

# THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



**Founded in 1893**

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

## **Events of 2017**

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**Kew**

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## The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

### The Kew Guild Committee 2017-2018

#### Officers:

President:	Jean Griffin
President Elect:	Peter Styles
Vice President (elected 2017):	David Simpson
Past President:	Alan Stuttard
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:	Brian Phillips
Publicity and Promotions:	Jean Griffin
Website Manager:	Jonathan Rickards

#### Committee Members:

<i>Retire 2018</i>	<i>Retire 2019</i>	<i>Retire 2020</i>
Peter Styles	David Simpson	Leo Pemberton
Susan Urpeth	Jean Griffin	David Hardman
Stewart Henchie	Harold (Graham) 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

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**Editorial**

Dear fellow Guild members,

As your Events of 2017 Journal starts its journey to the Printers your hardworking Guild Committee succeeded in winning official approval from the Charity Commission to become a Charity Incorporated Organisation.

We are assured of many advantages, and a potential to expand membership and the range of activities within the Guild. Following the 2018 AGM our new Trustees will be firmly in the driving seat. A giant step for the Kew Guild has been made by a dedicated band of members, and they deserve your sincere thanks.

Reading through this Journal you will see that much ‘copy’ is made up of regular annual write-ups. These provide our history from year to year. When Award Scheme grants are made the rules require recipients to submit a resumé of their endeavours. We also seek to promote one-off articles of interest. Can you excite us in the next Journal and go down in history? Contact the Editor now.

Happily our memberships revived considerably over this year, but we do invite you to invite eligible colleagues and friends to join/rejoin. We note that many correspondents in this Journal are not paid up Guild Members! With a bit of luck, by the time you read this, applications will be dealt with electronically.

The Guild welcomes members to stand as Committee Trustees. Just contact our Secretary.

We thank all Contributors to our Journal this year, particularly David Cutler for Botanical proof reading, Pamela Holt for News of Kewites and Events, and Graham Burgess for Obituaries.

Floreat Kew

Sparkle Ward  
Richard Ward

Editor  
Advisory Editor

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



I was born and brought up in South Wales and, from an early age, was a budding gardener. My grandfather, a sheet metal worker, was a grower and ‘shower’ of chrysanthemums and from helping him in the greenhouse a lifelong interest in growing plants emerged.

I started in Neath Parks Department as a trainee gardener, moving after a year to do a two year course in horticulture at Studley College in Warwickshire. Then came the real world of proper work. I moved to Bagshot in Surrey to work as an apprentice at John Waterers Sons and Crisp, a famous nursery within the industry. Mike Clift and I shared ‘digs’ and a connection was made with Allan and Joan Hart, Kew friendships starting already! Experience was gained in all sorts of propagation under the watchful eye of the nursery manager, Percy Wiseman of *Rhododendron yakushimanum* fame. At the end of the year Mr Wiseman asked me what my plans were. I told him that The Waterers Company had offered me a chance of setting up a Garden Centre at the Reading Nursery, The Golden Mile, near Reading. When I told him I had also been offered a place at Kew, Mr Wiseman said ‘Go there my dear, Garden Centres will never take off’. How little did he know!

Kew...The magical word. Another Neath resident was also at Kew in a much more exalted position than a humble student, namely Dr Keith Jones.

After Kew there were many changes, marriage, two daughters and various jobs to keep my knowledge alive and current. After an interesting couple of years running a mushroom farm near St Ives, I moved to West Sussex and was offered a position as lecturer in commercial horticulture at Brinsbury College. I stayed there for 18 years ending up as Head of Horticulture and Special Needs (as it was called then!) In order to make the College better known and to encourage students within the industry to partake in horticultural education, I was asked to co-write the first ever NVQs and then later became an internal and external verifier for City and Guilds and the National Proficiency Tests

Council. The late David Gatherum from Warwickshire and I were instrumental in writing the first qualifications for students with learning disabilities for NPTC.

Following retirement from the College, I have become a judge and Trustee for South and South East in Bloom and London in Bloom. For the past 25 years I have also been part of the local BBC Radio Surrey, Sussex and Kent and am a regular 'expert' on the gardening programmes, this brings in the requests for talks to Horticultural Societies across the South East. All this stems from the wonderful experience of working in the hallowed environment of Kew which has facilitated all my experiences, friendships and plant knowledge.

I was astounded to be elected as President of the Guild, an honour indeed and hope that I have, in some small way, been able to give something back by supporting the Guild in the work it does to keep friendships and connections alive and by encouraging students and others to take part in the events and awards offered by the Guild. It is indeed Floreat Kew!

### **Peter Styles** President Elect

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 née 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 LB Ealing architects department and as group leader setting up a new team of landscape architects at the LB 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 Government's 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.

### **David Simpson** Vice President

It was an honour to be elected Kew Guild Vice-President for 2017-2018. I 'retired' from Kew in October 2015 after a 30-year career in the Herbarium and I am now an Honorary Research Associate, usually spending two to three days a week at Kew.

Currently I am a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin and a member of the Flora of Thailand Editorial Board. In 2017 I spent some time in Thailand, where I gave a keynote address at the 17th Flora of Thailand Conference held in Krabi. Other interests include birdwatching, astronomy, archaeology, walking and vintage railways, and of course, my family. I continue to enjoy gardening but my horticultural skills are more attuned to gardening of the wildlife kind! Further details can be found in the Events of 2015 Journal (New Committee Members Report p. 517).

### **New Committee Members**

No new Committee Members were elected in 2017. The AGM agreed that the Committee Members of the 'old' charity, were en bloc approved to serve on the committee as ordinary members until the next AGM. New Committee Members are to be elected once the new Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) is implemented. Please see Minute 12.17, CIO recommendation number 6 for more information.

Following the successful completion of the CIO, the Constitution/Rules will be reviewed, and wording may have to be changed. Recommendations from the Trustees will then be taken to the AGM in 2018.

## **Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of The Kew Guild held on Saturday 9th September 2017 Jodrell Lecture Theatre, RBG Kew**

### **Those present**

#### **Committee:**

Alan Stuttard	David Hardman
Jean Griffin	Stewart Henchie
Peter Styles	Graham Heywood
Sylvia Phillips	Bryan Howard
Sara Arnold	Jim Mitchell
Linda Baharier	Tony Overland
Pamela Holt	Leo Pemberton
Chris Kidd	Martin Sands
Sparkle Ward	David Simpson
Jonathan Rickards	Ian Lamont Smith
Astrid Purton	Peter Styles
Graham Burgess	Tim Upson
Alex George	Susan Urpeth

**Members:**

Jennifer Alsop	Roy Jones
Mike Clift	Jill Marsden
Jenny Edmonds	David Matthewman
Tricia Fisher	Brian Pitcher
David Frodin	Diana Polhill
Harvey Groffman	Martin Staniforth
Allan Hart	Mike Wilkinson
Colin Hindmarch	Tom Wood
Colin Jones	

**Guests:**

David Edmonds	Jan Overland
Joan Hart	Brian Phillips
Eira Heywood	Wendy Staniforth
Julian Heywood	Diana Stuttard
Valerie Hindmarch	Liz Styles
Liz Kidd	

**Apologies for absence****Committee:**

Richard Ward  
David Cutler

**Members:**

Richard Bisgrove	Gordon Fraser
Shahina Ghazanfar	Mike Griffin
Cyril Giles	Bente Klitgaard
Roy Lancaster	Simon Owens
Anna Pavord	Graham Ross
John Sales	Valentine Tynan

**01.17 Welcome by the President Alan Stuttard**

The President opened the meeting at 2pm and thanked everyone for coming. There has been a good turnout and members joined us from all around the world. The President commented on the successful refurbishment of the Lecture Room.

**02.17 Apologies for Absence**

There were numerous apologies for absence. It is particularly noted that Richard Ward could not join us today as he is recovering from an operation.

**03.17 Notice of Death of Members**

The President asked members to stand in silence to remember those friends that have passed away during the year; Pauline Himson, Granville Turley and Mary Gregory (who passed a while ago but we have only just found out) and any others we may not be aware of.

**04.17 To approve the Minutes of Annual General Meeting of 10th September 2016 printed in the Journal, Volume 17 Number 121 at pages 11-22.**

Amendments to Minutes: David Hardman and Graham Heywood were both in attendance but were not included in the minutes. The minutes of the meeting of the AGM were

approved and signed by the President as a true record of the meeting.

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

There were no matters arising not being dealt with below.

### **06.17 The Acting Honorary Secretary's Report – Sara Arnold**

SA asked members present to make sure they had signed the attendance sheet. The Guild have met five times during the year. Meetings were not well attended this year. The October, December and March meetings were not quorate and decisions were ratified after meetings by e-mail. In February, the meeting was quorate with 10 members attending. The June meeting was the best attended.

I would like to clarify use of wording in agendas, minutes etc – the word 'Trustee' will refer to those who have control or powers with a legal obligation to administer the Guild (see report 15.17 for a list of Trustees). The word 'Committee' will refer to those members of the Kew Guild (trustees, members, volunteers and paid consultants) who sit on the main Committee and Sub Committees. The words 'voting member' will be used for those members of committees who have a vote on proceedings (trustees and members but not volunteers or paid consultants). I will check reports for consistency throughout the year.

