate to a perceived risk of failure – and this, I do think, can diminish our appetite for innovation and experimentation.

Let me illustrate this with two examples. The first was The Hive. We knew that deconstructing this huge sculpture where it was situated in Milan as the centrepiece of the 2015 UK Pavilion at the World Expo, shipping it to Kew, preparing a new landscape in the middle of a World Heritage Site, open to the public nearly every day of the year, was to say the least, a tremendous effort and a considerable risk. We also knew that trying to do all this in seven months was challenging. However, a cross-organisational team was pulled together who disaggregated this overall risk into different elements – and for each considered mitigating actions and fall-back options. The worst case scenarios of cost overruns and delays were also looked at thoroughly. On balance, we felt this was worth pursuing and an opportunity not to be missed. I had absolute confidence in the team – they delivered and it has been a huge success for us.

My second example may come as a surprise – we have decided not to run 'Write on Kew', our literary festival, for a third year (in 2017) at Kew Gardens. In its first two years Write on Kew was very well organised, attracting an excellent line up of authors and extremely positive feedback. However, over these two years it has also become clear that it will never

generate substantial much-needed profits nor was it attracting new or diverse visitors to Kew. The main challenge was that it takes a great deal of management time to plan and deliver it. So, on balance, we have decided not to host it again.

At one level, this is a disappointment: we tried something and it has not succeeded in the way we initially hoped it would. However, I would urge a different perspective. Every innovation carries the risk that success will not be met. That is inevitable and proper. What really matters is that we do innovate, that we have clear criteria for success, and that we have the confidence and maturity to accept that if things are not working as we had hoped, we either revise them or abandon them. We must not be afraid that some things will fail – that in itself does not matter. What does matter is that we understand the consequences of both success and failure, that we continue to innovate, and that we make informed decisions balancing risk and benefits. Properly considered risks, where we have thought through the downsides and determined that these are outweighed by the potential upside, should always be supported.

Put another way, my message to staff at Kew is to not let risk aversion stifle a willingness to innovate and experiment. With innovation will come some an unpredictable mix of setbacks, learning and triumphs. Not every new venture will succeed but others will surpass expectations!

2016: A Review of the Wakehurst Year

by Ed Ikin

2016 was my first full year at Wakehurst as Curator, a chance to know the Estate from an insider's perspective and see how it's influenced by the seasons. I'd known Wakehurst as a visitor for almost twenty years, but, thanks to the team, discovered a huge range of 'hidden' wonders that emphasised quite what a complex, rich and well-cared for site it is. My over-riding observation was of Wakehurst's development being underpinned by deep and, at times, profound thinking and executed by a skilled and caring team.

The past year has involved plenty of reflection about the designed landscapes at Wakehurst: what has worked well and needs consolidation and where to start again and create something new. In these discussions, the memory of the Great Storm of 1987 is readily evoked: many of Wakehurst's plantings were a direct response to that night of devastation, and 30 years on is a great point for reviewing our future. What's clear is Wakehurst's 'Temperate Woodlands of the World' was an inspired direction: a dynamic approach that's created wonderful results already and will drive our plans many years into the future.

We've captured all of our thinking in a new Designed Landscape Plan, a simple, graphic guide expressing the significance and condition of Wakehurst's character areas and establishing direction for the future: to edit (pare back) or intensify (enrich and bulk up) the existing planting or create new designs. Three exciting new concepts emerged from the Designed Landscape Plan: new Asian and Southern Hemisphere Landscapes and a Great American Border. These concepts draw on everything that's strong about Wakehurst already: the translation of wild plant communities into designed landscape, and the steppes and meadows proposed will form the perfect complement to our temperate exotic woodlands.

It's been a great year for Wakehurst's festivals with lots of new content and increased visitor numbers. They're a great way to communicate Wakehurst's spirit and share our work with a wider audience, and, in the case of our sold-out Glow Wild lantern festival, make a significant profit to support our conservation work. Our summer Wild Food festival

hosted a notable moment, the setting of a Guinness World Record for the longest straw bale picnic table, devised and constructed by Conservation and Arboretum Manager Iain Parkinson and his team (ably assisted by Wakehurst's Logistics Unit). The festivals set the tone for a wider picture of Wakehurst recovering from the impact of car parking charges and restoring its position as one of Sussex's busiest attractions. At the time of writing, Wakehurst's visitor numbers are heading for 300,000 for the year, a heart-warming restoration of lost business and this has been reflected in the growth of our Friends of Wakehurst membership scheme, with over 12,000 members.

It was clear from the moment I started that Kew was a global institution: surrounded by talk of scoping visits to Mexico, collecting trips to Fiji and meeting partners in Uganda and it was no surprise the Wakehurst team had several trips overseas in 2016. Most notable was arborist George's epic seed collecting trip down the west coast of America. Our colleague in the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB), Michael Way, received intelligence that this part of the US was enjoying a 'mast year', with notably high volumes of cones borne on conifers species targeted for conservation banking. Within a short space of time, a trip involving several UK botanic gardens was hatched, with George enlisted to scale mature pines and firs to collect seed. The photos looked epic: vast forests, noble mountains, tall trees and crate after crate of seed. Propagation Manager Jo joined a consortium including Forestry Commission to the rugged scenery of southern Italy's national parks, in search of rare Acers and a small team looked at high design in three of Europe's great landscapes: Arboretum Wespelaar (Belgium), Hermannshof (Germany) and Le Jardin Plume (France).

Wakehurst functions within a host of frameworks, a consequence of our desire for high, externally recognised standards. With frameworks come audits and in 2016, Wakehurst was audited for its Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) and ISO14001 compliance amongst others. There's always an intense period around auditing as the team prepares its record keeping and double-checks every last detail of our operation and this only increases as the external assessment is under way, but the endorsement that follows completion is great encouragement to seek higher standards.

Our high standards are integral to Wakehurst's purpose, to act as an exemplar for estate management. Our approach draws regular interest from the outside world and in 2016, we hosted Natural England's senior management team who came to see how we managed our SSSIs (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) on their away day. Plant Network chose Wakehurst to host a Meadow Management workshop and the presence of the MSB ensured a multinational roll-call of guests to take around our landscape, from the Bhutan Biodiversity Institute to the Tree Science Team of Morton Arboretum, Illinois and the eminent Professor Takeuchi from the United Nations.

So, a busy year and a great base to build from in 2017, I look forward to updating you in a year!

Wakehurst Place Weather 2016

<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: January 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 192.8mm Rainiest day: 22.1 mm on 10th Rainless days: 4</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 12.6 °C on 31st Lowest Max Temp: 4.2 °C on 17th Highest Min Temp: 8.7 °C on 27th Lowest Min Temp: -1.9 °C on 19th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 4 Windiest day date: 27th Direction: WSW Wind speed: 26 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: February 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 39.5 mm Rainiest day: 11.6 mm on 7th Rainless days: 8</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 14.4 °C on 4th Lowest Max Temp: 3.7 °C on 13th Highest Min Temp: 8.7 °C on 5th & 21st Lowest Min Temp: -1.6 °C on 16th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 4 Windiest day date: 8th Direction: WSW Wind speed: 34 MPH</p>
<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: March 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 93.9 mm Rainiest day: 23.1 mm on 8th Rainless days: 13</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 16.9 °C on 22nd Lowest Max Temp: 5.8 °C on 5th Highest Min Temp: 6.8 °C on 25th Lowest Min Temp: -1.2 °C on 8th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 5 Windiest day date: 28th Direction: WSW Wind speed: 35 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: April 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 54.6 mm Rainiest day: 14.0 mm on 15th Rainless days: 10</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 22.1 °C on 13th Lowest Max Temp: 8.8 °C on 16th Highest Min Temp: 8.9 °C on 15th Lowest Min Temp: 0.5 °C on 27th and 28th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 7th Direction: W Wind speed: 20 MPH</p>
<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: May 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 53.5 mm Rainiest day: 13.7 mm on 10th Rainless days: 15</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 28.8 °C on 8th Lowest Max Temp: 12.4 °C on 31st Highest Min Temp: 15.9 °C on 9th Lowest Min Temp: 2.1 °C on 1st</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 31st Direction: N Wind speed: 26 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: June 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 82.2 mm Rainiest day: 14.1 mm on 22nd Rainless days: 10</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 29.9 °C on 8th Lowest Max Temp: 12.5 °C on 1st Highest Min Temp: 16.2 °C on 23rd Lowest Min Temp: 8.5 °C on 3rd</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 2nd Direction: NNW Wind speed: 22 MPH</p>
<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: July 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 27.2 mm Rainiest day: 12.5 mm on 12th Rainless days: 19</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 35.4 °C on 19th Lowest Max Temp: 18.7 °C on 1st Highest Min Temp: 20.1 °C on 20th Lowest Min Temp: 10.1 °C on 2nd</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 3rd Direction: SW Wind speed: 21 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: August 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 48.7 mm Rainiest day: 28.7 mm on 1st Rainless days: 21</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 35.6 °C on 24th Lowest Max Temp: 18.7 °C on 20th Highest Min Temp: 19.6 °C on 24 and 25th Lowest Min Temp: 9.4 °C on 10th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 21st Direction: NW Wind speed: 21 MPH</p>
<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: September 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 31.6 mm Rainiest day: 6.1 mm on 15th Rainless days: 14</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 32.3 °C on 13th Lowest Max Temp: 17.1 °C on 17th Highest Min Temp: 19.7 °C on 14th Lowest Min Temp: 4.5 °C on 29th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 29th Direction: SW Wind speed: 20 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: October 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 32.6 mm Rainiest day: 17.7 mm on 15th Rainless days: 16</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 23.8 °C on 31st Lowest Max Temp: 13.2 °C on 19th Highest Min Temp: 12.0 °C on 29th Lowest Min Temp: 5.4 °C on 11th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 7th & 13th Direction: NE Wind speed: 18 MPH</p>
<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: November 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 113.3 mm Rainiest day: 47.2 mm on 19th Rainless days: 10</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 18.1 °C on 15th Lowest Max Temp: 7.8 °C on 26th Highest Min Temp: 12.1 °C on 16th Lowest Min Temp: -1.8 °C on 29th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 2 Windiest day date: 25th Direction: NNE Wind speed: 25 MPH</p>	<p>Wakehurst Place Weather: December 2016</p> <p>Month's total rainfall: 20.5 mm Rainiest day: 4.4 mm on 23rd Rainless days: 9</p> <p>Highest Max Temp: 13.8 °C on 9th and 14th Lowest Max Temp: 4.9 °C on 30th Highest Min Temp: 10.6 °C on 9th Lowest Min Temp: -0.9 °C on 30th</p> <p>Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below): 3 Windiest day date: 20 Direction: SW Wind speed: 20 MPH</p>

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

Kew Guild Medal recipient Alan Titchmarsh

by Richard Ward



35 Kewites assembled on 15th June for a lunch at the Coach and Horses Hotel, Kew Green. The event was arranged by the Kew Guild to mark its award of a Kew Guild Medal to Alan Titchmarsh for distinguished work as a horticulturalist.

In welcoming Alison and Alan, Guild President Tony Overland mentioned Alan's career and particularly his work as President of Plant Heritage, Perennial, and

a Trustee of Gardens for Schools, and President or patron of approximately 35 charities and organisations.

Alan, in turn, thanked the Guild for the honour and expressed his pleasure in returning to Kew and meeting up with old friends. He recalled his digs on the Mortlake Road in Kew, and five happy years beside Kew Green; how he had met his wife through Barnes Operatic Society, how he valued the Kew Diploma and the fact that he is in touch with plants every day – he will always be a gardener.

Kew's Kitchen Garden in 2016

by Joe Archer (Kitchen Garden Supervisor)



It's been three years since the Kitchen garden was reinstated at Kew for the BBC television series 'Kew on a Plate'. Originally the garden was intended to be temporary, perhaps only in place for a year or two. Due to the popularity of Kew on a Plate and the lure of seeing fruit and vegetables growing outside, the Kitchen garden is now a permanent feature. During its three years the garden has changed from a film set into a productive garden which has integrated into Kew's tapestry of formal gardens.

2016 has proved to be a great year for its development. There is continued public interaction, triumphant produce cultivation (of course with occasional failures) and a bright outlook for the future.

A feature which has remained in place since the airing of Kew on a Plate are the garden tours. Visitors are interested in growing crops whether they are themselves growers or just enjoy eating them. During 2016 we have given weekly tours, speaking about seasonal tasks and how we go about growing different vegetables. We have also been involved with the 'Hive' activities, holding talks focused around the importance of pollinators and food security. In September the garden was part of the 'Plant of the Month' tours where we explored stories of the crop wild relatives of aubergines and beets. These tours also explained how members of the cabbage family including sprouts, broccoli, cabbage and kohlrabi, which all look very different have all in fact been selected from the same plant; *Brassica oleracea*.



The weekly produce sale is another aspect which has grown in the last few years. Originally a simple trestle table with an honesty box, the sale is now a firm feature where the mornings are spent harvesting for an afternoon sale from an adapted garden cart. The monies from these sales have helped with buying seeds and equipment that keep the garden going. Having the sale also ensures that produce is picked when its ready and not left in purely as a display, keeping the garden fresh and constantly replenished.

We continually strive to produce excellent results from what we grow. To do this I like to try different and new techniques, this often involves stepping away from traditional ways. The most eye opening method undertaken has been to adopt a ‘no dig’ approach. By mulching with a helping of Kew compost each winter, we feed the soil rather than the plants and have had excellent results with the same if not more harvest coming from undug beds. Fewer weeds, better water retention and ultimately less work.



One traditional part of the garden is our circa 1930s teak glasshouse. Set behind the scenes in the old Alpine Yard, it previously housed cushion plants and lavender propagules to name a few. It is one of the last wooden framed houses left at Kew and plays a pivotal role in the production of all of vegetable plants grown from seed every year. We have treated the

wood, painted the metal work, made it water tight, have an electricity supply and given it a good old fashioned clean.

With successes like the glasshouse, tours and good quality produce in place the Kitchen Garden now has the foundations to flourish in the next few years. A more recent addition is that of a Kew Specialist Certificate student who will learn about and assist in the everyday running of this busy little garden for one year. It will mean more time can be spent perfecting and developing the display and what we can offer to the visitor. The garden is in the initial stages of a redesign to capitalise on where it has started and long may it continue.

Samsung Research and Design Centre - Korea by Charles Funke

Charles Funke Associates, as a practice, have a track record for understanding the genetic performance of any plant, built into the design intent of any of our planting schemes. This philosophy enables one to place in the correct hemisphere trees and shrubs that will fulfil the design intent with healthy growth for years to come. We have worked throughout Europe, Russia, The Middle East and more recently Kazakhstan. These experiences have generated greater interest in the importance of understanding the cultural impact of our

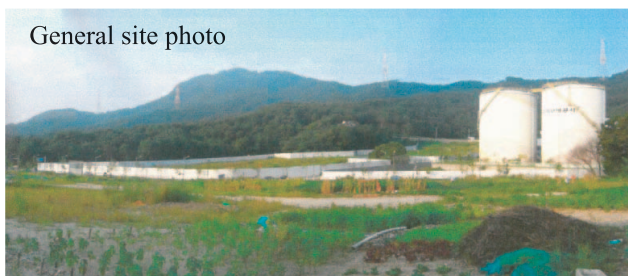
work in the peoples of the nations for whom we have been privileged to work. It is difficult to put into words how vitally important it was to myself to grasp the opportunity of seeing a landscape of which so little is really known to the Western world. The botanical nomenclature is not what I speak of, plant identification is a matter of course to myself. Whilst this was a necessary part of the visit I was ignorant of how the passage of time, historically and evolution and speed of technology had put the people of South Korea into almost a class of its own. This had to be seen to be fully understood.