I am now uploading things to the website on a regular basis and this is going well. I am happy to carry on. The website committee page needs an overhaul and this will be a priority for the 2017-18 Guild year. I will also be looking into utilising the database more fully. The dates for meetings for next year will be distributed asap.

### **07.17 Voluntary Treasurer's report – Linda Baharier – Financial Statements printed in the Journal at pages 119–120.**

#### **The accounts for the year ended 31.12.2016**

The restricted funds increased by £10,117 and the unrestricted funds increased by £48,189. While interest rates have remained low the value of our investments increased due to an upward trend at the end of the year but this has already been both up and down since due to the volatility of the world market.

Income in 2016 totalled £37,751 of which £9,993 was from subscriptions, £21,613 from our investments and £1,461 from donations and £4,684 from other. We are very grateful to the Philip & Granville Trust for their kind donation of £1,220.

Awards and prizes of £5,246 were made. £7,566 was spent on producing of the Journal, which was of an excellent standard. The website has now been moved from Som-Com which in the long term will not only bring the cost down but gives us more control of our own site, including setting up the new site the cost this year was £1,797 which include one payment to Som-Com of £398. The membership data base is more or less and running now with only a charge of £688 against it but this will need some work when we go over to Direct Debits. Governance costs which are now called Other Expenditure and Administrative Costs were £3,012 this year, of which £2,839 was for secretarial costs.

There were unrealised gains on the Guild's investments of £55,496, but this was due to an unexpected jump in the market at year end. The endowment funds are invested in the Charities Official Investment Fund Units.

£124,104 in the endowment funds, £89,653 in restricted funds, £382,470 in designated funds and £100,642 in the unrestricted general fund have been carried forward to 2017. I would ask you to accept these accounts. I would also ask that you approve the appointing of an Independent Examiner or Auditor for the annual accounts of 2017.

Linda explained the costs of the Journal. Production costs are everything involved in getting the journal out. This figure should be lower as things have changed.

### **08.17 Honorary Membership Secretary's report – Sylvia Phillips**

<b>Membership Type</b>		<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Standard	Kew Staff	40	36
	Other	224	222
Kew Diploma Students		37	24
Library		1	1
Life		4	5
Honorary	Fellows	17	17
	Members	3	3 (4)
<b>Total</b>		<b>326</b>	<b>308</b>

SP thanked our first year student Sal Demain for doing such a good job in encouraging students and supporting the committee. Returning lapsed members: Nine lapsed members have re-joined. SP thanked Stewart Henchie for his help in calling up lapsed members.

Life Members: Margaret Benham; Eric Grant; Charles Parsons; Esme McCulloch. Honorary Members: Our Patron, Princess Alexandra has been taken out of the numbers. Expired membership: about 30 who paid their 27 late and have not paid this year. Deaths: Pauline Himson, a life member who was at Kew 1948/49 and lived in Tasmania. Granville Turley a life-long supporter of the Guild.

Publicity: After discussion with the Head of Operations in HR, she had helpfully agreed to a copy of a publicity flyer be included in new staff starter packs. 200 were printed in June and we shall assess their effectiveness. Will assess if this was good when all flyers have gone. I have been in contact with all students who are leaving and gave them forms. Have also spoken to new intakes, all took forms. The electronic version is being sent to leavers.

Life members: all joined in mid 1940s. SP asked if any members had any information about the life members. The Guild will assume they are alive unless we are informed otherwise. SP to follow up.

AS thanked Sylvia for the amount of work she has put in and how it was very pleasing to see numbers grow. SP commented she would like more people from horticulture to join and is looking forward to seeing the work continuing so numbers start to creep up again.

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

It is now many years since I took on this post with a brief break some while back.

Whilst I have enjoyed my time as Events Officer the time has come to step down particularly as I am a Parish Cllr. and training to become a Horticultural show judge. This year proved successful both in terms of weather and attendance. In fact, the trip to Guernsey was oversubscribed in a matter of hours. Our President will highlight some of

our visits in his report and you can read about them on our website and in the Kew Guild Journal.

Apart from visiting new places, behind the scenes tours, private gardens or cutting edge garden and landscape designs; these events promote the bonds that link us together. The meeting of like-minded people who delight in catching up and discussing new or traditional techniques of horticulture that are often overridden by the friendships that are fostered meeting in various parts of the country.

Do consider taking on the post of Events Officer. If you are clever it can be a facilitator role. Find someone who works at an unusual or interesting place. If they are willing to arrange a visit in their neck of the woods encourage them! Derbyshire was a good example and I thank my friends Jean and Rod Peach wholeheartedly for the action packed and socially enjoyable weekend.

PH thanked everyone for their attendance on the visits which exceeded expectations this year were hugely successful. AS asked how long PH had been Events Officer; PH replied since approx. 2008. AS thanked her for all the personal effort she has put in over the years. Members gave her a round of applause. See Appendix 2 for nomination and election of new Events Officer.

### **10.17 Editor's report – Sparkle Ward**

The Events of 2016 Journal was published in time for the 25th May 2017 Dinner at a cost of £4,220 for 500 journals, (plus £30 for paper/book proofs) including the cost of printing and Editor's fee. There were 12 extra pages over the 116 pages budgeted. The cost of the previous (2015) year's Journal in comparison was £6,519. The saving was a result of seeking tenders from three Printers– thanks to Peter Styles for his recommendation of WPG Group, the successful Company. JG commented that the journal was exceptionally good this year.

Astrid Purton, Kiri-Ross Jones and I continue to work towards developing a new copyright form for Journal contributors to sign when submitting articles and/or photographs.

Thanks are given to contributors and others for their voluntary input, especially Alex George for his continued help with indexing, David Cutler for botanical proof reading, Graham Burgess for obituaries, Pamela Holt for News of Kewites, Jennifer Chan and students for Journal enveloping and Secretary Sara Arnold.

I invite Members to make suggestions, or contribute pictures for the Events of 2017 Journal cover, to me by 30th December 2017. I would also invite members to send in their news of 2017, 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. I am willing to continue as Editor if the AGM so agrees.

Members agreed that the quality of the journal had gone up, whilst saving money at the same time and gave SW a round of applause.

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

Chris commented that his role is one of the best jobs in the Guild – handing over money to students and thanked Allan Hart who has an amazing knowledge of the awards. Chris ran through the rules of the awards. All on website or Journal. Some awards go back a

long period of time. There have been some moments where applicants do not read instructions and disqualify themselves by not doing so.

The KGAS met on Thursday 9th March 2017, 2pm and Thursday 13th July 2017, 4pm to consider applications for awards and nominations for the Fellowship of the Kew Guild.

## **Awards**

A total of £12,190 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available at the meeting to be made as awards.

In 2017 and onwards for a further 9 years (or as funds remain) there is a new award available in memory of John Woodhams, former Assistant Curator of Tropical Dept at Kew, and former Vice President of the Kew Guild. Known as The John Woodhams Award, it is made through the kindness and generosity of John's widow, Joan, who had donated a total of £10,000 to be made available as awards of up to £1,000 annually for successful awardees to study plants in the tropics. We are greatly appreciative of this support from Joan and consider this award a fitting tribute to a true gentleman.

Over the two meetings 15 applications had been made; all but two were successful after individual debate. These are listed below at Appendix 3.

## **Fellowship of the Kew Guild**

John Melmoe nominated Professor Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough for the Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship 2018. The KG awards sub-committee in attendance agreed unanimously. Recommendation for both to be offered Honorary Fellowship to the Kew Guild in 2018 will be made to the first full committee meeting following the AGM.

The Guild is grateful for Joan Woodhams for her award donation on behalf of her husband, John. Chris knew John very well and commented how he was such a gentleman and he will miss him greatly. The first award was made this year and thanks go to Richard Ward for making contact with Joan.

## **12.17 President's Report – Alan Stuttard**

This has been an interesting year for the Guild in which your committee has managed to resolve a number of matters that have been outstanding for some time whilst also arranging and enjoying a full programme of events.

### **Post of Archivist for the Kew Guild**

During the year we appointed a new archivist to the post that has been vacant for too long. Astrid Purton, who is a student Archivist joined us early in the New Year and has started to work on the backlog of documents. It is hoped that the two hours per week of work that she undertakes for us will bring our archives back to the usual standard. Her initial work shows great promise and I look forward to her getting our records back into order and more importantly, training the committee in the art of saving appropriate documentation. This is certainly a skill that I needed to learn and I am pleased to report that her early work includes a synopsis of "who saves what", a most important step forward! I am sure that we all welcome Astrid and wish her a long and fruitful association with the Kew Guild.

## The Website

As reported at last year's AGM, notice was given to the previous site hosts Somcom and new arrangements have been introduced for the running of the website using WordPress. The arrangements have created the financial savings that had been hoped for and the new Kew Guild website is now available on the internet. It is still early days, but the format works well and indicates that the opportunities for the development of the website are all in place. However, there is still much opportunity for further improvement in the management of the site, the creation of new articles and the ensuring that items are up to date. This, I am sure, the committee, Jonathan Rickards and David Hepper, (the organisers of the site), will be looking at in the coming year. The new website is a very important tool in maintaining good communication between all the Kew Guild members and the committee and we should thank Jonathan and David for moving things forward.

## Events

The overall package for the year was superbly arranged by all those involved. We started with our usual autumn visit to an arboretum and headed north into Yorkshire, to Thorpe Perrow. We were treated to a tour by the Curator Faith Douglas, a fantastic array of specimen trees, many in glorious autumn colour and superb weather in which to enjoy it all.