Approaching Incheon airport, a final descent allowed excellent views, with vegetation on even the smallest islands on this coastline approach appearing very dense and green. Seoul itself appeared to sit protected from the North by ground amounting to mountain scale. This suggested a microclimate of considerable source that underpinned the landscape below. My first impressions were how green the airfield itself appeared, and of good grassland management generally. From the airport, the dominant planting bordering the motorway route into the city of Seoul was *Pinus*, *Quercus*, *Robinia*, *Acer*, *Prunus*, junipers, to name a few. Great attention was being given to acoustic screening adjacent to the motorway edge. A form of crib walling was supporting very vigorous green walling growth. The nearer one came to the city so a planting pallet was starting to develop itself. An element of colour was evident as part of the vitis coverage which appeared to be *Campsis*.

On the first day, with two members of the Samsung team, the buildings and gardens of Changdeokgung Palace were visited. My objective was to understand the nature of the landscape and where possible identify its content and cultural meaning. The following passage of history is taken directly from the official guide literature to the Palace. The historical dates are critical to understanding the evolution of these buildings and gardens as they appear today, to the cultural approach that generates the differences in Landscape Design as we understand it to be: *“Changdeok Palace was first built in 1405 and, although destroyed in the Imjin invasion by the Japanese (1592-1598), was re-built shortly after the war ended. It functioned thereafter as the main palace for the longest period in Joseon history. The buildings and pavilions of Changdeokgung, which was constructed on the base of a mountain, were positioned naturally taking into consideration the geographical features of the mountain slope. UNESCO granted World Heritage status in 1997 to Changdeokgung, recognising its excellent state of preservation and its remarkable layout, which achieves harmony with the surrounding natural environment”*.

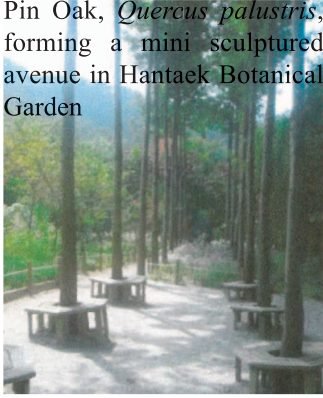
My summary of planting content concluded that there were many genera that were compatible to being also seen and grown in European gardens a large percentage of trees and shrubs were of an ericaceous nature, although a soil analysis would need to be carried out.

The location of Samsung’s new build was at Yongin. At the site there were a number of dead trees with clear fungal problems, and anaerobic surface water apparent, indicating poor drainage. There was a large 400 year old *Zelkova serrata* tree, on the site, which would need careful management in the future, and it was suggested to replace the existing street trees with one of two species - *Ginko* or *Metasequoia*.



On the second day, along with Samsung colleagues, a comprehensive visit of Hantaek Botanical Gardens was made. The dominant tree canopy throughout as expected were Pine, Oak and *Acer*. *Pinus* clearly are a dominant species for

Pin Oak, *Quercus palustris*, forming a mini sculptured avenue in Hantaek Botanical Garden



inclusion in the evolution of the Yongin landscape. It is generally understood that there is a genetic relationship between *Pinus densiflora* and *Pinus sylvestris* (Scots Pine). There is therefore a phytogenetic link between Eastern Asian and European species. *Pinus sylvestris* was observed in both Changdeok and Hantaek. *Juniperus*, *Acer palmatum* were in abundance, as were *Hosta* but many of the forms had transitioned in size of leaf and flower according to their planting zone within the grounds. Others in abundance were *Acer negundo* (small tree form, variegated), *Magnolia* (Kobus form/bush and tree form), *Cephalotaxus korepina*, *Taxus baccata* (normal form and dwarf/variegated/gold forms), *Quercus palustris*, *Cornus kousa*.

Heewon Garden - Specimen *Taxus* with *sassa japonica* groundcover, and Charles Funke



The wording of the final observations arising from my visits to Changdeockgung Palace, Yongin and Hantaek Botanic Gardens is taken from the book presented to myself by Mr. Cheong at the conclusion of my journey, the conclusion to which I refer is my visit to Heewon Garden. The setting of this garden is one of outstanding beauty and supports in every way to its evolution as the final resting place for the founder of Samsung. My mind returned to the visit

the previous day to Yongin. In asking myself what is so important about the Yongin site, the answer does to a great degree lie in the very selection of the site itself: "*Korean ancestors were devoted to selecting an exceptionally beautiful site and a meaningful ground in order to cultivate virtue as a scholar through a chosen landscape. Undoubtedly Feng Shui was an important yardstick. As a result, if a selected site is a lucky one, it would be even better. In the light of the journals in Dongsagangmok, it is obvious that scholars' site selection and interpretation of landscapes reached the depth of a profound philosophy beyond the simple stage of pursuing beauty*". Man creates events, trees make cities.

A Right Royal Mix-Up

by Ian Lamont Smith

Over the years one can't help reading about the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Most of the time these reports are fairly accurate. But over the past few years there has been a spate of experts anxious to invoke the name of Kew to give some badly needed gravitas to their lightly researched premise. The two examples below are by way of illustration.

Peter King's book 'Women Rule the Plot', tells of a Mrs. Sowerby, who as the wife of the Head Gardener of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, lent the Garden's museum to the National Union of Women Workers for their 1903 AGM, and later entertained the Members to tea on 'her' lawn. To the Kew connoisseur, this must seem bizarre. Can you imagine, Thiselton-Dyer, who was the Director at that time, allowing the Head Gardener's wife, of all people, to loan out the Garden's museum to a group of politically active women, and allow them to have tea on 'her lawn', as if she owned the place. This is 'Alice in Wonderland'. Equally as disturbing is the notion of a Head Gardener at Kew. There is no evidence in Kew's archives to support such a contention. It's a myth. Since Kew's inception as a publicly owned Botanic Gardens, it has never had a Head Gardener, only Curators.

The City of Westminster archives reveal Mr. and Mrs. Sowerby were members of London's elite. Mrs. Sowerby, a lead in the women's rights movement and an executive of the National Union of Women Workers, her husband, a member of a distinguished family of

scientists. Mr. Sowerby served as secretary of privately owned Royal Botanic Society of London, granted in 1839 a Royal Charter by Victoria, Queen *'for the promotion of Botany in all its branches, for the formation of extensive Botanical and Ornamental Gardens within the vicinity of the Metropolis'*. As the secretary, he managed the affairs of the Society and its 20 acre botanical gardens situated within the inner circle of Regent's Park, London. These Botanical Gardens had a museum and a Head Gardener.

Going from the bizarre to the ridiculous, Toronto Star's garden guru, Mark Cullen writes about the largest botanical garden in the world, Kew Gardens in London, employing over 300 staff in medical research that goes back over 350 years to Kew's original Charter. Newspaper columnist Mark Cullen's comments are confusing. He's not sure where Kew Gardens is located or kind of garden, when he refers to it as *'a botanical garden in London'*, when it's known worldwide as the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey! As for Kew's 300 staff engaged in medical research, Kew's archivists consider this misleading and could find no immediate evidence to support such numbers, and consider the 350 year old medical mandate equally misleading. Kew's archivists, searched high and low and couldn't find evidence of a Kew Charter. They did however, provide guidance as to the evolution of Kew from privately owned gardens into a publicly owned Royal Botanic Gardens, circa 1840, *without a Charter*.

By now, the reader may well have come to the conclusion that if you don't have your facts correct you can easily find yourself in a right Royal mix up.

Life in the Palm House, RBG Kew

by Ian Lamont Smith



Back row L to R Peter Brasher, Roy Bee, George Anderson, Roy the staff gardener. Front Row L to R Ian Lamont Smith, Anthony Dunball, Clifford Stone

I had been to the Crystal Palace at Sydenham Park to see a circus. A few months later, it burned to the ground. It was after this event, my parents took me for the first time to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, to see the great Palm House. I can still remember my surprise as to how different it was from the rambling Crystal Palace. Over the ensuing 15 years I regularly visited the palm house. The plants seemed to get bigger and a more intertwined mass of exotic foliage, which eventually became my 'secret garden', conjuring up a sense of adventure. Here were the plants of the British Empire. No need to go to India, Africa, Asia or the Americas to see jungles and forests, they were all here, with their own strange sounding name tags.

To find myself one day in September of 1951 on my first day as a student gardener at Kew, assigned for the next 6 months to the palm house was a dream come true. I was not alone, but in the good company of fellow students Peter Brasher, Clifford Stone, Roy Bee, and Tony Dunball, all kitted-out with our clogs, apron and knife. The students were introduced by the Assistant Curator of the Tropical Department, Mr. Lewis 'Lou' Stenning, to the Foreman in charge of the palm house, George Anderson.

We called him 'George' more out of respect than familiarity. He explained the care and culture of just about every plant in the house, and let you know he only tells you once. All student gardeners were assigned 'a charge' - an area of the palm house for which they were personally responsible. My 'charge' comprised a large collection of potted Liliaceae and plants long since forgotten, with the planter beds filled with a mixture of specimen

Rubiaceae, Theaceae and Palmaceae of the kind you would only find at Kew, and a tall specimen of *Arenga saccharifera* reaching up to touch the glass roof. The daily routine was arduous, at times hazardous, but never boring.

The hundreds of plants under any students' care was a challenge. The trick was to remember what George had said earlier and regular visits to the student library to read up on those new and mysterious plants. All charges needed to be 'neat and tidy' to meet the expectation of the public and with Assistant Curator Stenning, he was always addressed as Mr. Stenning, make his daily inspections to ensure students work was "up-to-snuff". The latter half of the day, students had assorted chores. Some kept an eye on visitors and answered questions; others attended lectures and demonstrations; or took up a number of specialised tasks such as tree top trimming with pruner, rope and bosun's chair, bracing overgrown plants in the soil beds, or transferring plants into bigger pots. The most demanding task was refurbishing plants in wood boxes, up to two tons in weight and to five feet square, involving magnificent specimens of Cycadaceae, Bombaceae, Pandanaceae, Moraceae to name a few and why it's called a Palm House, members of the palm family, Areaceae and their seemingly endless family derivatives. There was one unusual event, the discovery of a young three foot long Komodo Dragon. Where it came from or how long it had been there, nobody knew, but it took several days for its capture.

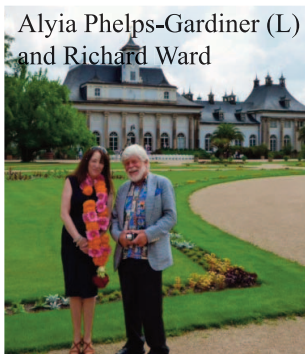
Six months passed, time for students to move to other departments. I'd requested to stay another six months, to be joined by students Leo Pemberton, Ted Baverstock, Olace Tapson and Allan Carson. Foreman George recommended to Mr. Stenning that I take 'charge' of No.15 tropical waterlily house. I did, but that's another story.

Krumbiegel Update

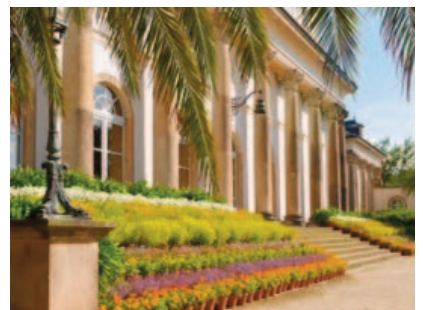
by Alyia Phelps-Gardiner

This is the follow-up of last years Journal, page 590, as promised. We reported on this initiative to the Guild Committee during late 2015 and into 2016, and Wiena, Sparkle and I attended the opening of this five month Krumbiegel exhibition at Pillnitz. It was our dream with the backing of the Kew Guild to bring this exhibition to Kew but despite much effort and emails our enquiries did not receive a response. Thus this slice of a Kewites history will remain scattered between Dresden, Bangalore and Hermann Krumbiegel's great great grandchildren in England. We invited Alyia Phelps-Gardiner to sum up this adventure – Richard Ward:

One evening I was googling family history, and had decided to concentrate on my mother's side I knew a little about my great grandfather Gustav Hermann Krumbiegel. After the wikipedia page there was a website of a newspaper 'Get West London' appealing for Krumbiegel descendants to contact Richard Ward from Kew Gardens. I kept reading it to make sure it was correct, I then excitedly phoned the contact number and spoke to Richard, who was equally as excited. It really has altered our whole family.



As well as finding my cousin Dawn who lives in Bristol, we all have found so many friends in Bangalore and Dresden; Dr Anja Simonsen (nee Eppert) who curated the Krumbiegel exhibition was invaluable in piecing together lots of information.



I arranged to meet Richard, Wiena and Sparkle Ward in Dresden for great grandfather's exhibition with my sister Cheryl, my daughter Alexa, and my oldest grand daughter Scarlett. Three generations of Krumbiegel descendants were in attendance. It was a wonderful exhibition, the castle steps full of flowers was just so beautiful and the flowering peacock was just amazing. The exhibition, attended by the Indian Ambassador and horticulturists from around Germany and Bangalore, showed great grandfather's career right from the start from his training at Park Pillnitz to Kew Gardens, which made him a very desirable candidate for a Maharajah to ask Kew if they had a suitable candidate to beautify his palace gardens in Ooty. Of course the rest is history.



From L to R: Richard Ward, Sparkle Ward, Cheryl, Alyia, Alexa, Scarlett

All this led to myself going to Bangalore in January 2017 to represent my great grandfather at The Lalbagh Republic flower show and due to Richard's enthusiastic search for Krumbiegel descendants for which we all thank him.

50 Shades of Capability Brown – my year with the man in 2016 by Sarah Rutherford

Last year I urged members to pursue 'Capability' Brown through spotting his London Planes. This I did in 2014 as part of my quest to understand our greatest landscaper and his works for a National Trust book I was writing for the 300th anniversary of his birth in 1716. We needed an accessible primer to get Capability Brown out to a wide audience; the Heritage Lottery funded CB300 Festival kindly endorsed the book and was a great ally for the year. With the proofs finalised on Christmas Eve 2015, the fun started: a unique and unmissable opportunity for what seemed like total immersion in Capability Brown in 2016. A pretty full lecture schedule needed a spot-on outfit. My great chum and Kewite Gail Doddrell (nee Dayton, Course 21/22) found me a stylish fitted tweed jacket with lots of beautiful detailing (Portuguese tailoring it seems); another friend selected a slick velvet skirt to go with it, and with mirror-polished black leather boots I was properly booted and suited. A 'new' car in January replaced the old, slightly suspect one, so no break-downs. Sarah was ready for 50 Shades of Life with Brown.

The year kicked off broadcasting to the nation on Gardener's Question Time from Stowe in January. Then things just kept rolling. The book came out in April. Lectures all over England and Wales were mostly in beautiful places where he worked, from Wallington in Northumbria, to Ashburnham near Hastings; Wimpole in Cambridgeshire to Berrington, Herefordshire, and Newton House, south Wales; not forgetting Canary Wharf station roof garden (no, not Capability Brown, Norman Foster). The highlight was the October debate with Tom Williamson at Cheltenham Literature Festival, 'Capability Brown: Visionary or Vandal?'. With only a week to go we realised that, instead of being consigned to a Portacabin with three old ladies and a guide dog to doze through our knockabout, we had the Town Hall full of 900 paying punters to entertain. No pressure there then; but we had some great feedback.

My Capability Brown year included joining church services. One celebrated his August baptism, in Fenstanton where he was Lord of the Manor and eventually buried; in another we commemorated his 272nd wedding anniversary at Stowe, Bucks where he was married in November 1744. Of the numerous conferences, three grabbed me: one at Bath in the 1960s university landscape tried to identify his influence internationally, (outcome: basically C18 Europeans had never heard of him); at another, on his national significance,

at Hampton Court, we sat gazing out at Wilderness House where he lived as Royal Gardener with his family, for 20 years. The favourite of the three I helped to organise and chaired for the Bucks Gardens Trust: ‘50 Shades of Brown in Bucks’, at his hidden gem, Wotton Underwood. Some charming Brown descendants joined us, and also came to Stowe church for his very soggy wedding anniversary. It was so moving to look at their faces and see something of our hero in them. We all left services, conferences and lectures as even greater ‘enthusiasts’.