In February, we met at Bennington Lordship to sample an exquisite collection of Snowdrops and large drifts of the usual *Galanthus nivalis*. This was a veritable feast to a gardener's eyes and great harbinger to the gardening year. The above events had been organised by the Events Officer Pamela Holt and were great tasters for the coming spring and summer events. Our signature event for the year was the four-day April visit to Guernsey and this event started life after a conversation at the previous year's Dinner with the then President, Tony Overland and Raymond Evison. Raymond put together a magnificent itinerary including his Clematis nursery, private gardens, museums and wonderful springtime coastal walks, bedecked in local flora. The weather was non-stop sunshine, the accommodation superb and the company friendly and lively, all that you would expect a Kew Guild visit to be. So popular was the event that the 24 places available were fully booked 24 hours after the release of the details.

In May we were off to the Dorset Hampshire border to visit two of my favourite gardens, Compton Acres and Exbury. We were received at Compton Acres by the owner, Bernard Merna, Peter Thoday the advisor and Mary Payne, the horticultural manager. It was a delightful tour which outlined the strategy and work that had been undertaken to bring back this magnificent garden from its 'tired' state to its glorious present condition. The next day we had 32 members visiting what I feel is one of the best Rhododendron gardens in the country. The owner, Lionel de Rothschild, spent the whole day with us, providing a great insight into the history and development of the gardens. For me however, the highlight of the day was when I realised that David Hardman and Lionel had arranged for me to drive one of the garden's steam locomotive on their narrow-gauge railway on a twenty-minute journey around the gardens towing 32 Kew Guild members. I don't think we lost any of them and I did get the train back to the station on time! Thank you so much, Lionel and David!

June saw the Kew Guild again on tour, this time in Devon, organised by Stewart Henchie. A superbly mixed itinerary that included the gardens at Torre Abbey, a brooding inspection of Haytor, on the Dartmoor National Park with its specific native flora and then on to the classic English garden at the Garden House, Buckland Monachorum. On the following day, we travelled to Dartmouth on the Dartmouth Steam Railway, followed by a short

cruise on the River Dart, fully appreciating the glorious Devon countryside. Our final visit of the weekend was to Coleton Fishacre, the once Arts and Craft country home of the D'Oyly Carte family, with its magnificent valley garden creating outstanding sea views.

The final visit of my Presidential year saw the Guild travelling northward for a three-day visit organised by good friends of the Kew Guild, Rod and Jean Peach. The visits included Broomfield College, Willersley Castle, Haddon Hall and the delightful private garden of Anita and Jeremy Butt, followed by the magnificent gardens of Chatsworth House. Rod and Jean also provided all the Kew Guild visitors with a splendid evening at their home in Matlock. It was a stunning conclusion to what has been a great year of visits to some of the best gardens in the country.

Overall the year has seen a steady increase in the number of visitors attending the events, with some visits being fully booked, with even a reserve list. We are very fortunate that students and staff have left Kew to work at some of the best gardens in the land and thus allowed us to create a contact list, second to none, for access to both great gardens and great speakers. If you haven't been on one of the visits before, or not attended for a number of years, believe me it is well worth coming along to a future event. I know that already visits for next year are being developed and that next year's President will look forward to seeing you there! I would just like to thank on your behalf all those who gave so much time organising a great year of events.

### **The Annual Kew Guild Dinner**

This year's dinner was again held in the Cambridge Cottage, Kew Green and followed the successful format of the previous two years. I felt that it was a very convivial and entertaining evening, very much in the spirit of the Kew Guild and again we achieved a full complement of diners. The guest speaker was Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations at Kew who provided us with an insight into the impressive present list of work within the gardens and a flavour of developments for the future. The Kew Guild Medal was presented to Chris Beardshaw, the multi Chelsea Gold Medal winner and TV personality who provided us with an entertaining review of his work and gardening experiences. The George Brown Memorial Award went to Nicholas Boyes for his unstinting work in keeping alive and promoting Professional Horticulture as a career and a community benefit. This pleasant evening event could not have happened without the sterling work, behind the scenes, of our dinner organiser, Jennifer Alsop and Master of Ceremonies, Richard Ward. Both have given unstinting service over the years in making this very popular annual Kew event possible and both have decided that this year would be their last in these roles. I pass on my grateful thanks from myself and all of the membership for all of their efforts over so many years.

We are at present in discussions with past President Tony Overland to take on some or all of the Annual Dinner tasks and look forward to the continuation of the event to its present high standard. I can think of no one more suitable in this role than Tony and already look forward to next year's dinner! The president thanked Jennifer Alsop and Richard Ward for all their work on the annual dinner over the last few years – a hard act to follow.

### **Charitable incorporated Organisation (CIO)**

In 2014 the Kew Guild Trustees, with the support of the Kew Guild Committee officers started to review the changes being brought about through the Charity Commission and the effects that this would have on the future of the Kew Guild as a charity. The changes required by the Charity Commission challenged the present organisation and rules of the Kew Guild mainly around "the Public Benefit" requirements and there was a serious

possibility that the Guild's charitable status could be lost and that that the Guild's assets could be sequestered.

Members will recall that at the AGM of 5th September 2015 these matters were fully discussed and the meeting agreed that the CIO model was the most suitable for the Kew Guild. The AGM agreed that the Kew Guild Committee be authorised to make the necessary changes to the Guild's Byelaws and make a submission to the Charity Commission for the new CIO.

For information, part of the report of the 5th September 2015 AGM meeting relating to the CIO is provided below.

## **Recommendations**

1. That the AGM agrees to the committee processing the submission to the Charity Commission for the creation of a CIO in the name of the Kew Guild as shown in Appendix 2.
2. That the AGM agrees that the current charity assets be transferred to the new CIO once approved by the Charity Commission.
3. That the AGM agrees to, what will be the 'old' charity, being deregistered from the Charity Commission listing once the assets have been transferred.
4. That the AGM agrees to include the names of the President, Immediate Past President, President Elect, Vice Presidents, Treasurer plus Trustees from the groups, Strategic Planning, Events, Membership, Awards and Nominations as well as the Garden's Representative as the Trustees of the new CIO.
5. That the AGM agrees that the Trustees nominated above collate the Byelaws for the new CIO.
6. That the AGM agrees that the committee members of the 'old' charity, if not listed above, are en bloc approved to serve on the committee as ordinary members until the next AGM and
7. That the AGM agrees that the current consultants to the committee are approved to continue supporting the CIO.

It had been hoped that during 2016 the application arrangements would have been finalised and submitted and that at the AGM of that year a report could have been tabled outlining that the application had been successfully presented to the Charity Commission. For a number of reasons this did not happen and further work was required on the application than had been originally planned. In November 2016, an application was made to the Charity Commission for the Kew Guild CIO and this led to an exchange of emails over the next two months trying to make the necessary changes to our application to meet the new "public benefit" guidelines that the Charity Commission required from us. This was essentially around the area of the present Guild's rules only allowing benefit to its members, which would preclude the Guild from remaining a charity and suffering the threat of sequestration of its assets. Whilst this in itself was not a major challenge to the way that the Guild operated, as all benefits have to be approved by one of its committees, we were unable to receive the acceptance of our application and it became clear that for the application to be successful it required professional support.

At this point the Trustees of the Kew Guild Committee decided that to finish all the sterling work that Bob Ivison had done on their behalf, it would be necessary to seek legal advice to meet the Charity Commission's requirements. A firm of solicitors that had a Department specialising in Charity and Social Enterprise law, Bates, Wells & Braithwaite of London, were therefore appointed to advise the Trustees in the final adjustments necessary for the Charity Commission application. These changes were submitted back to the Charity Commission for their consideration and on the 3rd April 2017 an email was received from them that stated, "The information that you have provided has been considered and we are pleased to confirm that we are satisfied that the work which the organisation will be undertaking is capable of furthering exclusively charitable purposes for public benefit. We are therefore happy to invite the Kew Guild to register."

All these matters were reported back to the 1st June 2017 meeting of the Kew Guild Committee for agreement and for authority for the final application to be made. This was made in July and I am happy to report that very speedily we received confirmation from the Charity Commission that our application for the new Kew Guild CIO had been successful. Now that the new Kew Guild CIO application has been successfully received by the Charity Commission the final two pieces of work can take place. These are the transfer of the current 'old' charity assets to the new CIO and the deregistration of the 'old' charity from the Charity Commission listing, if deemed appropriate. The transfer of the assets to the new CIO is an important financial and legal procedure and in the case of the Kew Guild there are significant capital resources involved. The process also needs us to follow closely the procedures required by the Charity Commission to achieve their agreement to our proposals. Because of these issues, it has been agreed by the Trustees that the services of Bates, Wells & Braithwaite be retained until all of the transfer and related matters are completed.

The timing and outcome of this work will depend on the guidance that we receive from our solicitors as we begin the transfer of assets arrangements. (It may be that the "old" Guild Charity continues in some form in the future as a mechanism for easy management of the Guild's assets). It is therefore proposed that the Kew Guild Committee be authorised to develop and implement the most appropriate mechanism for transfer of assets, as guided by our legal advisors. The outcome of this will be reported back to the AGM 2018 for information.

It is with some relief that this application process to the Charity Commission is nearing an end and that the transfer of assets arrangements and the deregistration of the "old" trust (if this route is chosen) can be completed sometime in the future.

Finally, I wish to give my sincere thanks to the following:-

Bob Ivison for all his efforts working on the application since the matter started in 2014. Both past Presidents, Tony Overland and David Hardman, who have during their Presidential year had to steer matters towards a successful outcome and who have supported me in the decisions of this year.

Most importantly, the members of the Kew Guild Committee who have read and digested all the paper work produced over this time to ensure that they understood the issues and provided the necessary challenges to proceedings to ensure that the Guild's best interests were always met. Bob Ivison will continue work as negotiator with solicitors and Charity Commission to ensure the assets are not put at risk in any way. AS thanked BI for all the work thanked everyone who attended the last committee meeting – they spent a lot of time reading reams of paper and information.

## John Woodhams Award

As someone who worked with John when I was a student, I had immense respect for him as one of life's natural gentlemen and a great friend of the Kew Guild. After his sad passing away I was very pleased and grateful that his wife Joan provided the Kew Guild with the resources to set up the John Woodhams Award, to assist the study of plants in the tropics. Further detail will be provided in the Awards Committee Chairman's report, but I would personally like to thank Joan for this most generous and appropriate Award.

### Thank you to the committee

Finally, I would like to thank all the Trustees and Committee Members of the Kew Guild Committee for their unceasing help and support over what has been for me a great year – I just hope they have enjoyed it as much as I have!

AH asked what the benefits are of the Guild being a charity? AS replied that the Guild must retain the charitable status or stand to lose benefits and have the assets taken away.

ILS asked if it was possible to abandon the 'Old Kew Guild' and for members to vote on this. AS replied that this issue is not possible at this time without proper legal advice and this is one reason why we have employed solicitors to advise us. AS thanked ILS for asking all the challenging questions throughout the year.

### 13.17 Graduation Day – Student Awards results

The annual School of Horticulture Graduation Day and student prize giving was held on the 8th September in the Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre. The Graduation Day is an important day in the Kew calendar and a memorable day for the students and their families. The Guild was represented at the event by your President and President Elect. As is the tradition, the Kew Guild provided the funding for the following prizes and this year's successful students are as follows:-

Matilda Smith Memorial Prize:	Thomas Pickering
Kew Guild Individual Study Prize:	Thomas Pickering
Proudlock Prize:	Will Spoelstra
Dummer Memorial Prize:	Thomas Pickering
George Brown Prize:	Thomas Pickering
Kew Guild Cup:	Nicola Lloyd
Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology:	Richard Choksey
C.P.Raffill Prize	Solène Dequiret

The Students made a film of their year at Kew which will be shown at the end of the meeting. AS commented that it was brilliant watching the students' enthusiasm and seeing how the Guild are making a difference to younger people.

### 14.17 Election of Officers

Because of the successful application to the Charity Commission by the Kew Guild for the new CIO it is inappropriate that the usual vote on new Trustees takes place, for this year only. Further details are included in the President's report on the CIO issue.

It is therefore proposed that to continue the work of the "old Guild", the existing, in term Trustees, officers and consultants be voted "en bloc" for the coming year, or, until the

“old” Kew Guild Charity assets are transferred and a decision taken on whether the charity is deregistered from the Charity Commission Listings.

The AGM of 2015 approved the names of the “old Guild” posts that would form the Trustees of the new CIO once set up and the names of these Trustees were then included in the application recently approved by the Charity Commission. The names of these trustees are as follows: - Alan Stuttard, Jean Griffin, Sylvia Phillips, Stewart Henchie, Tony Overland, Pamela Holt, David Hardman, Chris Kidd, Tim Upson, Graham Heywood and Susan Urpeth. Therefore the “old” and “new” trusts will operate in tandem until the decision is made regarding the transfer of assets to the new trust and deregistration of the “old” trust (if applicable) has occurred.

From 2018 the AGM will once again vote on any new Trustees on the usual three-year term of office to the new CIO.

It proposed that all the above arrangements, trustees, officers and consultants for the coming year be approved.

Events Officer: Brian Phillips has volunteered to be the Events Officer and with no other nominations, it was agreed for Brian to take over immediately. Brian asked for someone to work with him as he needed support on the horticultural side of things and there needed to be a review of financial arrangements for events. SA commented that there is a part of the website that allows people to book events, but this must be tied in with online payments. LB said that there could be a separate bank account for tour monies to be paid into. AS welcomed Brian on board. List of officers and election of officers; AS asked to members to approve (attached at Appendix 2).

Subscription rates: Increases in subscriptions to be deferred for this year. The work involved takes hours of chasing people to update their standing orders. A direct debit system is needed so any increases can be taken automatically. LB commented that the Guild needs a new bank account for the CIO. It was therefore proposed that this would be an ideal time to change the membership collection from Standing Order to Direct Debit as soon as is practicable.

## **15.17 Any Other Business**

### **Kew Guild Archives Report – Astrid Purton**

Since January 2017 three lots of papers have been deposited in the Guild Archives, located in the Herbarium. This includes papers from a Guild member, a former President and the outgoing Treasurer. Feedback about the Record-Management guidelines suggests they have been useful but should anyone have questions about what to deposit please don't hesitate to contact me. A webpage about the Guild's Archives and History is also now available online.

Currently I am in the process of reviewing the Guild's photographic collection to ascertain if it requires re-packaging. The results of this review will be presented to the Committee at a later date. In the meantime, RBG Kew have indicated that personal papers from your time at Kew are invaluable. This can include correspondence, photographs, diaries and student notebooks. I invite members in possession of such material to donate it to the archives. With regards to photographs, Journal editor Sparkle Ward, RBG Kew Archives Officer Kiri Ross-Jones and I are working on a new copyright form. Many thanks to Richard Ward, Sparkle Ward, David Hardman, and Sara Arnold for ongoing support and work with the Guild's archives. I shall be moving to France in October. I will work with

Secretary Sara and the Committee to continue as Archivist remotely, and will be returning to the UK from time to time. I will continue to report to the Committee. All subject to Committee agreement.

If you have personal papers from your time at Kew, which you would be happy and willing to donate, we would be very happy to keep those but members must be aware that anything that goes onto the Guild archive becomes public.

### **16.17 Inauguration of the new President, Jean Griffin**

AS invited Jean to the front and said it was a great honour to bestow the Presidency on her, it was good to have a female President again. Jean Griffin accepted the President's ribbon and said that she was honoured to take over for the 2017-18 Kew Guild year. Jean then thanked members for their support. JG presented AS with the Past President's badge and members present gave him a round of applause.

Jean urged anyone who knows anyone at Kew to encourage them to come along and join the Guild. She commented that as soon as students leave Kew, they miss out on the camaraderie and close relationships that can last a lifetime.

TO is arranging a visit to the Bodenheim Arboretum on Saturday 21st October and there will also be a visit to Kent for later on in the Presidential year. All we need is something during the summer and all suggestions would be welcome. Jean then invited all of the past Presidents present to join her for a group photo for the web site.

### **17.17 Date of next Annual General Meeting:**

Saturday 8th September 2018 at Wakehurst Place.



The current (Jean Griffin) and past Presidents line up, from L to R: Tom Wood, Jim Mitchell, Stewart Henchie, Martin Sands, Alex George, Jean Griffin, Allan Hart, David Hardman, Bob Ivison, Colin Hindmarch, Tony Overland. (Alan Stuttard, immediate past President had gone for a cup of tea so was not in the lineup). © Graham Heywood

**School of Horticulture**  
**Presentation of Kew Diploma and Prizes**  
 8th September 2017  
**Course 52**

The Director, **Richard Deverell**, welcomed those present to the newly refurbished Jodrell Lecture Theatre to mark and celebrate the completion of their courses by 24 of Kew's horticultural students. He went on to say: "Today we celebrate the graduation of the 11 students of course number 52 of the Kew Diploma.

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 huge diversity of exotic and rare plants – but they also have a solid grounding plant science, taxonomy and conservation. They are always a very international group. This year's cohort includes a student each from Germany, Poland, Japan and France.

We also celebrate the completion of the Kew Horticultural Apprenticeship – we have today nine apprentices including international students from the USA, Sri Lanka and the Czech Republic. And we have four Specialist Students – this is our first year of these 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 entire year in one particular specialism area. Today we have students who have worked in display and nursery glass; the Kitchen Garden and two students who specialised in ornamental horticulture.

The Diploma is famously hard work. Indeed, all of our students have worked extremely hard to reach this point today, including making a vitally important contribution to the horticultural standards and daily running of these wonderful gardens here at Kew. Our graduating students and apprentices have all secured positions following their studies, either via employment, continued further education or have decided to take time out to travel. This year, remarkably, 11 students and apprentices will be staying as garden staff with RBG Kew (10 at Kew and 1 at Wakehurst). This, I believe, is a record and suggests to me that the standard this year is exceptionally high.

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 them 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 –

- Roy Lancaster CBE VMH, our guest of honour, as nominated by our graduating students.
- Marcus Agius 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 apprentice's practical and theoretical skills.
- The science staff who link in with the student's studies either through project work of 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 Kew horticultural 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'. They then tell me just how much hard work the Kew Diploma was when they did it as if they are somehow still scarred by the experience! They sometimes add that it's much easier now – this is emphatically not true!