Reviews and notices of the book went, astoundingly, world-wide, including Europe, Chile, the USA and Australia, largely thanks to the CB300 brand marketing which ensured far wider coverage of him than expected. Tracking reviews through the year was endlessly entertaining. Most were as favourable as any author could hope for, but unalloyed compliments aren’t helpful to the prospective purchaser. I enjoyed the reviewer who perceived over-indulgence in my repeated emphasis of the fact that Capability Brown was a remarkable man who re-shaped the English landscape; this he found ‘slightly irritating’. Actually I’d prefer to be hugely irritating.

My 2016 with Capability Brown was such fun and a never to be repeated treat. I followed in his footsteps and enjoyed many shades of life with Brown.

Sarah Rutherford, *Capability Brown and His Landscape Gardens* (2016, Pavilion), £20.

Those who can ‘do’ and those who can do more ‘volunteer’!

by Amanda Le Poer Trench



Kew Volunteer Jill Gregory - who has made washing and stacking pots into an art form

RBG Kew has a record of working with volunteers since 1992 and there are currently 700 supporting our work in a variety of ways. Traditional volunteer roles include horticultural support, guiding and support to schools, families and science programmes. However, here at Kew volunteers permeate all areas of the organisation – all our litter pickers are volunteers, our meteorological office data weather monitoring is done by a volunteer and even our bee keeper works as an analyst during the week and morphs into our bee guru at weekends. We even have one sterling volunteer, Jill, who has been coming to Kew two days a week for the last thirteen years to wash and stack all the flower pots in our Tropical Nursery – without Jill there would be no clean pots!

Kew’s mission is ‘to be the global resource for plant and fungal knowledge, building an understanding of the world’s plants and fungi on which all our lives depend’. We consider ourselves authentic and passionate experts but not only does this include 860 committed staff but also our growing army of dedicated volunteers.

In recent years, volunteers have donated around 100,000 hours to Kew each year which equates to well over a million pounds that our organisation would have to spend on an equivalent value of staff time. One of our key quantitative indicators of our volunteers’ value to our organisation is the ‘Volunteer Investment and Value Audit’ (VIVA Ratio), which demonstrates that for every £1 the organisation invests in our volunteering programme, we receive over £10 in return each year. With a volunteer retention rate of over 85% each year our volunteers have built up a considerable bank of Kew knowledge, experience and expertise. Arguably, more important than all this quantitative data, is the qualitative data and feedback we receive concerning the value that our first-rate volunteer



Horticultural volunteer and master florist Henok Roling preparing for Kew's Orchid Festival

task force brings to Kew in commitment, knowledge, enthusiasm, and energy. Over 1,600 plus volunteer led guided walking tours of Kew each year are testimony to this.

Last year's volunteer survey evidenced 95% of volunteers rating their experience with us as excellent or good with the majority rating it as excellent. However, volunteer labour is not 'free labour', it comes at a price and that is sufficient infrastructure to support our volunteers and our volunteer programmes in a cost-effective and professional way. This infrastructure includes having a robust volunteer strategy, policy and procedures in place, dedicated volunteer budgets and very importantly staff time. So whilst our volunteers have a unique contribution to make, it is a two-way relationship not just an altruistic one. It requires both parties to put something into the equation to receive mutual benefits.

In so many organisations volunteering develops in a piecemeal rather than a controlled and considered way with no long term vision. If a Botanic Garden has a vision, which it can translate into a plan with sufficient infrastructure in place to support it, then the potential of that volunteer relationship is inestimable. It is a gift relationship, binding only in honour, trust and mutual understanding but with incredible potential. Kew volunteers give us the two most valuable gifts they can, their time and their talent, and for that we celebrate and thank them. We do not pay our volunteers but that is because they are priceless!

Grow Wild engages millions of people outside garden gates

By Philip Turvil and Alice Carder

Grow Wild is the UK's biggest-ever wild flower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants. As the national outreach initiative of Kew, and supported by the Big Lottery Fund, Grow Wild has a strong focus on the biodiversity of native UK plant species. Through a successful mixture of innovative seed distribution, community funding opportunities and digital campaigns, Grow Wild has empowered new audiences of millions to take positive action where they live, turning unloved spaces into colourful, inspiring wildlife havens and encouraging people to care for and delight in the nature around them.

Launching in 2012, this mass participation campaign arrived not a moment too soon, amid news of the UK's native wild flowers disappearing fast and a call for action from the UK government via their National Pollinator Strategy. Grow Wild's challenge: to stimulate the urgent action we require to help reverse the decline of native wild flowers and plants species; a 97% loss of wild flower meadows since the 1930s. Kew Director, Richard Deverell, says: "British wild flowers are under threat, and therefore so are the pollinators they feed. Not only is it heartbreaking to lose the beauty and colour these native flowers provide the UK landscape, but the plight of pollinators has a very real impact on the food we eat ourselves. Grow Wild is giving people the power to take action,



bringing colour and wildlife back into our lives all across the UK.”

Grow Wild draws on the horticultural and scientific expertise from Kew’s UK Native Seed Hub - based at our Millennium Seed Bank, creating the first quality standard (‘Kite Mark’) for commercial sellers of UK native wildflower seeds, guaranteeing provenance and 70% viability. Our seed mix has included 34 different native species. So far, two million Grow Wild seed recipients have transformed 4 million



Community project - Wales - Cardiff YMCA

square metres; enough to create a metre wide path of wild flowers that would reach to the edge of space and back... twenty times! While the Grow Wild network of youth, community and flagships projects have won the support of local people to transform hundreds of neglected spaces – for whom taking part in a Grow Wild project can have profound effects.

Carla Kilifin, 25, from Belfast became closer with her father Danny, 51, after her mother died, by working alongside him on their Grow Wild funded community project ‘St James Garden of Hope’. “After my mummy died I went through a rough patch, out drinking and that. I’d go to the graveyard and it would just make me sad and in a mood. But now I can go to the garden and it cheers me right up.” Carla says the project has brought the community closer together: “St James’ was a very dark place, everybody always fought with each other and now it’s just changed everything. There are people who I wouldn’t have talked to before, but now we all get on. It has definitely changed people’s lives here.”

In Spring 2016, evaluation findings by Forest Research – the research agency of the Forestry Commission – showed behavioural change benefits attributed directly to Grow Wild, and onward actions by people who’ve taken part in the initiative to benefit their community. From over 70,000 e-surveys returned by seed packet and seed kit recipients, the majority said they felt a greater sense of responsibility to native wildlife, with nearly half of seed kit recipients and a quarter of seed packet recipients going on to do something else for nature, including actions for bees, birds and insects. Since 2014, nearly half of community projects funded by Grow Wild have been from the 30% most deprived areas of the UK, and Forest Research found that people in these most deprived areas got the most out of taking part. What’s more, many who become involved with Grow Wild continue to engage year after year. John Mouncey for example, started his journey with a Grow Wild community project called ‘Gallery Green Space’, which created a new green space in front of the Manchester Art Gallery. Then in 2016, John launched ‘Brew Wild’, a community brewing project which teaches the art of making beer from honey and native plants, showing that good things can be grown in the city. Visit growwilduk.com to download evaluation summaries.

What next? – Kew Director, Richard Deverell, says: “To further the impact of Grow Wild, Kew’s new corporate strategy prioritises creating a world-class outreach proposition. “Work has begun to build on the success and momentum of Grow Wild to envision and build a network of large-scale, distinctive outreach learning programmes.



Seed Kits - New Malden Fire Station

We want to engage a global public audience in why plants matter in meeting the critical challenges facing humanity.” To secure the future of Grow Wild, Kew is continuing discussions with the Big Lottery Fund about activities after their first grant ends in 2017. Kew is also looking for new partnerships with Botanic Gardens and educational institutes around the world to create new Grow Wild activities. To discuss funding opportunities, consultancy, franchising and licensing, please get in touch with the Grow Wild Programme Manager, Philip Turvil on p.turvil@kew.org, +44 020 8332 3849 and [@PhilipTurvil](https://twitter.com/PhilipTurvil).



Grow Wild by Numbers

Seed Packets – Grow Wild has engaged 70,000 young people and 683,000 adults across the UK by distributing free seed packets with specially grown, native wild flower seeds.

Seed Kits – Grow Wild has engaged 46,000 people to share 255,000 seed kits with local groups. That’s enough native wild flower seed to share with 262,000 young people and 997,000 adults - and just as many solitary bees, as each kit also contains a DIY bee house.

Youth Projects – Panels of young people have assessed hundreds of entries to the Grow Wild youth awards, resulting in 116 projects receiving grants of £500, and including much more than just sowing. Young people are creating art installations, photography, poetry and performance, engaging creatively with the nature around them.

Community Projects – 232 community projects across the UK have been awarded grants of £1,000, £2,500 or £4,000. This lively UK network has engaged nearly 40,000 people with imaginative events and practical sessions.

Flagship Projects – Grow Wild has awarded grants of £135,000 each to four high profile flagship sites; in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, for large scale urban regeneration initiatives. Each grant is awarded to the winner of a competitive public vote; together attracting 117,000 votes.



Philip Turvil - Grow Wild Programme Manager

Campaigns – Grow Wild’s online channels have earned 57,000 Twitter interactions and another 256,000 on Facebook, plus one million YouTube video views; each led by imaginative content, aimed at young people and less engaged and disadvantaged adults. On the ground, we’ve teamed up with a top-10 female music act, toured the UK with a potting shed, and embarked on iconic street art, festival events and dance parties.

In September 2016, the Grow Wild Team celebrated its Grow Wild initiative being voted the UK’s Best Environment Project in the National Lottery Awards on TV. The celebrations are well earned – not only has Grow Wild had success in the National Lottery Awards this year, it has also funded hundreds of fantastic community projects and distributed over a million packets of native wild flower seeds for free. – Ed.

100 Years Ago

by Richard Ward (Advisory Editor)

In 1915/16 the Journal showed over 600 people on the address list, although at the AGM mention was made that at least 200 Journals had not been paid for. It cost £43 19s 7d to print the Journals. The Guild Joint Secretary and Editor, A. Osborn was given a £10 honorarium. 103 people attended the combined AGM and Dinner in London. The Guild year at that time ended in April. The 1916 Journal had 64 pages, many of which had reports and stories from India, Ceylon, the Far East and other corners of the Empire. One penny entrance fee to the Gardens was introduced and 4,300,000 people visited (in 1915). 105 Gardens staff had joined HM forces, and 24 temporary women gardeners had been employed.

Kew Guild Archivist appointed

by Richard Ward (Advisory Editor)

At their meeting in December The Guild Committee agreed to my suggestion to appoint Astrid Purton to the post of Kew Guild archivist. She lives in Kew and is currently studying for a Masters in Archives and Records Management at University College London.

A full project to catalogue the Guild's records was undertaken by Mandy Ingram between October 2005 and May 2006 when all relevant material was located, retrieved and deposited in the RBG Kew archive, beside the Herbarium Library. Guild members may access this archive by prior arrangement.



If any Guild members or others have potential archival items, correspondence, photos, etc. they would like to donate for posterity please contact archivist purtonastrid@gmail.com. Our photo shows Carly Manson, left, RBG Kew's interim Archives Manager, with Astrid, looking through the archives.

Kew and the CWGC on the Somme: 1916 – 2016

by James Wearn

This year has passed with such rapidity that I can hardly believe it is time for our annual reflection upon Kew's First World War project. The Battle of the Somme has rightly dominated our focus in 2016 given Kew's strong connections with the infamous battlefield and its legacy. Akin to many a meeting of naturalists and historians of old, the seed for a trip to the Somme was set forth in a public watering hole – that known to many a Kewite – The Botanist on Kew Green. That which began as an impulsive idea through my conversation with Kew colleague Andrew Budden soon escalated into meaningful fieldwork in collaboration with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC).



Discussion with CWGC at Millencourt
© Paul Little

On 20th June 2016, deliberately reminiscent of the pioneering trips made by Arthur Hill (Kew's wartime

Assistant Director) to sites on the Somme during 1916-18, the Kew team of four (project leader Dr James Wearn, conservation researcher Andrew Budden, support officer Sarah Veniard, and photographer Paul Little) headed for the Somme. We would meet our CWGC colleagues in France, led by David Richardson (CWGC Director of Horticulture) and Gareth Hardware (CWGC Head of Horticulture in Western Europe). ‘Access all areas’ permissions had been granted by the Commission’s section in France on receipt of our identity details.

As we dropped down from Calais by road, the signs listed towns familiar from both world wars – Boulogne (a major port of embarkation during WWI), Dunkerque and St. Omer (familiar to those with any knowledge of WWII), then Cambrai and Arras (famous battles sites of 1917). In order to immerse ourselves more fully in the region, rather than book rooms in a hotel in one of the major towns, we stayed in the village of Auchonvillers (called ‘Ocean Villas’ by the Tommies), close to Beaumont Hamel. Our enthusiastic and knowledgeable host was Avril Williams, who runs a guest house with a difference: it comes with a wartime medical post in the basement, a preserved trench network connected to the basement and a museum. I had seen Avril in a First World War documentary film and made contact immediately. She was very happy to host Kew’s team!

On seeing some wartime screw pickets (distinctive supports for barbed wire defences) and a massive chunk of inert artillery shell by the doorway to our billet, it struck me that items housed indoors within glass display cabinets in museum collections far removed from the battlefields are quite unexceptional on the Somme itself, reinforcing the ‘mythical’ aura the Somme stimulates and the irony of matériel culture. The walls of remembrance which greeted us in the sitting room, comprising framed photos and stories amassed by Avril and donated by visitors, left us under no illusions as to where we were.

The purpose of our Kew-CWGC fieldwork was threefold:

1. Commemoration – a tribute to the Kewites who found themselves on those perilous battlefields 100 years ago, particularly those who never returned.
2. Assessment – of the ‘conflict landscape’ in the context of the regenerated flora and modern land use.
3. Consideration – of modern challenges to commemorative horticulture and prospects for using science to inform resource sustainability, plant tolerance to climate change and the development of management plans.

Despite preparations being vigorously underway for the Royal visit on 1st July, we were given guided access to the Thiepval Memorial, inside and out (as well as being able to stand at the very top of the Memorial before the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge did so!)



Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme © Ian Small, CWGC

The views from 45 metres above the ground gave a useful impression of the undulations of the landscape, which were once exploited for military positioning. We found the names on the Memorial of John Divers (Rifleman 7056, 1st/9th Battalion, London Regiment) and Herbert Martin Woolley (Rifleman 3844, 1st/5th Battalion, London Regiment); two Kewites who were both listed as ‘missing in action’ on the same day (9th October 1916) but on different parts of the Somme. Even more poignant was the relocation, through overlaying of trench maps onto modern aerial photographs, of the field in which John’s unit fought when he went “missing, believed killed” on

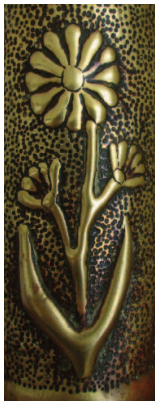
a night reconnoitring mission into no-man's land. Our team paused on the edge of the field in reflection and left a poppy bearing his name. We were additionally moved to hear that our submission of the photo of John from the Kew Guild Archive was selected to be the cover image for Richmond's First World War Centenary events guide. Feedback since received from the Borough's co-ordinator at Richmond Arts Service stated that everyone has been captivated by seeing the striking portrait of John on the cover (Daniella Hadley, pers. comm., 18th November 2016).