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 your respective courses. I want to congratulate you not just on what you have already achieved – but also for what I know you will go on to achieve in your careers in horticulture. We are very proud of our horticultural students. I would like ask everyone here today to join me in congratulating them for their hard work and completing their respective courses. For each of them, it is a day of great pride – deservedly so – and a tremendous achievement.”

**Richard Barley**, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations was then invited by Tim Hughes to give his introduction.

**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, Kew Specialist Certificate 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 the School. So, before I turn to the presentation of certificates and prizes, thanks must go to all our 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 tremendous support to the School of Horticulture.

I would now like to invite our Guest of Honour, **Roy Lancaster**, 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**

#### **Chris Brown**

Kew Diploma with Credit

#### **Joe Clements**

Kew Diploma with Honours

#### **Solène Dequiret**

The C P Raffill Prize to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society’s student

lecture competition

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize for the best overall performance in landscape studies  
 The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize for 3rd year student achieving top overall academic marks with English as their additional language  
 Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Luke Gunner**

A Kew Diploma with a Pass

### **Miranda Janatka**

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

The Kew Gardener Prize to the top student in Amenity Horticulture

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Misako Kasahara**

A Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Nicola Lloyd**

The Kew Guild Cup for obtaining the highest marks in the 1st year vegetable plot project

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Tom Pickering**

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

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

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

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

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

The Freda Howson Award for excellence in Ecology and Conservation

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

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the best Herbarium project

Kew Diploma with Honours

### **Kate Rzepinska**

Kew Diploma with Credit

### **Will Spoelstra**

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

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Anna Tack**

Kew Diploma with Credit

**Kew Specialist Certificates and Apprenticeship Prizes and Awards****Kew Specialist Certificates:****Charlotte Parsons**

Kew Specialist Certificate in Display and Nursery Glass

**Daniel Le Cornu**

Kew Specialist Certificate in Kitchen Garden Production

**Sophie Whittall**

Kew Specialist Certificate in Ornamental Horticulture

**Bex Lane**

Kew Guild Specialist Certificate in Ornamental Horticulture

**Apprenticeships:****Janaka Balasuriya**

The Historic Glasshouse apprentice with the best Collection Assignment prize

The Historic Glasshouse apprentice with the highest test results in Plant Identification prize

The Historic Glasshouse apprentice with the best Work Journals and Plant Profiles Prize

Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

**Edward Barrett**

Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

**Alex Little**

Kew Apprenticeship with Distinction

Kew Apprenticeships with Distinction were also awarded to:

**Kevin Scott Creed****Mark Sheppard****Tomas Stehlik**

All of whom are unfortunately unable to join us today.

Certificates of Attendance are awarded to:

**Jonathan Swain****Felix Cleverly****Bradley Gangadeen**

All of whom are unfortunately unable to join us today.

**Other awards and prizes****Richard Choksey**

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

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture Prize for top 1st year Diploma student

**Alison Legg**

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

**Olivia Steed-Mundin**

The Metcalf Cup for the top 2nd year Diploma student

**Harry Baldwin**

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

**Tim Hughes** then invited **Roy Lancaster** to say a few words.

**Marcus Agius**, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, gave a Vote of Thanks.

**Joe Clements** of Course 52 then gave the Student Vote of Thanks with accompanying video presentation.

**Tim Hughes** then said in closing: “I would once again like to thank Roy Lancaster 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 Jennifer, Kate, Denise and Martin, the staff of the School of Horticulture – so a big thank you to you and a big thank-you to Carlos Magdalena and 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 prizewinners follow Kate 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.”



Kew Students Prizegiving - Group Photo

©RBG Kew



**Faye Adams**  
58191



**Neil Alderson**  
58187



**Rebecca Lane**  
57675



**Eve Halliday**  
58188



**Charles Harpur**  
58189



**Sahjan Kooner**  
58190



**Daniel Le Cornu**  
57664

## **Course 55**

## Student Report

by Alex Little

Another year has passed and a successful one at that. Course 52, Apprenticeship schemes 7 and 8 and also the first year of Specialist Certificates have graduated with flying colours and are all now following the path out into the horticultural world; we all wish them the best of luck. I believe a record eight of these students have also stayed and are now embarking on their careers in new positions throughout the gardens. This is also a very exciting time for all the new students who have joined us during September 2017 and in true fashion the traditional clog and apron went underway and proved to be as competitive as previous years and was won by Course 55's Charlie Harpur. This years race was concluded with the annual welcome BBQ hosted by Course 54.

Course 54 have compiled an exciting list of guest speakers for this year's KMIS lectures which will be hosted within the newly refurbished Lisa Sainsbury suite located within the Jodrell laboratories, at the usual time of 6 to 7pm. This year's lectures include exciting topics from guest speakers such as Olivier Filipi talking on 'Dry is Beautiful' and Anna Lewington speaking about 'Sacred trees of the North: Birches in the cultural landscape.' As well as many of Course 53 talking about their successful travel scholarships to all corners of the world.

Course 54 completed their first years lecture block all finishing with promising results which they can carry forward into their second year. A special mention must go to Alison Legg who won the Gardens Illustrated Prize, for the student attaining the highest marks in the first year practical subjects and also Richard Choksey, who scooped two awards for the highest marks achieved within the subject of plant physiology and overall top first year student.

Course 53 are now entering the final year of lecture block and have completed a successful field trip to North Wales despite all of the rain, where they undertook a two week ecology project. They too have all also had a successful year and all attained high marks within the examination period. Olivia Steed-Mundin was awarded the Metcalfe cup during the graduation ceremony for the student obtaining the highest second year examination marks and the Sir Joseph Hooker prize was awarded to Harry Baldwin for his services last year to the KMIS society.

As 2017 draws to a close we should all take a look back at how successful it has been and what has been achieved by all during the course of the year. Looking forward to 2018, I am sure that it will be as successful as the last and we wish all student apprentices and Specialist Certificates the best during their exam and dissertation periods.

### **Kew Guild Events in 2017**

#### **Thorpe Perrow Arboretum**

**22nd October (2016)**

by Stephen Ashworth

Faith was rewarded as 13 Kewites travelled far to this northern outpost one Saturday late in September, for on this day the 100 acre Arboretum was bathed in autumn sunshine and the start of autumn tints. It was Faith too who led us around (Faith Douglas, the part-time curator, a one-time nurse who re-trained at Askham Bryan College). This remarkable collection boasts 55 UK champion trees and five national collections of genera such as *Tilia*, *Juglans* and *Cotinus*.

The Arboretum is privately owned by the Ropner family, who bought the Millbank Pinetum of Victorian origin and underplanted the conifers with Japanese maples. The Acer Glade is now set off by blue spruces and a specimen



© Pamela Holt

and a specimen *Magnolia officinalis* var. *biloba*. An avenue of Elms has been replaced unconventionally with a double line of *Acer palmatum* 'Osakazuki' backed by a foil of Italian alders which also act as a windbreak. Somehow in this north-easterly location a mild micro-climate has been established; we saw *Eucryphia* still in flower.

The Ropner family has had its eccentricities; Sir Leonard Ropner was the major influence in the Arboretum's creation but was prone to some of life's vices so that by the time his son, Sir John Ropner, inherited it in 1977, it was a jungle. A meeting with Lord Hesletine convinced him to open it to the public in 1980, which in doing so released a £50,000 grant. Now 70,000 people visit the Arboretum annually but the level of income to employees thus funded is well demonstrated in that in addition to a part-time Curator there is just one full-time gardener, a handyman, 15 volunteers and Lady Ropner who was once frequently seen on a mower. A remarkable lesson in efficiency to run a 110 acre Arboretum.

Maybe a little incongruous, a Bird of Prey and Mammal Centre is located in the former walled kitchen garden but then it provides a rounded experience to the Arboretum visitor. The plant collection is diligently labelled, but with cattle ear-tags! A novel way to beat the ubiquitous label thieves. A visitor has to purchase the Arboretum Catalogue to cross-reference the naming, making plant identification a little opaque to the casual visitor, and even to the Kewite with an eye for detail and accuracy. For the Sunday stroller however it is simply a superbly varied and beautiful landscape.

## Benington Lordship Trip 18th February by Bob Ivison



On a fine but cold Saturday in February, 23 intrepid Guild members including their guests met at the stunning spring garden of Benington Lordship the home of the Bott family. We were met by Richard Bott, the present owner, and were given an introductory talk and a short walk through the more formal areas of the garden to set the scene and get orientated for members to make their own way around this Edwardian Garden

and old Norman Castle site. After this introduction members soon broke up into small groups to explore the gardens in more detail.

Benington Lordship is situated just four miles east of Stevenage in the picturesque village of Benington. The Lordship Gardens spread over seven acres, surrounding a fine Georgian manor house with remains of a Norman Castle and moat. We were able to appreciate this peaceful location, a haven for wildlife and unspoilt views over the surrounding Hertfordshire countryside.

Benington's known history goes back to Saxon times when it was a fortified site used by the kings of Mercia. After the Norman conquest, William the First gave the fortified Manor to Peter de Valoinges and the remains of that Norman motte and bailey fortification are still clearly visible. The north wall shows some very well preserved flintwork laid in a herringbone pattern and is the only Norman stonework left in Hertfordshire.

The present red brick manor house was rebuilt after a fire in about 1700. In 1832 George Proctor built the magnificent flint gatehouse including the curtain wall and summer house. This romantic folly is the work of James Pulham who was famous for work using his 'Pulamite stone'. This secret mixture was a sort of cement that could be moulded to replicate stonework. Much of his work is now recognised as significant and a great deal of research is now being undertaken on other Pulham features around the county and the rest of the country with features in Buckingham Palace and Sandringham gardens.

In 1905 the present owner's great grandfather Arthur Bott bought the Lordship and surrounding Estate. He built the Edwardian extension on the west side of the house. This included the unusual verandah which would seem to be a consequence of his work in India as an engineer.

By 1970 the garden was somewhat dilapidated and Sarah Bott, with the help of Ian Billot and then Richard Webb, spent the next 25 years restoring it to its current state. They have taken great care to preserve its Edwardian character and the informal way it enhances its historic surroundings.

The gardens are best known for the huge drifts of naturalised snowdrops that cover most of the moat and the grounds around the Norman castle and house and it is these we came to see and were not disappointed. Two species make up this spectacular display, the single Snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis*, and the double, *Galanthus nivalis* 'Flore Pleno' but over 200 named varieties are grown around the garden.

Although the tour was to view the extensive array of snowdrops we were also able to admire the Victorian Folly, the Kitchen Garden, the contemporary sculptures, carp pond, wildlife area and the Rose Gardens.

After the tour of the gardens we were able to warm up with a steaming bowl of homemade soup and a cup of tea in the small cafe, exchanging our thoughts on what we had just seen before making our way back to the cars - not forgetting to purchase some special 'in the green' snowdrop bulbs on the way out - and made our journey home.

**Guernsey Visit**  
**6th-9th April**  
by Alan Stuttard

Little did we know, when we presented Raymond Evison with the Honorary Fellowship to the Kew Guild at last year's Dinner, that events would unfold whereby the Kew Guild would be in Guernsey for spring the following year. Raymond, very gracefully, offered to host a visit by the Guild to Guernsey in the spring of this year. On the 6th of April, 24 Guild members found themselves meeting in the carpark of the Bella Luce hotel to begin

an excellent visit to this horticulturally rich island. Our first visit was to Le Vallon, the home of Antony and Jane Phillippi, a ten acre valley garden, with views across the east coast of Guernsey that has evolved over many years. This wonderful garden is split into a magnificent formal area, a natural wooded area adorned with English Bluebells dissected with moss pathways and a stream running into a large pond, surrounded by *Lysichiton americanum*. This was all framed by gentle rolling parkland with a great stock of mature trees. However, the best part was kept until the end, when we entered the superb walled kitchen garden with its cold frames and glasshouses stuffed with plants awaiting spring planting. The superb south facing wall was covered with trained apples and peaches just beginning to stir into seasonal life – a real gardener’s paradise.



Bluebells and the Kew Guild

Our next visit was to Forest Lodge, the home of ‘Tattie Thompson’, the Chairman of the Guernsey Plant Heritage Group. This was a relatively new garden created from a virgin site and laid out like an artist’s palate with colour themes running throughout the garden. Even though it was early in the year splashes of colour were beginning to appear with the variegated *Brunnera macrophylla* and *Clianthus puniceus albus* catching the eye. Tattie was the ideal host who treated us all to coffee and a Guernsey speciality, Gache, a type of tea bread.

Our final visit for the day was to walk along the wooded coastal paths at Petit Bot, overlooking the rugged eastern coastline of Guernsey. When Raymond promised us Bluebells on our visit in early April I have to say I was a little sceptical, but how wrong could I be! The pathways were lined with a tapestry of native wild flowers including Bluebells, Primroses, Triangular stalked Garlic, Sea and Red Campion and Stitchwort. This was definitely Mother Nature at her best and the mild Guernsey climate had given us a very early start to the year.

To end the day we met in our hotel before dinner to receive a presentation from Raymond titled “Clematis for today’s gardens” and an overview to our visit on the following day to his Guernsey Clematis Nursery. Over a fine dinner I asked Raymond to give me the definitive answer to that age old query, the proper pronunciation of the genus Clematis. Is it a soft or hard “a” – Raymond was very definite on the hard “a” and who am I to argue with the guru of the Clematis world.

The following day we visited Raymond’s Guernsey Clematis Nursery and at this point I think some facts are worth providing to give some idea of the scale of the enterprise. The nursery produces 25% of the world’s annual requirement of young Clematis plants, exporting as far afield as China and Asia. 60% of their production goes to America, with the other big markets



L-R: Raymond Evison, Pamela Holt, Tony Overland, Gill Challen, Brian Phillips, Jan Overland, Diana Polhill, Martin and Wendy Staniforth, Brian Challen, Sylvia Phillips, Nick Boyes, Teresa Ivison, Tricia Fisher, Amanda Osaria, Jean Griffin

being the UK and Europe. Production of Clematis by the nursery for 2017 is expected to be a massive 2.5 million plants, a very impressive set of statistics!

Raymond took us through all the stages of production, but the one area that most of our members were waiting to see was the breeding programme that produced all the new varieties. This area was a sea of magnificent colours from which the best cultivars are chosen and “bulked up” in numbers for marketing and release. This was a very “hush, hush” area where we were not allowed to photograph individual plants and where we saw the new varieties to be launched at this year’s Chelsea Flower Show. I had never realised how important to the financial success of the company the marketing launch and branding was. This year’s Clematis varieties to be released at Chelsea are stunning, but you will have to see them for yourself, as we were all sworn to secrecy!

After a leisurely lunch at the Beaucette Marina (created by the military blasting a hole on the seaward side of a landlocked potential harbour) we then went to a completely different type of venue at Saumarez Park. The spring bedding in front of the large Georgian styled residence was superb and the shrubberies were ablaze with colour from a great collection of Camellias. This also included the very old Guernsey Camellia variety that when produced wasn’t quite stable and now has the unnerving ability to produce masses of different coloured flowers on each plant. Our main focus for the day’s visit was the Victorian walled kitchen garden which, after years of dilapidation, is going through a complete renaissance which started some ten years ago. The garden is being restored back to its 1875-1900 heyday and the present claim to fame is the 175ft lean to glasshouses which have been rebuilt to their original style using traditional materials. The garden is managed by volunteers and a programme of growing fruit and vegetables has developed and become a regular visitor attraction exhibiting methods of growing and varieties from the Victorian era. The link with the Guernsey Plant Heritage Group has allowed the very popular sale of heritage vegetable seeds with many members bringing away ancient vegetable variety seeds to be later planted in English gardens.

The afternoon was completed with a visit to the Guernsey Folk Museum to view the exhibition of Island life in the 19th and 20th Century with a special focus on the rise and failure of the Guernsey tomato growing industry

Our final day started with a visit to Jennifer Monachan’s garden at La Petite Vallee. This was another valley garden with a superb collection of mature plants and at our visit there was a wonderful *Paulownia tomentosa* and groups of *Melianthus major* in full flower. Jennifer had made good use of sculpture throughout the garden and enjoyed introducing humour to put a smile on the visitor’s face. We then travelled to St Peter Port to visit the Candie gardens which were resplendent in spring bedding with many fine trees, including a very large *Ginkgo biloba* which is the tenth largest in the UK. The garden is also home

to some very ancient lean to glasshouses built originally in the late 1700s and still giving good service.



Pat Johnson enthralling the Kew Guild visitors at Grange Court

Our last two visits were to two vastly different high quality private town gardens. The first was an amazingly large town garden developed at Grange Court by Patrick “Pat” Johnson who is the Chairman of Guernsey Floral. The garden was laid out in a series of interlinked “garden rooms” on different themes and often the setting for Pat’s other passion,

sculpture. Pat didn't stop at just placing pieces of sculpture in his garden, but with the use of topiary techniques he ensured that parts of his planted material became "sculptures" in their own right.

We then visited our final garden tucked away in the heart of St Peter Port which is the home of Huw and Sarah Evans. Having a very difficult sloping urban garden they have ingeniously created a superb terraced garden made up of a number of areas of different planting styles that defines what must be the best view of the harbour in St Peter Port. At the end of this garden visit we had to say goodbye and thank you to our host Raymond Evison for organising such a magnificent tour of the sites of horticultural interest on Guernsey. We also were totally amazed with his links to the "Weather Gods" who allowed the sun to shine and the skies to be blue for the whole of our time in Guernsey. A truly memorable trip!

## **Dorset and Hampshire Weekend**

**13th-14th May**

by Brian Dodds

Not everyone is fortunate enough to visit the magnificent gardens of both Compton Acres in Poole, Dorset and Exbury in Hampshire and be met by their owners and key staff members. Our hosts not only graciously outlined the history, their development philosophy and answered all our questions, they also escorted our group at a leisurely pace around two of England's finest gardens. Kew is undoubtedly lucky to hold such prestige in the gardening world that members of our Guild are afforded such generous hospitality.

It was a mixed group of 23, both members of the Kew Guild and their families that met in Compton Acres's light and airy tea room to enjoy a welcoming cup of tea. There we were greeted by Bernard Merna, owner, and Peter Thoday who advised Bernard in the initial stages when he bought the garden about restoration and planning issues and brought Mary Payne on board as an associate to manage the horticultural side of the garden. It was very informative to be made aware of the restraints behind the development and management of this stunning garden. Compton Acres is a relatively new garden that dates back only to the 1920s. What it lacks in size just over 10 acres it more than compensates with floral displays evolving to meet public expectations whilst still maintaining a charm of its own.