John Divers' resting place
© Paul Little

In partnership with the CWGC, we retraced Arthur Hill's steps as he travelled through the region before and shortly after the Battle of the Somme. As 'Botanical Advisor' to the Commission, he observed and contemplated the shocking destruction and the re-birth of flora from the scarred terrain. Kew's longstanding relationship with the Commission led to the characteristic planting regimes in Commonwealth war cemeteries, with which we are familiar today. Hill's 1916 reports included recommendations of herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees with consideration of the position, aspect, soil type and desired layout of each cemetery site he visited. It was uplifting to find that Hill's influence a century ago can still be seen across the Somme. For example, he proposed "lime trees to form a screen" against the road adjacent to Albert Communal Cemetery Extension, which remains today to aid the sense of tranquillity within its urban location.

Now, climate change and sustainable land management have led to a renewed Kew-CWGC interaction to consider science-based horticultural practices going forwards.



Inspiration of
flora for
trench art

Country roads once punctuated by ruined villages surrounded by bustling networks of trenches and shell holes, scarred and pock-marked as if the Earth itself was suffering some kind of chronic disease, now at first glance seem completely benign. Yet the 'iron harvest' turned over each year in the fields, the numerous virtually timeless cemeteries and memorials and the lasting craters such as Lochnagar, leave anyone passing through in no doubt that this has become a 'sacred and mythological land', still full of the dead and dominated by remembrance. We recorded the present arable/ruderal flora just as Sir Arthur had done immediately after the battles, and investigated the ways through which the botanical components of the landscape play central roles in its preservation and commemoration today, as much as they influenced warfare and survival 100 years ago.

Trench art became a material expression of hope and remembrance, both by soldiers engraving personal mementos to send home as well as marketable souvenir creation during and shortly after the war. The designs were powerfully inspired by the flora and examples of trench art seen in homes and museums in the Somme Department show this clearly today.

My family connection to the Somme already ran deep before the Centenary of the Battle was upon us. My great grandfather, Henry Charles Mabbott, served with the Cameron Highlanders and was wounded in the Battle in September 1916 (I was pleasantly surprised to find him featured in the book *Forgotten Voices of the Somme*). Now, having been on an emotional personal as well as institutional journey with the Commission, I have an even firmer place in my heart for the landscape and those who lived and died there during our turbulent past.

Back at Kew, on 6th July the Kew team and the CWGC co-hosted a public event called ‘Somme 100 at Kew’, which was opened by Kew’s Director, Richard Deverell. A drinks reception was followed by talks by David Richardson and by me. We welcomed representatives from organisations including The Royal British Legion, The National Archives, Imperial War Museum and Western Front Association, as well as Lord and Lady True. Three living relatives of Sir Arthur Hill, with whom I had been fortunate to make contact, were able to join us. The event was attended by close to 200 people, filling the Jodrell Lecture Theatre and Wolfson Atrium.



In order to engage audiences in central London, during October we displayed a themed ‘Wood at War’ exhibit within the Wizardry in Wood exhibition at Carpenters Hall (thanks to Mark Nesbitt, Head of Kew’s Economic Botany Collection, for facilitating this). The item which received particular interest among those in our exhibit was a piece of shrapnel-damaged Poplar (*Populus nigra*) bark with shrapnel balls and a shell fragment, gathered by Captain Arthur Hill from near the River Ancre whilst he was on the Somme (EBC 41392).

On 6th October, I was invited to represent RBG Kew at the launch of the CWGC Somme Battlefield Companion at the Canadian Embassy (a limited number of prototype copies had been given to visitors to the 1st July event at Thiepval). We are now discussing the direction of potential future interactions between our two organisations. It was also encouraging to hear that a new meeting room at the CWGC’s UK headquarters in Maidenhead has now been named in honour of Sir Arthur Hill.

‘My Career’

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

Graham Heywood (AKA Harold Heywood) MBA, MSc, DMS, PGCE, Dip Hort (Kew)

Graham always knew what he wanted to do after leaving Secondary school in 1959; he wanted to be a propagator! He secured his first job as apprentice horticulturist with the firm of GW Yates and Son, seeds men and nurserymen who had extensive nurseries at Plumley near Knutsford and three retail shops in the centre of Manchester. From here, some two and a half years later, he moved to gain formal training on a private estate near East Grinstead on a scheme called British Boys for British Horticulture that was managed in conjunction with the YMCA. After completing his training and by now realising the opportunities in Horticulture were vast, he secured a post of apprentice gardener at Bangor University attached to the Department of Botany where he spent the next three years.



During this time, being one of only four members of gardens staff attached to the Botany department (one of whom was the head Gardener Terry Watson, ex-Cambridge Botanic Gardens). Graham spent much time with his colleagues clearing pasture land recently acquired by the University in an area just two miles outside Bangor alongside the Menai Straights. This pioneering (and also back breaking) work was later to result in the now famed Treborth Botanic Garden. Additionally, he was privileged to be asked to help carry out regular maintenance duties in the private garden of the then head of the Botany Department, namely, Professor P. W. Richards.

Graham entered Kew as an improver in March 1965 in readiness for the start of the first year of the new three year Diploma Course (the course having its first intake in September the previous year). The period from March to September was utilised in spending every available hour when not on weekend duty, to systematically walk the gardens 'botanising' as new and wonderful collections of plants were revealed. This first six months found Graham in the Herbaceous and Alpine section of the gardens under the watchful eyes of Alan Cooke and George Preston. It was not long into this first six months that Graham, with the encouragement of Leo Pemberton, joined the plant identification tests set for the diploma students, and also during this period, Graham got his first experience of rock garden construction under the guidance of Ian Beyer who led the students in the progressive rebuilding of the rock garden. Graham often (when visiting Kew) proudly points out to family and friends, the exact section of the rock garden on which he worked.

In addition to the academic aspect of the course, Graham was a member of Kew Cricket Team during a couple of seasons and also a member of the Mutual Improvement Society and in 1966 opened the debate at the annual society gathering (held at Wisley) with the motion that 'this house supports the re-introduction of capital punishment for the crime of murder'. The motion was carried but he is not so sure that he is of the same view today. On leaving Kew in September of 1968 his first post was that of Technical Assistant in the recently formed Leisure Services Department of Teesside County Borough Council. One of his first tasks being to help refurbish the department's show glasshouses and naming all the plants on display!

Whilst gaining much valuable experience in Landscaping of Housing Estates and developing Nature trails, he was studying for his Intermediate Diploma in Parks Administration. In 1972 he secured the post of Deputy Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent with Warrington Borough Council; George Crowder (Kew 1951) being the Superintendent at the time*. Securing his final Diploma in Parks and Recreation Administration and becoming active in the affairs of the North West branch of the IPRA he also studied for and gained the Diploma in Management Studies at Liverpool Polytechnic (now John Moore's University).

In 1977 Graham secured the post of Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation at Bolton under the then Director Geoff Schofield (a post recently made vacant following the departure of Ken Robinson (Kew 1963) to Liverpool as Parks Manager. Following Council restructuring of services in 1983, he became Assistant Director of Environmental Services; a post that embraced all aspects of open space management; Leisure Services; Cemeteries and Crematoria, River Valley Parks and Countryside Parks. He continued his involvement with the IPRA and for a time was Secretary of the North West Branch in addition to later being Chairman of the North West Branch of ILAM whilst also holding the Chair of the North West Branch of the Arboriculture Society. It was with a great deal of pride that he steered his department to achieving a gold medal at both the Liverpool and Stoke international garden festivals besides regular success in the Britain in Bloom Competition and the Manchester Show during the era of Director Roy Bee. Other inspirational Chief Officers in Greater Manchester he was very proud to be amongst were Tom Seager, (Oldham) Ted Neighbour (Tameside) Eric Barton (Rochdale), Gill Swift (Wigan) and Louis Bell (Trafford).

Graham retired from local Government service in 1998. There followed a two year stint as part time lecturer in Leisure Services on the BSc Hons. course at Salford University and, commencing in the year 2000, a period of eleven and a half years as Deputy Chief officer with a local charity. He now spends much of his time as a volunteer trustee, helping to run a local charity that supports parents and carers of people (18 plus) with autism spectrum conditions (ASC's). He is an active member of his local Church and when time

permits loves reading Biographies, listening to classical music and maintaining his modest sized garden.

*George Crowder's Son Chris, (Kew 1981) became Head Gardener at Levens Hall Cumbria (featured in Monty Don's TV series on the history of English Gardens) Chris remains Head Gardener to this day.

News of Kewites in 2016

by Pamela Holt and others

Maurice Baren (1960) was presented with a Commendation. The event was held at the Chartered Institute of Horticulture (CIH) Northern Branch, Annual Branch Meeting, at Hardwick Park, County Durham on 18th June. Maurice trained at Askham Bryan College, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, and IPRA. He worked in Ilkley and Burnley Parks, lectured at Birmingham Parks before leading Bradford Parks Department in 1974 with a staff of over 600. Since retiring in 1988 Maurice has received the RHS Britain in Bloom Award for outstanding contribution (40 years of service) amongst many other awards. He has written many successful books in the "How it all began" social history series. Maurice appreciated the award, and paid tribute to his father, Kew, Askham Bryan and P.K. Willmott in particular, concluding that horticulture is a first-rate career.



L to R: Peter Blackburn-Maze, Maurice Baren, Graham Porter and Tony Thompson. © Graham Porter

Jane Bonney (previously Reynolds) – I haven't submitted anything here for several years so I will give a brief resume of what I have done since leaving Kew. My first post-Diploma job was as a Horticultural Tutor at Camden Training Centre, teaching unemployed adults NVQ horticulture. This was a part-time post and I also worked as a volunteer at London Zoo's invertebrate house during this time and became Honorary General Secretary of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. In May 1997 I got the post as Head Gardener at the Holme, a private estate in the grounds of Regent's Park, working for Waterers Landscapes (now ISS Waterers). This was a true plantsman's garden and I worked there for seven years, winning the BALI Principal Award for Garden Maintenance during my tenure there. In 2004 myself and my husband decided to sell up and buy a narrow-boat in which we cruised most of the Inland Waterways of England. In February 2006 I took a post as Head Gardener at Doddington Hall near Lincoln. Although it was a wonderful garden and I maintained links with the owners I decided to move on after 18 months. My next post was working as a Head Gardener at Kisimul School, also near Lincoln. I was responsible for the upkeep of both the Upper and Lower School grounds and the maintenance of several adult residential care unit gardens. The school took on a new unit each year so there was a new garden to landscape annually.

In 2010 a post for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council became available as Horticultural Officer at Clifton Park. This Grade II listed park had undergone some restoration under the Heritage Lottery Fund but the project had not been completed. When I started there the Park was undergoing the final stages and I was responsible for organising a new in-house team of gardeners. This was a project from the bottom up, purchasing all the equipment from trowels to tractors, producing risk assessments and other safety related processes, arranging an apprenticeship scheme and designing all the bedding schemes. The park has four Crown Bowling Greens which the team maintained under my instruction

and the extensive bedding included a carpet bed and about 20,000 plants per season in the Memorial Garden. I ran a community vegetable garden for volunteers and school groups and I was responsible for the displays in the Horticultural Marquee at the annual Rotherham Show.



In November 2012 I decided to take on the post of Head Gardener at Bishop Burton College in Yorkshire. The college was redeveloping the Walled Garden in time for their Diamond Jubilee and it was this project which attracted me to the post. The acre-and-a-half garden was designed as several separate gardens in order to be a teaching resource for students, but had become overgrown and poorly maintained in recent years. I designed a complete overhaul of the entire garden which was to be undertaken over a two-year period, mainly using in-house labour. Of course I was also responsible for the upkeep of the rest of the 50-acre campus, which included all the usual bedding, shrub borders, lawns and rose beds. Additionally, I had to maintain and improve three rugby and football pitches (later six) and provide decorative plants for conferences and other events including show-jumping, which were grown in our five greenhouses. During my time at BBC I completely overhauled the department Health and Safety policy and gained an IOSH in Safety Management. The work on the Walled Garden was therefore carried out over the winter period in two phases so as to cause least impact on the other work that needed to be done by the department.

The restoration started with the removal of large conifers, rocks and pond in the rock garden and creating a new Award of Garden Merit Garden. As there were already a lot of herbaceous areas in the garden, I decided to concentrate on shrubs and bulbs. A new layout of diagonal beds was created and shrubs were selected to demonstrate similarities and differences between the Genera. Plants were laid out in alphabetical groups so that comparisons could be made between, for example, *Choisya ternata*, *Choisya* 'Sundance' and *Choisya* 'Aztec Pearl'; *Cornus stolonifera*, *Cornus alba* and *Cornus sanguinea*; a creeping, deciduous and evergreen Ceanothus; three varieties of Cistus all within the same bed. I also included three beds of roses - shrubs, Hybrid Teas and Floribundas - and a bed of Iris and Dahlia, all AGM varieties. Purchasing one plant of each variety was the most time consuming task as I used over 500 shrubs and seven suppliers to provide the material.

Meanwhile in another corner of the garden I was playing musical chairs. The old hot border was to be removed and the best plants were relocated in a raised bed which had been an ericaceous border. This was badly infested with bindweed and shrubs were desperately overgrown. Removal of the hot bed allowed us to double the standing out area which ran alongside it and rationalise bedding storage which had been somewhat haphazard, to say the least. The area between the standing out area and the new hot bed had been used for a random selection of plants which no-one had quite known where to put. After rescuing the best of the plants the area was cleared. A third was ear-marked for the development of two new ericaceous beds in the second phase, but the rest was developed that winter. I designed a hedge garden using 12 different types of hedging to allow students to learn to identify some common types and to practice hedge trimming. Behind that contractors constructed a metal arch to my specifications on which laburnums were planted (I have



Crossing the Pontcysyllte

never forgotten the one at Kew!). Opposite this area there was a large lawn with several island beds, a dense, shady shrub border and a pond. All the plants were cleared, the areas were turfed and using semi-mature hedging I created an open-air theatre. As the final part of the first phase, the central walkway through the garden was redeveloped. The borders on either side were dug over and replanted so that they would match on either side.

The second year of the project started with the creation of two new monocot beds at the far end of the lawn where the open-air theatre was located. This was to demonstrate the characteristics of the group and display their diversity and I deliberately chose a colour scheme not necessarily associated with monocots; red and black and blue and yellow. Through late autumn contractors removed plants and created new paths in the Apothecary Garden. This enclosed area had a lot of lovely plants which were reused elsewhere in the garden or grounds, but had no theme and was difficult to maintain. The area was opened up considerably by removal of some conifer hedges and a new hornbeam hedge planted. Two new gardens were created; two new rose history beds to show the development and origins of the garden rose, and eight new herb beds in a Union Jack pattern, incorporating medicinal, culinary, dyers herbs and others.

Meanwhile a new raised ericaceous bed was created, with a small winding path through it, utilising some of the rocks from the old rock garden but containing the beds with oak sleepers to show students another type of construction material. Two other small gardens were in this area, the Japanese Garden and the 'Concept' garden. The latter was originally designed for Chelsea about 20 years before and a new garden had been planned on a regular basis but never instigated. I decided to completely clear this garden of plants while maintaining the same landscape features, although a new trellis had to be constructed. This became a sensory garden, with plants chosen for their emphasis on the five senses. I also used rocks, cobbles and other materials to create texture and a waterfall and wind-chimes to create sound. The Japanese garden had the smallest amount of make-over – many herbaceous plants were removed and most of the shrubs were selectively pruned to create a more minimal style. The area was re-gravelled and with the removal of the adjacent hedges the area became much lighter and more inviting to visitors. The Jubilee Beds had been planted with herbaceous plants to commemorate the visit of HM Queen Elizabeth II in 2002 and not been developed since. An over-large conifer was removed from the centre bed and the beds re-landscaped into a more modern and ergonomic design. The herbaceous plants were divided and replanted in colour groups, white in the centre surrounded by one bed for each primary colour.

Working at Bishop Burton was not a pleasant experience for me and although in an ideal world it would have been better to oversee the project for another year to ensure it developed, I left when it was completed. I had also separated from my husband and decided to move on to my narrow boat which I had kept as a holiday home. After nearly a year of travelling again in Spring of 2016 I launched my own Garden Consultancy business, Helix Hortensis, which I hope will bring me lots of interesting work. My membership of CIH (Chartered Institute of Horticulture) has also now been approved.



In front of the King penguin colony at St Andrews Bay, South Georgia



By Shackleton's grave where we toasted him with whiskey, South Georgia

Rebecca Bower – I've had a very enjoyable year and continue to love living in Exeter, though with frequent trips to London for my two charity Trusteeships - I managed to get one of the meetings to coincide with the

Guild Annual Dinner this year and was delighted to go to that. I've had several excellent holidays, the highlights being a three week trip to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula - I went to see King penguins and saw over a million so I was very happy - and a two week trip to Madagascar where I was lucky enough to see 17 different species of lemur, including the wonderful Indri. In the summer I was once again entertained by Stewart Henchie and his wife Pat at their excellent beach hut at Teignmouth!

Brian Dodds (1959) wrote in November to say that he plans to come over with his wife Pam for the 2017 Dinner, his first ever since leaving Kew and emigrating to Canada in 1969. He hopes to meet up with old friends Trevor Matthews, Trevor Preston, John Gaggini, John Strabel, David Taber, Haydn Bell and John Aldous amongst others. He can be contacted at briandodds@shaw.ca

Jim Emerton – I am publishing my sixth book of the year. The books are all available under my name on Amazon etc, including 'Book Countryman'. Mensa has issued me with an outstanding contribution award – a signed certificate from the board of British Mensa. In the November issue of Mensa magazine is a two-page feature of my life and work, and I have been asked to recite poetry in public. I maintain some contact with Bletsoe, Phillips, Log Whitehead, and Titchmarsh – all great individuals from the course of 1969-1972. I have retired into a world of poetry, philosophy, Mensa and pigeon racing – it suits. I have been featured in The Telegraph and Argus, on my new book 'More pieces of Jim Emerton'. The full article is available to read here: <http://www.thetelegraphandargus.co.uk/news/14846719.amp/>

Alex George – In 2016 I was delighted to have two visits from Kewites; Sylvia and Brian Phillips in October, and Jill and Roger Marsden in December. It was great to renew our acquaintance and catch up on happenings at Kew. Members using the Guild's website will have seen that I have begun to put up short biographies of people associated with Kew, a project initiated by Jim Mitchell during his term as President. These will include horticulturalists, landscape architects, botanists, collectors etc., going back to the beginning of the Gardens in the 18th Century. The pseudonym 'ozqite', by the way, stands for 'Australian Kew-ite'. Members are welcome to suggest or write new entries or send additions or corrections to those already done. These may be sent to me at a.george@murdoch.edu.au.

Besides gardening my main botanical activity in 2016 has been preparing a new edition of the book *Western Australian Plant Names and Their Meanings*. Compiled by a former State Librarian, F.A. (Ali) Sharr, the first edition appeared in 1978 and a second in 1996, the latter explaining more than 5,000 names. Since then a further 2,000 species, native and naturalised, have been added to the State's flora so the third edition will be enlarged considerably. Ali Sharr passed away in 2002 but asked me to 'look after' his book, should there be a demand for it. It has been out of print for some years and now appears a good time to reissue it. I expect to complete it by mid-2017.



Jenny Grundy wrote in late December: 'Jennifer Alsop and Richard Ward met with me during the late summer and as a result I have bequeathed a sum to the School of Horticulture to purchase books and equipment, together with my collection of over 400

books all signed by their authors. My late husband Peter and I got interested in plant Conservation years ago and I continue to support various projects: I sponsored a table for pond dipping at the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum, together with sponsoring a silver Bamboo there too. I make cards for the Linnean Society ‘Nature into Schools’ project; and Christmas cards for BGCI, together with five designs of plants extinct in the wild. Actions speak louder than words! Let’s hear what other Guild members are doing please.’

For almost ten years, **Colin Hindmarch** has worked with representatives of Europe’s tropical and sub-tropical Outermost Regions (ORs) and overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) on projects that support biodiversity research in support of sustainable development.

Colin (far left) moderating a session of the NetBiome-CSA final conference at the European Parliament, Brussels, on 6th April



These scattered and vulnerable outposts of Europe span the globe. They are mostly small, fragile islands and archipelagos with a rich diversity of marine and terrestrial habitats and a high degree of endemism. However, they are among the world’s most fragile and threatened environments and are often the first to feel the effects of human impacts and global change. They are also limited by small economies that are physically remote from centres

of power and constrained by complex and often tenuous links with their member states and consequently access to the resources of the European Union. This situation has made it difficult for them to protect the biodiversity that supports the livelihoods and well-being of their human communities (sensu Hindmarch, 2007).

Recognising the plight of the ORs and OCTs as ones of communication and coordination, the European Commission launched a Research Area Network (NetBiome) in a groundbreaking, bottom-up approach to managing biodiversity in support of sustainable development.

The degree of courage and imagination behind this initiative was remarkable. Not only was the project replete with daunting socio-economic and conceptual challenges, its management was complicated by five languages, eleven distinctive bureaucracies and the need to conduct business across a full range of international time zones. Nevertheless, the Commission’s bold and imaginative actions have been amply rewarded by the results of the programme. Significantly, in less than five years, NetBiome established a robust international network, refined and approved common research priorities, and mustered a 3.5 million Euro budget that was used to design and launch a Research Joint Call that produced seven highly successful research projects. It then secured a three year follow-up Coordination Support Action (CSA) programme, which has in turn paved the way for an EU Parliamentary Pilot project.

Colin feels exceedingly privileged to have been part of this groundbreaking initiative, first as a member of the NetBiome Executive board and work package leader, and later as a member of the NetBiome-CSA Advisory Board. In April 2016, Colin joined with his international colleagues in Brussels at the European Parliament, along with representatives of the European Commission and MEPs, to report on results of the project at the NetBiome-CSA final conference.

Reg Leach – I retired in 2012 after 42 years working for a number of local authorities managing their Parks and Open Spaces, including four years at Kew (1977 to 1981)



Karpas peninsula Cyprus

working with Jim Mateer in Arboretum South. I always remember Jim and still keep in touch with his wife. Jim was very supportive when I joined Kew as I had just arrived in London from Bristol. I also have fond memories of having a regular crop of Kew students who joined my team for short periods of time, as they rotated around the gardens picking up practical knowledge and experience. I had many great times with the students I got to know; both within Kew and outside its walls.

Prior to retiring I had been working for Richmond Borough Council, and I was determined to return York House Gardens Twickenham and Terrace Gardens Richmond back to their former glory. They had fallen into disrepair and needed a lot of money spent on them to restore them at a time when budgets were tight, but we managed it and for me it was a good conclusion to a long career. I continued to be a judge and committee member of Richmond Borough in Bloom after I retired, for another three years, until I moved out of London. I moved from Twickenham to Seaford in East Sussex in 2015 and I continue to be a judge and Trustee of South and South East in Bloom. I now have a garden that needs transforming here in Seaford and a neglected allotment to manage – once I have removed all the couch grass and bindweed! I also spend some of the year in Cyprus and have a garden there too.



Garden in Cyprus

Since I started out in Horticulture in 1970 there have been so many changes and financial pressures put upon the industry and on local authority parks managers - who try to continue providing high quality parks and open spaces in increasingly difficult times. The resilience of horticulturists to face up to these continuing challenges cannot be underestimated and I know that Kew Students, once armed with their Diplomas, will continue to fight for Horticulture and Public Parks.

Sylvia Phillips – In Autumn 2016 a holiday in Australia got off to an excellent start in Perth, where my husband and I met Alex George, the Overseas Representative of the Guild and one of our past Presidents. I knew Alex from his two stints in the Kew Herbarium as Australian Botanical Liaison Officer, so it was a pleasure to meet him again. Alex has an intimate knowledge of the West Australian flora, so we were lucky to have him as a guide when he took us to the hills outside Perth. The Australian flora is rather daunting to a newcomer as nearly everything is unfamiliar, and time in the field soon becomes a memory test!



Sylvia Phillips and Alex George

Particularly noteworthy were the many colourful species of trigger flower (*Stylidium*), with their unusual rapid-fire pollination mechanism, and also the insectivorous sundew species (*Drosera*). In England we are used to sundews being bog plants, but there were species from nutrient-poor dry ground, including a rambling species. A striking feature of the landscape are the ‘grass trees’, which are neither trees nor grasses but species of *Xanthorrhoea*, a slow-growing and fire resistant endemic genus in its own

family producing a thick stem topped by a large clump of leaves and a tall spike of numerous white flowers.

Alex also took us to Kings Park, the large park in Perth where Kew's previous Director, Steve Hopper, was in charge before coming to Kew. This park is a wonderful facility for the city, being mostly wild bushland but also including the Perth Botanic Garden. Displayed here are Australian native plants which are more familiar to us in England as cultivated ornamentals, such as *Banksia* species, named after Sir Joseph Banks, and the South West Australian endemic genus *Anigozanthos* (Kangaroo paw). We then bid farewell to Alex to continue our holiday elsewhere in Australia, where we saw many other fascinating plants of desert, bush and rainforest in this huge and varied country.



News from the Himalayas - by **Udai C. Pradhan** – Dear Friends old and new, warm greetings to you and your families from the Himalayas! Even as I suffered a second stroke a couple of months ago and almost lost my ability to speak or write coherently, the thought of doing this article for the Kewites brought positivity and strength. So gathering my will and my day-to-day notes and seeking help from my wife Tej and daughter Hemlata, I was ready to face the challenge of writing my yearly story!



Over the summer holidays Tej and I decided to take Aachuk, our 17 year old grandson to visit the flora rich habitats of East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya, Shillong in North East India. Our intention was to experience the famous Living Root Bridge mentioned in the Himalayan Journals by Sir J.D. Hooker as well as the Mawlynnong Village. It was a misty morning when our driver par guide took us to see the bridge, about three hours away from the hotel. By the time we reached there, it began to rain heavily. The locals

called this season “Monsoon magic.” The rain did not dampen our spirits though and after hiring umbrellas from the local people we began to descend downhill. The path was narrow and slippery, built of smooth volcanic stones and rocks, with only palm canes to lend us the necessary support and stop us from going over the edge. The climb down the steep slope felt endless (contradictory to the 50 odd feet that the villagers had promised us it would be!) but nevertheless, our enthusiasm kept building as we began to absorb the lush greenery surrounding us. We came across many epiphytic orchids and plants like *Tacca* and ferns along the way. After having covered over 250 meters of the pathway, we could suddenly hear the loud gushing of a stream in a deep gorge and then finally sighted the sheer brilliance of organic engineering that took our breath away - the Living Root Bridge.

Our guide informed us that there were two such bridges in Meghalaya. Using the aerial roots of the *Ficus* tree, the local Khasi and Jaintia peoples of the mountainous terrain have been responsible for hand-weaving an elaborate system of living bridges, some of which were even thought to be over 500 years old. This ingenious and age old construction technique uses flexible *Ficus* tree roots which are trained through betel tree trunks that have been placed across rivers and streams until the aerial roots attach themselves to the other side. Branches, sticks, stones, and other objects are used to steady the growing bridge. We were also told that the process was a lengthy one taking even up to 15 years for it to



Natural ponds formed on volcanic rocks in the cleanest village in Asia, Mawlynnong

become completely functional but could last for hundreds of years! As long as the supporting trees remained healthy, the woven aerial roots of the *Ficus* continued to self-renew and self-strengthen naturally. On the way back from the bridge we stopped by the breathtaking Mawlynnong Village. The village has won the title of the cleanest village in Asia whereby the credit goes to the local community for their collective efforts to maintain this pristine and sustainable environment. The people here told us that it was a tradition for them to keep their environment immaculate and their children

were taught in school how to keep themselves, their homes and their surroundings clean. What a wonderful way to instil responsibilities towards Mother Nature early on! Their closeness to nature also reflected in their day to day lifestyle so much so that even their dustbins were created from environmental friendly materials like bamboos!



Nepenthes khasiana
in-situ

As we took a walk around the village, Tej and I noticed that the folks were highly passionate about gardening. We were awestruck to see some wonderful varieties of exotic flora very unique to this region growing in most of the gardens. One such plant that immediately caught our attention was *Nepenthes khasiana* (commonly known as the pitcher plant). We had never experienced such specimen sized plants ever before. I can only imagine Sir Joseph D. Hooker's excitement and delight when he must have first discovered this species during his search for the plant. The name of *Nepenthes khasiana* Hook. f. was derived after him. Endemic to Meghalaya and the neighboring hills, this astounding species grows in open rocky slopes amidst grass, forest edges and dense humid primary forests at an altitude of between 1000-1500 metres. The plants have stunted growth in rocky places but can thrive really well in dense forests. The pitcher usually traps insects to compensate nitrogen deficiency in the soil although Sir Joseph Hooker makes a wonderful observation regarding the same in his travel log *The Himalayan Journal* as "its pitcher seldom contain insects in the wild state. Nor can we suggest any special function for the wonderful organ it possesses."

The plant has common names like: Ksete-phare, Memangkoksi, Tiewrakot, Tiew-rakot (in the local Khasi dialect) and Pitcher plant, Demon flower (in English). Pitcher plants are valued for medicinal properties and are used for treatment of diseases like diabetes, stomach ailments and gynaecological problems. The Khasi and Garo tribes of Meghalaya use the fluid of unopened pitcher plants as eye drops to cure cataract and night blindness. Unfortunately, deforestation, coal mining, road construction, landslides, grazing, over-collecting from the wild for trading etc. have become major threats to the plant population. Besides gardening, the people of Mawlynnong village depend on agriculture as their main source of income and livelihood and as we headed to the nearby Indo-Bangladesh Border, we passed by orchards and plantations that largely grew bay leaves, beetle nuts (*Areca*), black pepper, different kinds of fruits, broom plants. We even got a practical insight into the traditional know-how about edible betel nut processing!

All the while on this trip, we sighted the Khasi pines (*Pinus khasiana*) lining the hills. This pine species is endemic to Meghalaya and can be found at about 1495 metres. They have dry rough bark which makes wonderful hosts for epiphytic Orchids like *Vanda coerulea* Griff. ex Lindl., a species described in 1847 by William Griffith. I recalled the

feeling of wonder and excitement when I had first experienced the beautiful azure blue flowers blossoming profusely on pine trees many years ago on my first trip to Shillong. This time round though I was a little heartbroken to see much of the pine forests had undergone deforestation in order to grow local crops.



Vanda coerulea

At home, I wanted to experiment with growing *Vanda* outdoor, keeping in mind the natural requirements of the Orchid in its habitat. I felt that Kalimpong, with an average altitude of about 1,250 meters, humidity, open air circulation and cool conditions would be an ideal place. Taking some nursery grown plants, I chose a tall Orchid tree growing at the edge of our garden as the host. In time I observed that unlike the average growth they had in the green houses, the ones growing outdoors became quite massive, with a length of about three meters and the aerial root system

sprawling quite zaniily over the tree trunk. Last year during its flowering season, one of the plants gave us a 'eureka' moment as it produced not just one or two but three large flowering spikes! I took the opportunity to cross pollinate them with another large flowering specimen with flowers as large but much darker in colour. The seeds are now almost ready to be harvested, sown and propagated.