The garden boasts a magnificent collection of over 3000 species of trees and shrubs and herbaceous plants, including some at the extreme limit of their hardiness in the UK.



© David Hardman

After a light lunch, we were free to explore at our leisure. The weather was mild and it was truly delightful to traverse and explore the wooded valley via its well-maintained paths and discover some of its many features, especially the stream with its cascades and waterfalls. In contrast the Italian garden functions to host special events, including marriage ceremonies and receptions.

Exbury's 200 acre spread of rhododendrons include over 800 registered hybrids and is deservedly world famous. Whilst after lunch the train ride epitomised the carefree nature of our



Lionel de Rothschild (left) and Alan Stuttard enjoying the railway at Exbury Gardens ©David Hardman

visit, it was the warmth of our reception in the morning that set the tone to our visit. After welcoming us, Mr. Lionel de Rothschild explained the vision he is still developing, the important role his head gardener Thomas Clarke now plays, and what Mr. Rothschild's forefather's dedication, and resources had achieved. It is hard to believe that a staff of only 10 gardeners manage the maintenance of such a colossal undertaking. Species have been collected from around the world and hybridised to produce plants of improved colour, form and hardiness, many of which we were able to enjoy in bloom. Plants not meeting desired hybridising objectives are being ruthlessly destroyed.

I don't think our president, Alan Stuttard, could believe his luck when being given the opportunity to be co-engineer of Exbury Gardens' miniature steam locomotive on a twenty-minute trip through part of the gardens. The train carried our party of 32 as well as our gracious host Lionel de Rothschild who had made this exclusive special arrangement. Alan seemed to re-live childhood memories of his grandfather who was an engine driver. He even managed to get us back safely to the station!

We were privileged to gain a first-hand insight and enjoy two truly delightful and magnificent gardens and David Hardman is to be commended for a superb job organising the visits which ran like clockwork.

### Kew Guild Dinner 25th May by Richard Ward



L to R: Stewart Henchie, David Cutler, Richard Ward, Jim Mitchell, Allan Hart ©Stewart Henchie

The Annual Kew Guild Dinner was held on Thursday 25th May in Cambridge Cottage, Kew Green.

On one of the hottest days of the year nearly 70 Guild members and guests enjoyed free access to the Gardens during the day and at 18.50 precisely were summoned to the dining room.

Members and guests clapped President Alan Stuttard and his wife into the room and Rev. Hugh Flower said Grace. After the meal, Stewart Henchie, ebullient as ever, proposed

the toast to 'The President', to which Alan responded, reminisced, entertained us all, and gave a toast to 'The Kew Guild' and 'Our guests.' Kew's Director of Horticulture Richard Barley responded on behalf of the guests. Diploma student Kathryn Bray gave the toast 'To Absent Friends.'

President Alan presented the Kew Guild medal to Landscape Designer Chris Beardshaw who voiced his appreciation. The George Brown scroll 'for furthering diplomacy in the true spirit of the Kew Guild' was presented to Nicholas Boyes who was equally grateful.



From L to R: Chris Beardshaw and partner Frances Toase, Di and Alan Stuttard, Richard and Anita Barley. © Stewart Henchie

Past Presidents of the Guild stood and were recognised. Similarly overseas visitors - being Val and Jim Mitchell from Australia, Pamela and Brian Dodds and Ian Lamont Smith from Canada.

Five Diploma students attended the Dinner. Di Stuttard kindly drew the raffle tickets and their raffle raised £280 for student funds. Alan thanked outgoing Dinner organiser Jennifer Alsop, MC Richard Ward, and Editor

Sparkle Ward for their input to the evening; and presented gifts of wine and flowers in appreciation.

## Devon Weekend 23rd-25th June by Stewart Henchie

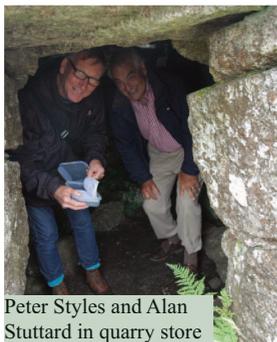


L to R: Peter Styles, Rod Peach, Martin Abrahams, Judy Hancock, Sylvia Phillips, Stewart Henchie, Brian Phillips, Liz Styles, Tony Overland, Ali Marshall (Head Gardener Torre Abbey) Leo Pemberton, Jan Overland, Jean Peach, Diana and Alan Stuttard.

The promised weekend started off at Torre Abbey Garden and glasshouse on a warm but overcast Friday afternoon. Fifteen of us were greeted and guided around the garden and glasshouse by the infectious and enthusiastic Head Gardener Ali Marshall.

Ali gave us the detailed history and background of the garden behind the main house on what was originally the canon's cemetery in monastic times. She had started work there in 2008. The standard and care of the garden is high taking into account the amount of staff and volunteers she has at her disposal. She showed us a themed Agatha plants arranged in an informative way, many mentioned in Agatha's books. The garden also has an extensive collection of tender plants housed in a large Hartley glasshouse - Palm House built in 1969. A knot garden and apple orchard with old Devon varieties under planted with wild flowers has been planted. To provide further interest, a children's Medieval Garden to provide activities for families is divided by paths into four distinct sensory spaces of touch, taste, colour and smell. If all of this was not enough for us, we were then able to visit the 800 Years Gallery in the main house with a mixture of interactive displays, historic objects, portraits, art work and information panels telling the history of the Abbey since 1196.

Saturday started off in a warm mist of Dartmoor meeting volunteer guide John Whiting at the lower car park for Haytor. We all set off, enthusiastically embracing the surroundings of the wild, wet, muddy, cow and horse 'pat' strewn grassy areas! John our guide somehow



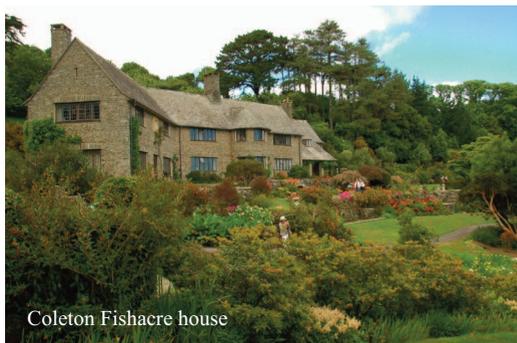
Peter Styles and Alan Stuttard in quarry store

managed to get us to avoid the obstacles and engage us all, and pointed out wild plants of note, birds, and how the landscape had been changed and used over its many years in existence. After our three and a half hours guided walk we finished fully informed of the surrounding area, including Haytor itself at 457 metres above sea level.

Now, for the drive across Dartmoor to The Garden House at Buckland Monachorum, Yelverton. As we drove over the wild Dartmoor National Park the sun finally burst through the mist and the surrounding landscape was hopefully something to remember. To make it a little more exciting and challenging, we took the route via Widecombe in the Moor, Dartmeet, Two Bridges, Princetown, avoiding the prison! Yelverton to Buckland Monachorum.

The Garden House is a different type of garden. We were met at the entrance by William Stanger, a three-year trainee as a part of the Professional Gardeners Guild, who guided us at a good pace over part of the 10 acre site. An imaginatively planted two-acre terraced walled garden centred on the ruins of a 16th Century vicarage was visited. This area was extensively planted with a wide range of tender, uncommon and exotic plants arranged in a pleasing way to show off their unique colour, texture and form. We were also shown the 'New Naturalism' style of planting developed on six acres in the western part of the garden by a previous Head Gardener, Keith Wiley. Finally we were guided around the two-acre Jubilee Arboretum planted by Head Gardener Matt Bishop to commemorate 50 years of the Fortescue Trust, using 100 carefully selected trees of interest and note. Nick Haworth,

who unfortunately was not available to guide us, now manages the garden. After all of this we were then all ready to demolish a 'proper' Devon Cream tea with lots jam and cream! Later in the evening after a full day we all sat down to a meal at the Smugglers Inn, Dawlish.



Coleton Fishacre house

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, with the morning adventure of steam train ride, ferry and river cruise. Sixteen of us were due to meet at Paignton Station at 10.30am and we set off in our booked

carriage called 'Madeline' to Kingswear; our president seemed to be a happy man at this stage of the proceedings! At Kingswear we promptly got off the train and embarked onto the ferry across to Dartmouth and immediately onto a circular river cruise on the Dart. The sun was now finally out, and in the glorious sunshine we cruised up and down the river Dart with the captain of the cruiser entertaining us with useful and some dubious information!

We then did the journey again in reverse to Paignton and made our way to the National Trust property, Coleton Fishacre. We were met at the entrance by the Senior Gardener Martyn Pepper who took us around the garden. The site conditions are so mild and sheltered in some cases it resembles the plantings you would find inside the Temperate House at Kew! We did not visit the



View from Coleton Fishacre garden

beautiful house on the site built of local stone in the 1920s situated on the southern slope of the sheltered valley of the whole garden. Martyn gave us a great and interesting tour showing us lots of plants, which puzzled some of our members as to their identity. So much so that many said they would visit again to look at the house and gaze out at the amazing views from the valley to the sea.