Whilst in Meghalaya, we also had an opportunity to visit the famous Ward's Lake. Looking at the history of the place we found a very curious story behind its creation. Long ago, a Khasi prisoner getting fed up of the daily routine in the labour camp, requested his warden for some creative time. He was granted permission to create the artificial Wards Lake. As we took a gentle walk along the cobble-stoned pathway around the horse-shoe shaped lake, we came across some truly exotic flora amongst which we sighted beautiful specimens of *Trachycarpus takil* and *Aesculus indica* the Indian horse chestnut! *Trachycarpus takil* is a species that is endemic to the Himalayan foothills and grows at altitudes of 1,800-2,700 metres. It is also one of the cold hardy palms to produce tall trunks (approximately about 10-15 metres). *Aesculus indica* is native to the Himalayas and grows at elevations of 900-3000 metres. It is a deciduous tree, with a straight trunk, and branches spreading out in whorls. It grows to height of about 22 metres with highly ornamental glossy leaves which are 10-20 centimetres long and 2-6 centimetres wide and they form a beautiful canopy. It flowers from June to July with plentiful white blossoms which the bees love and help pollinate. But what Tej and I found fascinating on the specimen we saw was that the colour of the leaves were more silvery-white.

As we ventured further along the village, we caught sight of some magnificent and fragrant trees of *Magnolia grandiflora* L. in full bloom. First described by Carl Linnaeus in 1759, this species is endemic to the southeastern United States where it is commonly used as a street or shade tree but it can also be found growing



Magnolia grandiflora

in warmer countries like India. They have a typically straight and erect trunk with spreading branches and large, thick, leathery dark green leaves with rusty, velvety undersides and can grow up to a whopping 90 foot! The beautiful white blossoms are divinely fragrant and have almost velvety looking petals which are 8-12 inches across. In autumn when the fruits mature, one can see beautiful bright red kidney shaped seeds hanging from little threads. In the Northeastern state of Manipur, India, local people call them

ootahmbal meaning ‘tree lotus’ – The white lotus-like flowers are much revered and used as an auspicious offering during prayers. A wonderful specimen of the tree also grows in my in-laws home in Kalimpong and I have noticed that they make excellent hosts for some epiphytic orchids like *Epiphenium*, *Ceologyne*, *Renanthera*.

On our return home from the rejuvenating trip, we found that two of our new orchid hybrids had come to bloom. The first one was a cross between *Odontochilus grandiflorus* x *Odontochilus elwesii* and the second one between *Arachnocentron Tipi Jubilee Star* x *Renanthera imschootiana*. I immediately wrote to Julian Shaw at the Royal Horticultural Society inquiring whether the former could be the first hybrid of its kind. And to my delight he wrote back saying that *Odontochilus* was the first recorded hybrid in the genus! The latter cross gave rise to a trigenetic hybrid so my proposal to call it ‘Pradhanara’ was accepted as a new hybrid genus. The details of the registration with the RHS is as follows:

- *Odontochilus* Elizabeth’s Journey {Odt.} {*elwesii*} x {Odt.} {*grandiflorus*}
- U.C.Pradhan
- Pradhanara Agni’s Grace {Act.} ‘Tipi Jubilee Star’ x {Ren.} {*imschootiana*}
- U.C.Pradhan



We decided on naming the new *Odontochilus* hybrid after Elizabeth Lepcha, our 15 year old adopted granddaughter. She has been taking a very keen interest in hybridising Orchids and this was a cross created by her. We took in Elizabeth when she was a young child of 7 years after we observed her fondness for learning about the plants and trees abounding around us. Hailing from an ancient hill tribe called the Lepchas, her love for nature must perhaps be in her genes! The Lepchas who called themselves “Mutanchi Rongkup”- (which translates as “Mother nature’s loved ones”) were well known for their knowledge of a multitude of poisonous and non-poisonous plants and other flora and fauna which was extraordinary and which may have stemmed from their intimate interaction with nature for all their basic requirements as well as passing of age-old wisdom through the years. No wonder great botanists like Sir Joseph Hooker and many others mentioned them in their writings as well as took them along in their travels to the wild!



Celestina Lepcha’s watercolour painting of *Passiflora edulis*

Meanwhile, another young Lepcha girl who proves her worth is Celestina Lepcha. A high school student now, Hemlata started training her in Botanical Art when she was 11 years old. But not only does she paint plants, her interest also lies in birds and animals. Like Elizabeth, her affinity to bond with the natural world is simply amazing and she is fearless which gives her the edge when it comes to venturing into forests and doing her own research and studies on plants whenever possible. She says that she would also like to one day study snakes!

On 29th of July, 2016 Dr. Magnus Liden, the past Director of Linnaeus Garden at the University of Upsala, Sweden, visited us along with his three sons. Magnus is a plant taxonomist involved with *Impatiens*, utricularias and primarily the family Fumariaceae (The Bleeding Hearts). He was a great admirer of Sir Joseph Hooker and wanted me to tell his boys about how Sir Joseph and Dr Campbell, his friend were imprisoned by the Sikkim Kings Minister. We talked about *Goodyerinae* and its significance and I showed and talked to them and gifted our little book on The Himalayan Jewel Orchids. Magnus is

working on plants of Arunachal with Krishna Chowlu and others from India and China and he says Arunachal is a treasure trove of plants to explore. He said his visit to our place was the highlight of this trip. A truly interesting time with a remarkable man and his three sons who were keen on seeing what their father did in the field.



In the meantime India is beginning to recognise botanical art and the demand for illustrators is on the rise. This brings positive hope to Hemlata and her art school and to the students whom she has been training for the last six years. The Director of Howrah Botanical Garden in Kolkata wants to send a team of student researchers this year for a short course in Botanical Illustration under her, and there are other individuals too who want to join in from other parts of India and abroad. So slowly but surely the little art school is finally getting its recognition! Meantime she is continuing with her painting as she hopes to one day be able to exhibit at the Shirley Sherwood Gallery at Kew.

Just recently we received a card from Lucy Hooker and her family. I will quote a part of her writing: “We have a big celebration at Kew in June to honour the 200th anniversary of Sir Joseph’s birth. There will be a big family gathering which is always interesting as we discover cousins we didn’t know we had!” And again she writes: “Jackson is showing quite an interest in Orchids – nothing too exotic yet but hopefully we’re training him in good habits of plant care.”

I had been reading a book called “The genes” by Siddartha Mukherjee before my illness and the author brings home with striking clarity the human heredity and its surprising influence on our lives, personalities, identities and choices. Genes are also the key to life and holds the details of our history and our future. So, with the dawning of the cyber age and unrestrained developments making its way rather quickly into the most remote corners of the world, we cannot help but wonder if people like Elizabeth, Celestina and Jackson with their natural affinity to nature can be trained into recognising and utilising what is already present so strongly in their genes to create a better world? There is hope too when small villages like Mawlynnong and its people are setting a perfect example of the wonderful synergy between humankind and nature when they work hand in hand, in love and harmony. Here again, we can see the passing down of age old traditions and beliefs through generations which can be encouraged further on to the next generation.

Quoting a few lines again from Diana Hooker’s letter to me in the past: “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. 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.”

Sir Joseph Hooker has touched many lives all over the world and is still doing so with his splendid contributions to Botany and Natural History. In June 2017, as his family gets together to honor his 200th Year Anniversary, we, as a small part of his Himalayan Family would like to express our profound thanks and deepest appreciation for showing us the way. Our very best wishes to all of you for the New Year.



Past President, Tony Overland and Membership Secretary, Sylvia Phillips, outside Buckingham Palace

Alan Stuttard – A Royal Invitation. In the autumn of 2016 the Kew Guild received an invitation from the Master of the Household at Buckingham Palace indicating that Her Majesty the Queen had invited three representatives of the Kew Guild to attend a reception to be given at the Palace. The reception was held to celebrate the Patronages and Affiliations of Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, the Hon. Lady Ogilvy, who is the Patron of the Kew Guild. On the 29th November your President, immediate Past President Tony Overland and Membership Secretary, Sylvia Phillips, attended the reception at Buckingham Palace which was held in one of the main reception galleries.

There was an amazing cross section of organisations represented and those present were numbered in their hundreds. After the initial speeches the guests were presented with a superb selection of hors d'oeuvres and copious amounts of champagne. At this point Her Majesty passed through the room holding conversations with many of the groups represented there. The Kew Guild representatives were lucky to be able to hold a lengthy conversation regarding our work with Her Majesty and she showed considerable interest in the support that we give to the students. She was particularly impressed with the practical aspects of their course and stated that in this age of new technology and the internet there was still an important place for those that could actually do the work.

The reception lasted for almost two hours and at the end it was a great honour to leave the Palace through those oft-photographed main gates. Your Past President's family were waiting to meet us and keen to take photographs which did give us the air of being "greeted by the press." All in all, a most memorable evening.

Peter Styles has had a busy professional year with the expansion of Lingard Styles Landscape Architects in both Welshpool and Shrewsbury. He wrote: 'In addition we are looking to set up a new associated company for the development of landscape projects in the Far East with a colleague based in Bali. By way of contrast new school projects in Bala, Newtown and Snowdonia keep us firmly UK based.

Continuing with our Welsh Historic Castle work we are developing a themed natural play area in the confines of Harlech Castle and a new cultural hub within the shadow of Conwy Castle. Both projects demanded the attention and approval of CADW - the Welsh Historic Building Commission. Residential work forms a large part of our work, initially with Landscape Visual Assessments and subsequently with detailed landscape plans for planning approval and contract implementation. Many of the sites are brown field with their inherent problems of ground contamination, access and often redundant industrial artefacts which are not conducive to successful plant establishment!

The diversity of landscape projects is the key to our continued success and an important area for new projects is in Guernsey where we are working on private residential projects and a feasibility study for a leisure scheme at Sausmarez Manor. We were also fortunate to secure a commission from The National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth to develop a planting scheme for the Brenda Colvin's University of Wales 1963 landscape project. The project required extensive research into the Colvin archives which is currently held at Reading University. Colvin was a champion of landscape architecture from 1922-1980 and was Past President of the Landscape Institute so it was a great honour to be walking



Whitchurch Hospital Garden by Lingard Styles

in her footsteps. A small landscape project for the NHS at Whitchurch Hospital involved the creation of a therapeutic garden set within the hospital grounds for use by patients, visitors and staff. The design brief called for the garden to be accessible for wheeled hospital beds to allow palliative patients to enjoy the garden. This turned out to be particularly poignant as one terminally ill and bed bound patient was able to enjoy a glorious summers day in the garden as her last wish before she sadly passed away. It is often moments like this that make my work so worthwhile. We have also completed a golf course based scheme in Hertford and are looking forward to further landscape projects with McMullens Brewery. 2017 looks set to be even busier.'

On a personal note Liz and Peter maintain close links with the Kew Guild and have been fortunate to attend several excellent weekend events in 2016, notably the trip to Cumbria in July organised by Graham Heywood.

Alan Titchmarsh – I'm frequently asked if I had a career plan. Short of wanting to be a gardener the answer is always 'no', but I do think that life has a habit of nudging you in certain directions – whether or not one responds to those nudges, or ignores them, is down to the individual. So it is that having started my career as an apprentice gardener, attending day release and 'night school', a year full time at horticultural college and then the three-year diploma course at Kew, I find myself with the kind of jobs I could never have envisaged as a fifteen-year-old school leaver. After two years as Supervisor of Staff Training at Kew I knew that I was ready to spread my wings – although the direction in which I might spread them was not at all clear to me. Then, one day, my immediate boss Leo Pemberton asked 'Who do we know with a literary bent?' Without thinking I answered 'me' and the next few years saw me become a gardening books editor, Deputy Editor of a national gardening magazine, a regular contributor to television and radio and an author in my own right.

All that began over forty years ago now – half a lifetime. The branching out into presenting programmes not connected with gardening happened when a broadcasting big-wig asked me if I had thought about doing any other kind of television. 'No', I said. 'Well, you should', he replied. So I did – and that is why this Kew student has presented not just Gardeners' World and Ground Force, but programmes as diverse as Songs of Praise and The Last Night of the Proms, documentaries about the natural history of the British Isles and Winnie-the-Pooh, The Queen's houses, a chat show on ITV that carried my own name and Masterpiece – a quiz show about antiques and collectables. I list these not as a boast but simply as an illustration of the diversity of opportunities that I've been lucky enough encounter. Mind you, it takes nerve to stick your neck out and take the road less travelled, especially when it comes to writing fiction. My tenth novel was published last year and I have learned to take the teasing since they've all managed to nudge their way into the Sunday Times Top Ten Bestsellers. But there is a danger that writing a career resume like this can seem vainglorious, and I am painfully aware of my good fortune. I'll carry on doing this and that – a gardener at the root of it all, but someone who still enjoys mental stimulation and 'performance challenges' in my working life.

I have resisted the lure of Strictly Come Dancing (the gardener's knees would be unlikely to cope with the lifts) and I'm blown if I want to inflict my grumbles on the nation in I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here.

By rights I should have retired a couple of years ago, but the great thing about being freelance is that you are allowed to potter on until you hop the twig – provided you can hang on to most of your marbles. (And if you lose one or two of them they will simply regard you as eccentric.) Anyway, four grandchildren under the age of six keep me young. (I lie – they keep me exhausted.) Every year or so I come back to Kew and admire the standard of cultivation which is, if anything, even better than when I was there in the early ‘seventies. My pride at being an ‘old boy’ will never fade. I’m still a gardener – I still cultivate the earth at home in Hampshire and on the Isle of Wight, and cannot imagine life without growing things. My missionary zeal will continue – on screen and off – until I can make it clear to everyone that by sowing seeds and growing plants we are doing our bit for the planet in the most practical way possible. That I am able to do so on the national stage is a blessing that I will never take for granted.

Sarah Wain and husband **Jim Buckland** (1980) are the proud recipients of the first ever Custodian of the Year Award for their 25 years of glorious gardening at West Dean College near Chichester, West Sussex. Jointly sponsored by Horticulture Week and Perennial, this award aims to recognise and celebrate the best of Parks, Gardens and Tree management, giving in-house gardens and green space managers working to ensure the best possible future for all kinds of green space, the chance to showcase their achievements, reward team effort and highlight to stakeholders the vital role they play.

Since this husband and wife team arrived in 1991 they have revitalised the 19th Century landscape of 92 acres which had suffered years of neglect following its heyday in the Edwardian era. They have overseen tremendous changes which brought the gardens international respect from both professional horticulture and the visiting public. The reinstating of the 300ft long Edwardian Pergola by Harold Peto and restoration of 14 Edwardian glasshouses within the walled Victorian gardens including the rethatching and reflooring of the summerhouses are only some of the improvements carried out by Sarah and Jim who met at Kew in 1980. Sarah is responsible mainly for the vegetable, fruit gardens and glasshouses and the renowned annual Chilli Fiesta. Jim meanwhile has a special interest in the ornamental and landscape gardens along with St. Roches Arboretum of 50 acres.

The presentation of their certificates by Neville Stein representing the industry charity Perennial, took place at Chelsea Physic Garden on 1st July 2016. Sue Ireland, Director of Open Spaces for the City of London, acted as host. The pair were also one of four who were short listed for the English Heritage Historic England Angels Award, an annual award to celebrate the efforts of local people who have saved historic buildings and places and go to extraordinary lengths to protect, save and share their local heritage.

John (Log) Whitehead – Botanical Peregrinations of the 196 Countries of the World.

The year 2016 was a milestone for us in North Wales. My partner Brenda March became a grandmother for the first time and I was pleased with accomplishing 47 years of adventurous botanical peregrinations, culminating in returning from my last country, East Timor, so completing the exciting mammoth task of finally visiting all 196 countries of the world. The obsession for global plant hunting was strongly influenced by botanical exploration whilst studying at Kew Gardens in 1969, where the wealth of the diverse plant world is found all in one famous historic place. During the following three years in the botanic gardens, the weekly plant identification tests fuelled the excitement for learning about plants from seeds to seasonal ornamental trees and historic glasshouses, botanically bulging with deserts and jungles of geographically themed floras of the world. Influential

curators and educational staff, herbarium botanists and laboratory scientists added to a polymath of renowned plant hunting personalities, instilling the quest for my exploration venturing into far off lands in search of wild plants, often in vulnerable natural habitats.

The answer to implement travel came in the form of scholarships. In 1970, a fellow student David Trevan and I planned a plant collecting expedition and Oleg Polunin advised us that the alpine flora of Macedonia required more exploration. We then submitted our expedition and gained the very first Travel Scholarship award of £40 by the Alpine Garden Society. At Kew in 1972, I was awarded the Thornton-Smith Scholarship to study the rare flora of the Seychelles. Finding only five plants of the endangered jellyfish tree *Medusagyne oppositifolia* and collecting for Kew the world's largest and heaviest seed, of the Coco-de-Mer or Double Coconut *Lodoicea maldivica*, first named from floating seeds found in the Maldives Islands, before the discovery of Seychelles islands and the natural habitat of the huge endemic dioecious palm. My adventures included botanising the fantastic vegetation zones on the equator of Mt. Kenya. An altitudinal journey from tropical jungle through temperate towering juniper forests, tree heathers and tree *Hypericum* and finally up into the amazing alpine zone with the giant pachycaul Tree Groundsel *Dendrosenecio keniensis*.

Eventually travelling via Easter Island, there were troubled times in Chile where I witnessed the zinging sound of bullets with overhead gunfire in Santiago on 11th September 1973 when the Chilean President Allende died in a military coup and urgently, with the help of the visiting evolutionist Professor George Ledyard Stebbins, I managed to escape by train over the Andean mountains to Argentina. During my time as a lecturer in arboriculture for 25 years at Merrist Wood College, Guildford, I spent seven years of my summer vacations in the 1980s leading groups of trekkers in the Andean mountains of Peru, for the expeditionary travel firm Exodus. We were vulnerable to more troubled times with the Peruvian terrorists, the Shining Path, so we always trekked in the Andes with armed security officers. For most of the time the problems were with the European group

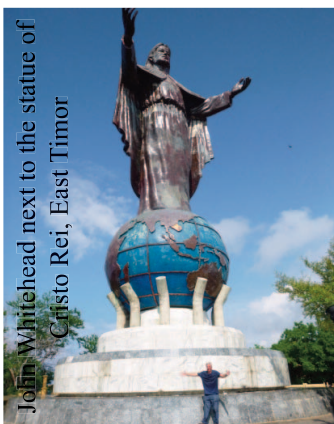
members, who often needed to combat high altitude sickness in the high Andes. Dangers became insignificant, when the rewards were seeing one of the Andean botanical wonders of the world, the 10 metre tall flowering inflorescences of the Giant Puya *Puya raimondii*, where the yellow bromeliad flowers are pollinated by the Giant hummingbird *Patagona gigas* in the magical alpine landscape within the tropical region of Peru.



John Whitehead (rear), Dr. Shirley Sherwood and Dr. Nigel Taylor

In January 2016, luckily all went well in potential troubled areas of war zones, minefields and terrorist activities whilst visiting Somaliland, Somalia and South Sudan. Later in the year in Singapore, I had an interesting meeting and tour of

Singapore Botanical Garden with the Director Dr. Nigel Taylor, who has now succeeded in two nominations and implementing Singapore and Kew as UNESCO World Heritage Botanical Gardens. The next day in the botanical garden I met Nigel on tour with the botanist Dr Shirley Sherwood, the Botanical Art collector for her Shirley Sherwood Gallery at Kew. It was followed by a fascinating visit to Singapore's Gardens By the Bay with futuristic tree towers and world class glasshouses. A significant event in 2016 was finally completing my baobab studies with a month visiting Eastern Brazil and a week in the war torn north of Sri Lanka. On the coral island of Delft, not far from India was a splendid big tree with creamy white thick



John Whitehead next to the statue of Christ the Redeemer, East Timor

flower petals resembling the Mountain African Baobab *Adansonia kilima*. I had visa problems when visiting Nauru as the island now deals with temporary camps for the boat people asylum seekers. For my next destination, it was easier with visa on arrival in East Timor where 7km east of the capital Dili, I celebrated visiting my 196th country by aptly standing next to the huge statue of Cristo Rei above a gigantic globe of the world.

On 21st April 2016 **Joan Woodhams** met Akiko Woolliams, the wife of the late Keith Woolliams (see Kew Guild Journal Vol.16 2011) who had come on a month's visit from Oregon to the UK in memory of her late husband for a trip with his sister, Divette. She had plans to visit Kew, Portsmouth, Isle of Wight, Bristol Bath and Wales.

They met in Richmond Park and had coffee together and a long chat about times past along with her sister in law Divette. Whilst in UK she also met with Cyril Giles (1960) who drove her around the Hampshire countryside to Winchester, where she was shown bluebell fields which she very much enjoyed. The picture shows Joan (right) and Akiko amongst the flower beds in Pembroke Lodge Richmond Park. Akiko now plans to move from Oregon to Hawaii in late July 2016.



Obituaries

Michael Augustine Arnold-Gilliat 30th April 1935 - 16th June 2016



Mike Arnold-Gilliat, variously known as Mike AG, MAG, the Dowager Chairman or just plain Gilliat, passed away peacefully on 16th June in Charing Cross Hospital, London, after a short struggle with pneumonia - he was 81. On hearing of his death, one of his contemporaries remarked that 'it would take a little time to get used to not having Mike there'. It will indeed; Mike AG was part of the very fabric of Cygnet RC, a quintessential administrator who always had his 'ear to the ground' and one who never missed an opportunity to network.

Born in Kennington, south London on 30th April 1935, Mike was a child of the Blitz. Bombed out of Kennington in 1941, the family moved to Bournemouth, where Mike secured an education at St Peter's School before passing the Civil Service entrance exam in June 1953. No sooner had he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) than he was whisked off to the Royal Air Force to do National Service. Not an obvious Wing Commander, Mike was dispatched to Signals on and around Salisbury Plain where it was felt that he could do relatively little harm. Returning to MAFF in 1955, Mike was initially assigned to the Legal Department where he made the acquaintance of John Bull, a coach at Cygnet who introduced him to the club in 1958. Little did the rowing world know what it was letting itself in for. Over the ensuing half Century or so the name MAG would become synonymous with civil service rowing in all its administrative guises on the Tideway.

Mike enjoyed his rowing, but he was not a natural oarsman and never won his Novices or Maidens as they were known in his day. Maidens were hotly contested in the early 1960s and Mike often recounted events like Evesham where thirty or more entries were not unusual. Still, he could always console himself with the social side of rowing and in 1972 he and a number of other Cygnets featured in a priceless advert for Double Diamond Bitter under the slogan 'I'm only here for the beer'. This billboard still enjoys pride of place in RG Benrath, Dusseldorf, an inter-club link first established by Mike together with Gordon Burden and Lawrence Mc Veigh in 1965 and one that remains very much alive to this day.

Rowing boats were one thing, but the labyrinthine committee structure of civil service rowing was quite another and Mike revelled in it, swiftly making his mark on the Cygnet committee. Having filled virtually every committee post in the 1960s, Mike would subsequently serve six years (1970-73 and 1980-81) as club captain and 18 years as club chairman. Civil service rowing thrived under MAG's first stint as captain and he was immensely proud to put his name to the entry form for Cygnet's first ever entry (under its own name) at Henley Royal Regatta in 1972 and again in 1973. Later, in 1980, he would rally to the cause again, stepping in as captain when the club was at a very low ebb.

Never one to take a back seat, when not commanding the higher echelons of Cygnet RC, Mike took up the reins first as boathouse secretary and subsequently as boathouse chairman, while also becoming involved in the broader Civil Service Sports Council, where he served on the Management Committee and as London Region Secretary. Mike became a Vice President of Cygnet in 1978, while his services to civil service rowing and the CSSC were formally recognized in 1982 when he was awarded the Civil Service Merit Award for services to sport and recreation.

Back on the Tideway, Mike became a qualified umpire and officiated at many local regattas and heads in the 1970-80s, as well as becoming entrenched in the organisation of Hammersmith Amateur Regatta (as Treasurer) and the Head of the River Fours (as Committee Member and Entries Secretary). Mike could be a very canny operator and was instrumental in securing long-term sponsorship from Fullers Brewery for both these events. Nearer to home, he transformed the Cygnet 300 club into a 600 club, greatly aiding the club boat buying programme, which would subsequently see not one, but two boats named Mike Arnold-Gilliat. MAG's enduring commitment to the wider world of rowing was recognized in 2002 when he received a British Olympic Association Award. However, arguably, the honour he coveted most was his election to Leander Club as a 'full pink' in 1998, a rare achievement for somebody who had never won his novices, yet one whose rowing CV ranked with the best of them in so many other respects.

No obituary of Mike AG could omit mention of 14 Vernon Road in Sheen, his home for almost fifty years. Countless Cygnet members came to regard Vernon Road as tantamount to a second home and, in a good many cases, a first home, as an army of club members became paying tenants at one time or another. Indeed, the early 1970s found the whole of the captaincy residing at Vernon Road and an invitation to a drink or dinner was a little like an audience at the White House. No deserving body, often 'under the influence', was ever turned away from Gilliat Towers and the back bedroom was always on hand for the 'tired and emotional'. But perhaps the institution that personified MAG best was the 'Gilligram' – hand-typed or written reminders penned by Mike, first as captain and later as boathouse and club chairman, these appeared with unerring regularity in the club letter rack, the forerunner of e-mails as we know them today. Often, these missives would be a summons to the White Hart or the Hare and Hounds to discuss the issues of the day. All the big decisions were thrashed out in one or other of these public houses, infused by the Aaaaabl – the absolute b***dy last – as Mike liked to refer to the last pint(s) of the day.

After an extensive career in MAFF, Mike's administrative skills were unleashed one last time on the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew (an outpost of MAFF). Never one to hog the spotlight, he was nonetheless proud that under his stewardship Kew Gardens won an award for some of the cleanest toilets in the land! Following early retirement at 55, Mike became a fully paid-up member of the Last Summer Wine set, which met at the boathouse every Tuesday and Thursday. He also took up globe-trotting, ably abetted by his travelling companion Andy Rawkins, ultimately spreading Gilligrams to virtually every continent on the planet.

Mike never tired of telling his GP that 'he was easily led astray' and, in truth, we were all complicit in his antics which were legendary, particularly at locations like the Flower Pot and Henley Royal Regatta. Gracious to a fault, Mike always dismissed these as apocryphal. Yet he remained an administrator to the last, helpfully penning notes for his own obituary. At Cygnet we are fond of proclaiming the demise of club grandees as the 'end of an era'; with the death of Mike Arnold-Gilliat, that epithet is amply justified, Gilligrams and all.

By Paul Rawkins

Frank Constable MBE, AHRHS, FI Hort
1921 - 2014



This is a belated obituary as Frank passed away aged 93, in the Spring of 2014. His wife Alice had passed away 13 days earlier also aged 93, and three days after her passing he had a stroke.

He began work at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire in the mid 1930s as an Apprentice for the sum of 12 shillings a week (equivalent now £38.69). J.G. Weston was the Head Gardener then and he was made an Associate of Honour by The Royal Horticultural Society. So key connections early on. Forty years later Frank received the same award. At Chatsworth he worked in and was trained in the glasshouses where fruits and a wide variety of plants were grown as well as the spacious pleasure grounds. Bert Liak was the General Foreman, guiding Frank and then giving him control of the extensive *Camellia* collection.

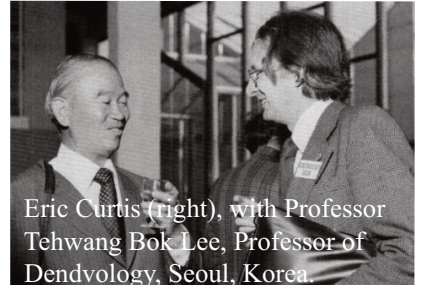
After Chatsworth, Frank attended the Midland Agricultural College (now The School of Agriculture, Nottingham University). This is now a university with worldwide influence. On completion of his studies there he took a Journeyman gardeners post in the gardens owned by Mrs N. C. Rothschild at Ashton Wood, Nottinghamshire. There he grew many types of fruit including amazing collections of grapes and orchids. Then the war came along. After this he became a student at Kew until he left in 1949 to return up North to Leeds.

In 1983 he retired from his post as City Parks and Recreation Officer for Derby City Council. He spent 22 years at Derby where he was responsible for recreation and extensive landscaping and maintenance work. In this capacity he was listed in The Civic Trust Awards in 1969 for the landscaping of the Derby Inner Ring Road. He had previously been Deputy Chief Officer at Bolton and Sheffield. His activities included being a member of The Joint Committee for National Awards and a committee member of The Royal Horticultural Society Examination Board. He became an advisor to The National Joint Council on Parks and Playing Fields Staff and a Derbyshire District Council Representative on the East Midlands Sports Council Planning Panel. He was a Governor of Derby Agricultural College and Chairman of The Horticultural Advisory Panel. He was

appointed as a Member of The British Empire for Services to Horticulture. So here was a Kewite who throughout his life extended his knowledge and focused a lot on passing it on through professional organisations.

Eric Curtis SDH MA FLS
10th September 1927 - 8th November 2015

Eric Curtis died on 8th November 2015. Before retirement he was curator of the Glasgow Botanic Gardens, and was Kew Guild President in 1989.



Eric Curtis (right), with Professor Tehwang Bok Lee, Professor of Dendvology, Seoul, Korea.

Although he spent much of his life in Scotland, Eric Curtis passed his formative years not far from Kew, in Acton and New Malden. He showed an early interest in gardening but always had the aim of working abroad. Kew, then with its reputation as a training ground for posts in the colonial tropics, seemed a natural starting point. Reality was a little different. When he began as a ‘boy’ it was still wartime. With a 6.30am early morning start ‘digs’ were found nearby ‘suitable for a business gentleman’ although the main ‘business’ on hand in those early days was scrubbing pots! He was called up for the Royal Air Force in October 1945, and volunteered to go overseas — but later found that this was said to be the best way to ensure a UK posting. For two and a half years he was to help with demobilisation at so-called ‘Personnel Dispersal Centres’. He maintained his interest and studies in horticulture and when the time came for his own ‘dispersal’ he went, with the help of a government grant, to take the Scottish Diploma in Horticulture in Edinburgh.

The next move was back to Kew and an eventual studentship from 1951-53 when time was served in the ferneries, tropical pits, temperate house pits and T-range. He was awarded the Dummer Memorial Prize for his collection of British flora and was secretary of the British Botany Club in 1952. He also did a stint as secretary and then chairman of the Students’ Association, the forerunner of the Students’ Union. Towards the end of his student days, Lewis ‘Lou’ Stenning, then Assistant Curator (Tropical), asked him to do some propagating back in the ‘trop pits’. This eventually led to his becoming foreman. At that time the opportunity to stay at Kew was especially welcome as, for family reasons, he felt unable to go abroad. He became assistant editor of the Kew Guild Journal, with Ernest Nelmes, and eventually editor in 1955.

The following year the post of Curator of Glasgow Botanic Gardens was advertised and, although hardly ‘abroad’, the idea of returning to Scotland appealed. The youngest candidate at the age of 29, the Director of Parks George Garside gave him a free hand and the injunction to ‘pull the Gardens round’, although with limited resources. Looking through the Kew Guild Journal we find that Eric is the fourth Kewite to occupy the post.

The Gardens had an interesting layout and included the Kibble Palace, a large and elegant Victorian glasshouse. The University retained special rights dating from the foundation of the Gardens in 1817. There was a historic link with Kew since Sir William Hooker, as Regius Professor of Botany, had spent 20 years in Glasgow where he much influenced the early development of the Gardens before his move to Kew in 1841 as Director. Funded entirely by the City, the Gardens were well used, but general floral displays had taken precedence over the educational role of a true botanic garden. The Gardens had suffered during the war—when tomatoes were the main crop — and in the years immediately afterwards.

Upon arrival, he was pleased to find a fellow Kewite, Gerald Rodway, in charge of the

orchids and keen to build up the collection which ultimately led to the 14th World Orchid Conference being held in Glasgow in 1993. Eric was especially keen to develop the botanical role of the Gardens. With great enthusiasm and his experience from Kew, he established a systematic garden, chronological border, herb garden and arboretum. Other outstanding collections were the tree ferns, filmy ferns and the begonias. Close work with an amateur enthusiast and breeder, ML McIntyre, led to the formation of a trust to promote work on begonias in Glasgow of which he was a life-long trustee, while Eric also added a collection of temperate plants to the Kibble Palace, which he arranged in a geographical order. Further collecting resulted from an expedition to Papua New Guinea in 1987, organised by the Botanic Gardens with the University's Botany Department and sponsored by the Trades House of Glasgow. It resulted in an exhibition on theme of conservation and the tropical forest at the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival.

He saw the development of the collections and their informative display as crucial, so he created many displays and exhibits on historical and conservation topics. His interest in the history of the Botanic Gardens resulted in him writing two books in his retirement, 'Kibble's Palace' (1999) and 'The Story of Glasgow's Botanic Gardens' (2006 and 2014). Soon after arriving in Glasgow, Eric became involved in the training of apprentices in Glasgow Parks and this led to his being responsible for a training scheme for all parks staff for a number of years. He also fostered the use of the Gardens in university teaching in both Glasgow and Strathclyde universities, which led to him been awarded an honorary degree by Glasgow shortly before his retirement.

Outside the Gardens, Eric was an active member of the Glasgow Natural History Society, including editing the Glasgow Naturalist. With an interest in building conservation, he was an early member of the New Glasgow Society and later the committee of the Glasgow West Conservation Society and the first Convener of the Friends of Glasgow West. He was always been fascinated by Scotland's history and countryside, especially Argyll, where the family - Mary his wife, and two sons - rejuvenated an early 19th Century cottage. We pass on our condolences to his family.

Geoffrey T. Naylor

British Association of Landscape Industries National Chairman (BALI) 1980-81
1927 - 24th September 2015



It is with great sadness that we heard of the death of former BALI National Chairman Geoffrey Naylor in September at the age of 88. He died following a short illness and his funeral was held in Derby on 24th September.

Geoffrey was a much respected and revered BALI Chairman in 1980-81 at a time when the association was beginning to change the landscape industry for the better. His business, Hydraseeders Ltd, had been truly innovative when it was first established in 1968 and took a leap of faith by Geoffrey, as did being one of the early members of BALI. His commitment to the association, which continues through his son James as managing director of Hydraseeders Ltd, was exemplary and he continued to follow BALI's fortunes once he had fully retired from 'active duty'.

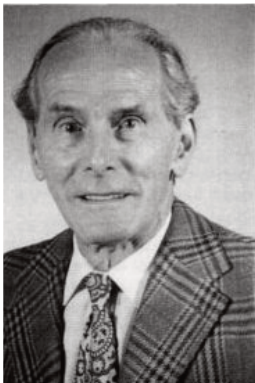
In the eulogy at his father's funeral, one of Geoffrey's two sons said: "My father was a man of strong opinions and principles - he was a big presence in his family's lives and will leave a large void. He was, as my cousin Julie described this week, 'a wonderful, old-fashioned, true gentleman; the last of his kind.' As I think and remember him there is one thing that really stands out - his tremendous zest for life. He loved his sport, being a

lifelong fan of Derby County, golf, and travel, taking us in the seventies to exotic places such as the Costa del Sol and, later, taking my Mum and sister Kate to the USA as the Chair of BALI, which he thoroughly enjoyed.

Dad was born in 1927, just missing out on serving in World War Two. He seems to have grown up in a happy family with his sister Marjorie and brother David. He worked with my grandfather on the family market garden in Coxbench. He loved to tell us stories such as on a winter's day being forced by his father to get up at 5.00 am to pick Brussels sprouts covered in ice - character building he would say to us, his lay-about teenage sons!" Geoffrey is survived by his wife, Mary, whom he married in 1951, and by his three children and six grandchildren. We offer them all our very deepest sympathies.

This is an Obituary published by The British Association of Landscape Industries.

A. Granville Turley
1924 - 9th January 2017



Granville passed away Monday 9th January at Vicarage Farm Road Care Home in Hounslow. He had been suffering from a chest infection for a short time and died of bronchial pneumonia; thankfully he did not suffer for very long. Granville was born in Handsworth, Birmingham in 1924 when the majority of gardeners were allotment holders producing fruit and vegetables for the family. On leaving school evening class was necessary in order for him to gain a certificate whilst working as an Apprentice Gardener. He followed this with a year working under glass with Birmingham Parks. Then he was called up for active service in The Royal Signals. After the war he received a great opportunity as he was accepted as a Student Gardener at Kew. This expanded his love of plants enormously although he did speak of the undesirable conditions in the Iron Room where students gathered. After leaving Kew he joined Ealing and Kingston-Upon-Thames Parks Department specialising in nursery management and floral decorations.

In 1958 he became Garden Manager at Norwood Hall Horticultural College. He gained a Teacher's Certificate at Chiswick Polytechnic and lecturing to adult classes and gardening clubs widened his horizons. For over 40 years he was a member of The Middlesex Environmental Studies Association, founded by the late Frances Perry in 1948. His association with The Kew Guild has been constant for many years. He remembered that the 1949 Dinner was held at the Clarendon Restaurant, Hammersmith when Dr Turrill was President. He retired in 1985 but his links to The Kew Guild remained. He was a Trustee of The Kew Guild. Every year, from the year 2000 to the present day, he made a generous donation to The Kew Guild as part of the Phillip and Granville Turley Trust. In 2008 he was awarded The George Brown Award and in 2016 he was awarded Honorary Membership of the Kew Guild.



He was a great visitor and attended gatherings at RHS Shows, outings to National Trust Gardens and still lectured, including presentations to The Mutual Improvement Society. He was a staunch supporter and worked with St. Leonard's Church, Heston, for many years. In 2013 although leaning on walking sticks he accompanied Alexandra Partridge (nee Ward) at the Kew Guild AGM (see photo). Richard Ward represented the Guild at his funeral on 2nd February 2017. We send our condolences to his family.

John Warrington
January 1936 - August 2014



John Warrington, passed away in August 2014 shortly after midnight in Oldham, Manchester, where he had been living for some years before his passing away. His friend Robert Barrow has said he had not been in good health for a long time. He had been living in Guyana (having initially visited to conduct research on behalf of Kew) since the early 1980s, before moving back to the UK on a permanent basis in 2003.

John was born in Salford, Manchester, January 1936. His horticultural career started at an early age at Heaton Park, graduating to Curator at Birmingham Botanic Gardens via RHS Wisley. In the early part of the sixties he spent a great deal of time living in a part of London called St. John's Wood, which just happened to be the district where the Marylebone cricket club ground is to be found. Those of you who follow that most beautiful of all games will know that Lords Cricket ground is the home of cricket, and it was his good fortune to come to know the head groundsman there. He used to talk for hours about his work, and his views on worms were always revealing, and as soon as the tell-tale casts appeared his staff were out there getting rid of them. In his time at Kew he enriched his knowledge to an enormous extent and as is so often the case so much of what Kewites are aware of is never revealed. Look at the website Stabroek News, covering some of his work in Guyana - much is very relevant to today.

A hint of things to come in the picture where I am talking to him, yes at Kew but with a home of tropical plants in the background. Destiny revealed. Stewart Henchie also has some memories. Stewart remembers John when he was a Diploma student (1970-1973). This was when students were allocated to an assistant curator especially when he was being mentored by Brian Halliwell. He lived in the Gables on Kew Green in the house that George Preston occupied for a long time. His partner was Sue French and they had a daughter Alexina who often played with Stewart's children when they lived in Kew Cottage. When they left Kew he went to Guyana, and we think Sue and daughter went to Barbados in 1981. He wrote regularly a 'Gardeners Diary' for the Stabroek News and his last article seems to be December 2011.

Robert Barrow said that Warrington first came to Guyana in 1983 to collect pitcher plants from the area around Roraima for Kew Gardens. It was here he met his wife Safora, with whom he had two children. They eventually settled down in New Providence, where he pursued his botanical interests on a very modest scale, while also maintaining an interest in Guyana's Botanical Garden. Passion for plants endured and he wrote over 700 weekly articles; 'A Gardeners Diary' in the Guyana National newspaper until 2012 and was involved in several significant landscaping projects (most available online if you fancy some light reading). He engaged in charity work in Guyana and was passionate about renovating the leper colony, which was in total disrepair, and once completed he handed this over to the Rotary Club to maintain.

He also worked closely with the British High Commission to stage an annual interfaith service, which was attended by diplomats or representatives of all Commonwealth nations residing in Guyana, and arranged for the Queens speech to be read by a student at the Anglican Cathedral on Commonwealth Day for



The photograph shows Assistant Curator John Warrington taking a drink with 'Obits' compiler and Committee member Graham Burgess, during the concert.

the last seven years before returning to the UK. He also had a spell in the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx and lived in Barbados for a year. He retired from curating after returning to Guyana from Barbados, where he was the General Manager of the Andromeda Gardens. John had six children in all.

Luana Wren

28th June 1923 - 20th June 2015

A eulogy by Jonathan Wren



Over the next few minutes, I would like to bring so many threads together of Luana's long and generally very happy life. I was fortunate enough to know my mother for more than half a century and I can think of at least a couple of people in the congregation today, who could claim even greater years in this respect.

One of those common threads which ran all the way through Luana's life was her love of the church and all it stood for and of course the church community. So many of you here today are Luana's friends from years now gone by. Friends from choir practice, from flower festivals, from harvests and all the many other aspects of the church seasonal calendar. A calendar which was very much Luana's own body clock over the vast majority of her overall life and wherever she lived.

Luana was born in 1923 into what must have been a very different world than we live in today. A birth and childhood sandwiched between the unprecedented scale of worlds at war. What incredible influence this must have had on families and the people who grew up against this backdrop. I am fortunate enough to have lots of photos of my mother's childhood as the youngest of a family of three sisters and one brother. This was a different world and although harder times were to come, the early photos reflect an unfamiliar and now slightly amusing world of maids and governess. All of this, against the harder and gritty backdrop of the family connection of that time to the Sheffield steel industry.

Luana in her own way was a very determined fighter. She was of that generation which had been through huge change and one whose attitude and approach was that of making the best of events and battling on. She was still singing "pack up your troubles" to me from her nursing home bed a matter of weeks ago! Luana had resilience about her and I think the best attitude towards life. In fact, it was that attitude and love of life which saw her through into her nineties, although for years she had many physical challenges to accept and overcome. It struck me the other day when composing this Eulogy, that over all the years I have been visiting my Mother in the nursing home, I actually could not recall ever hearing her complain (apart from the occasional reference to the food!). Equally, she was never accepting of illness and always considered she should be capable of much more (and for that matter me, if I fancied a day off school as a child!)

My mother trained in horticulture, first at Studley College in Warwickshire and then moving down to work at Kew Gardens in London, in the latter years of the war. On meeting a certain amount of prejudice to women from one particular supervisor at Kew, my mother recounts that she and friends embroidered his work apron with flowers and lace overnight, which embarrassed him into silence for a while. Luana loved to have fun and could see amusement in so many aspects of life and there was always something of a spirit of adventure in her. Back in her earlier years she formed, with her sister, the first women's cricket team of the Surrey village of Ripley. I have a lovely photo at home of the women in fancy dress, having just thrashed the men at their own game.

The trail from Yorkshire, to Derbyshire over adolescent and teenage years, then eventually led to another couple of happy decades living in Surrey. This gave her the opportunity of applying and being accepted to join the Royal Choral society. She so often recounted her happy experiences of jumping on a 'Greenline' bus after work and heading off to her much loved Albert Hall. It was also at about this time, prior to the distractions of husband and son that Luana achieved writing and illustrating her book "The Children's Garden", under her then maiden name of Luana Wells. Although out of print now, I and family members still retain treasured copies on our bookshelves.

In the late 1970s, my parents decided to come to live here in Saint Margaret's. What a happy life my mother made for herself across the six parishes and churches of this community over those next decades. She tried keeping most things in terms of livestock, including Ryeland sheep, guinea fowl and even a peacock for a while, all much I am sure to the amusement of the real farmers of the parish! Luana's marriage to Chris was a long and happy one. My mother always loyally supported him in his work and through life's many up and downs. She was the sustenance and the cups of tea behind his craftsmanship. Later when she became frail and in need of help, she received the devoted attention of Chris and in their older years they still were fortunate to be able to share precious time together, plenty of laughter and love.

Look at this website: <http://www.karenwren.co.uk/luanawren/index.html>.

Our thanks to Graham for his dedication to voluntarily carrying out this difficult job for the Kew Guild. (Ed).

**The Kew Guild Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2016**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2016	Total 2015
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOMING RESOURCES						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations and legacies	2	1,461			1,461	1,263
Income from Investments						
Investment income and deposit interest	3	14,322	7,291		21,613	21,342
Income from charitable activities						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Membership Subscriptions		9,993			9,993	6,809
Annual Dinner		3,875	-		3,875	3,558
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-
Other events and income		809	-		809	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	-		-	-
Total income and endowments		30,460	7,291	-	37,751	32,972
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on Charitable activities						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		2,501	-		2,501	1,512
Journal of The Kew Guild		7,566	-		7,566	6,963
Annual Dinner		4,012	-		4,012	3,966
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	88
Seminar & Filming		-	-		-	625
Newsletter		16	-		16	62
Presidents' name bars		-	-		-	-
Presidents' medals		50	-		50	771
Other events and membership activities		562	-		562	-
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	-	4,616		4,616	7,479
Prizes	5	605	25		630	630
Student fellowship		150	-		150	140
Kew Guild Medal		359	-		359	727
Other Expenditure						
Membership database		(394)	-		(394)	4,340
Administrative costs		3,097	-		3,097	2,643
Other expenditure		309	-		309	1,665
Total Expenditure	6	18,833	4,641	-	23,474	31,611
Net gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	36,559	7,467	11,469	55,495	6,662
Net income/(expenditure)		48,186	10,117	11,469	69,722	8,023
Net movement in funds for the year						
		48,186	10,117	11,469	69,722	8,023
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	434,926	79,536	112,635	627,097	619,074
Total funds carried forward	12	483,112	89,653	124,104	696,869	627,097

The Kew Guild Balance Sheet As as 31 December 2016

		2016		2015	
	Note	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		600,494		544,998
Current assets					
Stock of Kew Guild medals			1,077		1,436
Debtors	9		4,894		3,904
Cash at bank and in hand	10		95,834		84,079
Total current assets			101,805		89,419
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11		(5,430)		(7,320)
Net current assets or liabilities			96,375		82,099
Total net assets or liabilities			696,869		627,097
The Funds of the Charity					
Endowment funds	12		124,104		112,635
Restricted funds	12		89,653		79,536
Unrestricted general fund	12		100,642		58,545
Unrestricted designated funds	12		382,470		370,718
Total unrestricted funds			483,112		434,926
Total Charity funds			696,869		627,097

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 28 March 2017 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.



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