## Derbyshire/Chatsworth Weekend

11th-13th August

by Tony Overland and Pamela Holt

**Friday 11th August.** The Guild's visit to Broomfield Hall was the first part of a wonderful weekend of gardens and historic buildings in the Matlock area organised by Jean and Rod Peach. Broomfield Hall Campus is part of Derby College, a further education establishment that provides a wide range of courses for some 26,000 people. Broomfield was the county's agricultural college and in the recent past merged with Derby College to become a centre for the land-based industries.

We were met by Head Gardener Samantha Harvey (Kew 2008) and welcomed by the principal Eileen Swan who gave a brief résumé of the courses at the campus; she mentioned that there was plenty of interest about the various options available, although sometimes there was less response for the horticultural courses.

Charles Edward Schwind bought the estate in 1870 and by 1880 he had the Hall erected, with Victorian Style gardens. The gardens were designed and laid out by William Barron (the inventor of the Barron tree transplanting machine) with a walled garden, sunken garden, paths and extensive grounds.

On 1st March 1830 Barron was appointed Gardener to Charles Stanhope, the fourth Earl of Harrington, at Elvaston Castle in Derbyshire and instructed to create a new garden. He created what was to be the first garden in Britain to have "rooms", each a theatrical set piece dedicated to the themes of chivalry and love. The most striking were the Alhambra garden with its Moorish pavilion and the Mon Plaisir garden, with its bowers, topiary, statues and monkey puzzle trees. After five years of drainage and earth moving the Earl was impatient to have a more mature landscape. This may well have led Barron to design and build his large tree transplanting machine; one of which remains at Kew to this day. After the death of the fifth earl in 1851, Barron bought 40 acres for a nursery site; he quickly gained a reputation for plant sales, landscape gardening and the transplanting of large trees.

There are 25 acres of Victorian gardens and woodlands at Broomfield Hall, we entered through an extensive nursery with plants for sale. Adjacent to this is a large area of glass for plant production and student training maintained by students and volunteers. The garden, after a long period of neglect is now, with the skill and energy of Samantha Harvey and a large team of volunteers, undergoing restoration. Key areas of the grounds have been reconstructed thanks to a £4,000 grant received last year from the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust.

There are so many different areas like the impressive Long Border, now in the process of being planted. The Japanese garden is to be restored, and a new Rose Garden will be established. In fact, even today the influence of Barron's design found at Elvaston Hall, can be seen in the series of enclosures throughout the grounds at Broomfield Hall.

There is a Parterre Garden, where cool colours will be used to fill the beds. Further on there was an interesting array of different kinds of hedges, where the students can learn to

prune. Also along the woodland walks can be seen specimen trees including *Davidia involucrata* and *Nothofagus dombeyi*. My particular favourite piece of design was a sheltered area of sub-tropical plantings featuring different *Ricinus communis* varieties, *Canna indica*, *Tetrapanax papyrifera*, *Pennisetum glaucum* 'Purple Majesty', *Musa basjoo* and many *Amaranthus* varieties including 'Hot Biscuits'. Overall our visit here was a most enjoyable prelude to an outstanding weekend of venues with some beautiful gardens and good company. – Tony Overland

**Saturday 12th August.** A lovely sunny day greeted us as we parked opposite Haddon Hall near Bakewell and followed Jean Peach across the road to meet our guide Gail who conducted us through the private home and garden of Lord and Lady Edward Manners. Starting in the courtyard we learned that the origins of Haddon Hall go back 860 years, with only two families the Vernons and Manners living here. Prior to this William the Conqueror owned the property with mention in the Domesday book. After 1640 the house was abandoned for the Duke of Rutland to make his ancestral home at Belvoir castle in Leicestershire.

Although some walls are castellated the house has never had military involvement, which has helped retention of many original features. Moving into the oldest part the Chapel dedicated to St. Nicholas, we examined the fine wall murals and sculptures. The 9th Duke uncovered other wall paintings in the 1920s following restoration of the house. Next the medieval kitchens with original 13th Century oven and chopping boards. Several 14th Century dole cupboards were examined where surplus food was placed and beggars could insert their hand through a hole for sustenance.

In the Great Hall hangs a huge tapestry from 1480 gifted by Henry VIII for help at the battle of Boswell. The long table has an unattached top board, which was turned over after meals allowing dogs to clear up leftovers - the origin of the phrase "tables turned". The Tudor Parlour with the Vernon crest, a fine Boar carving, is frequently used for private wedding services, the Great Chamber with its Italianate plasterwork frieze and Elizabethan Long Gallery were all visited. Here we learned of Bombay Glass created by Robert Smythe. The diamond leaded panes appeared distorted but in fact were deliberately made in wavy panels to scatter the light into the room. From here the party stepped out onto the terrace, one of several, which lead down to the River Wye below. The soil is limestone and very free draining with massive retaining terrace walls where a large collection of roses is sited. We marvelled that the head gardener Jane managed the grounds almost single-handed taking six months to prune all the climbing roses.

One part time gardener and three volunteers complete the workforce to cope with hedges, lawns, bowling green, cutting garden and topiary. Arne Maynard was called in to design the upper terrace, which was suffering from rose sickness. The original bowling green now sports a knot garden and small lawn with formal clipped purple beech squares surrounding a pool. At the conclusion of our tour President Alan Stuttard presented our guide Gail



Haddon Hall, L to R: Leo Pemberton, Rod Peach, John Isaac, Roger Marsden, Jean Griffin ©Pamela Holt

with the book *Kew Plant Hunters* along with our thanks. We then wandered along the top terrace and thence to the delightful tearooms where we took lunch before driving off to our next location.

Mr and Mrs Jeremy Butt greeted us in their idiosyncratic garden with a few words on its development. Anita had taught at Broomfield Hall prior to retirement and both are keen gardeners buying extra land to enlarge their garden and until quite recently opened for the National Gardens Scheme. We were invited to explore and then return to the tables and chairs set out on the lawn for delicious tea and cake. Much of the garden is on a slope with a ravine below and running stream spanned by rustic bridges. Various quirky sculptures in wood and ceramic with a fascinating zip wire with suspended seats strung between some conifers were all tried out. Many fine trees were admired from *Eucalyptus spp.*, *Sorbus aria* 'Mitchellii', *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis', *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* 'Variegata', to *Liquidambar styraciflua* and unusual plants like exotic *Begonia*, *Fascicularia* and *Eucomis* planted outside. Various shrub and herbaceous borders together with a fruit and vegetable area made for a fascinating afternoon. That evening was a continuation of laughter and enjoyable chatter as members partook of an excellent buffet supper provided by our hosts Rod and Jean Peach on their terrace above Matlock.

**Sunday 13th August.** Another glorious day this time at Chatsworth where the gardener in charge of the walled gardens Faye Tuffrey took time to explain what we were seeing as she expertly guided us around. The garden staff of 24 includes a florist team and two teams to cover ornamentals, production, glasshouses and flowers. There are three students (including an apprentice) from the Professional Gardeners Guild and Historic, Botanic and English Heritage. Separate staff manage the wider estate.

We learnt how William Cavendish married Bess of Hardwick in 1550s creating orchards, fish ponds and Queen Mary's Bower, a viewing platform when Mary Queen of Scots came in 1570. The Duke of Devonshire redesigned the garden in 1699 much influenced by the Dutch. When Capability Brown was employed much of this was swept away creating the grass swards and cascade in 1720. Joseph Paxton at 23 years of age arrived as Head



Chatsworth Faye Tuffrey in the vineyard ©Pamela Holt

Gardener in 1826 having been spotted at the RHS Chiswick garden by the 6th Duke. Many glasshouses were erected during his time in office from restoring the stone built Camellia house of 1697, the wall heated Paxton's Case a house with sliding panels, the 340 ft long Conservative wall with fruit trees to orchid and tropical houses.

We were able to wander through some houses normally closed to the public and were warned not to touch the luscious Muscat of Alexandria grapes being raised for show. A special house was built to grow the *Victoria amazonica* in 1801, which flowered ahead of the plant at Kew. The orchid house has three heat regimes to suit the various plants many of which were collected in India by John Gibson and named after Paxton and the Duke in the 1890s. Between 1836-41 Joseph Paxton designed and built the Great Stove with ingenious guttering, ridge and furrow glazing and tunnels; one with a tramway to supply the coal to the underground boiler, another of nearly a furlong to take smoke and smuts up the hillside. With 52,287 square feet of glass and covering 3/4 acre, this was then the largest freestanding glasshouse in the world. World War I took its



From L to R: Bob Ivison, Jean Griffin, Alan Stuttard, Tony Overland, Alex George. ©Jean Griffin

toll on the gardens and plants due to lack of staff and coal to heat the glasshouses and by 1920 the decision was taken to demolish the Great Stove House. We were horrified to learn that this was accomplished by using dynamite! Today a yew maze occupies the former site.

The current three acre kitchen gardens were created from an area originally used for grazing horses. The vegetables, fruit and flowers are used in the house, with any excess sold in the

shops. At lunch time members were free to visit the house or explore the extensive gardens and grounds, rock garden, arboretum and water features. A very full and enjoyable weekend made possible by the meticulous planning undertaken by Rod and Jean Peach. They are deservedly our first new members under the new rules of the Kew Guild. – Pamela Holt

## Bodenham Arboretum

21st October

by Graham Heywood and Peter Styles

*'So have I heard the cuckoo's parting cry, From the wet field, through the next garden trees, Come with the volleying rain and tossing breeze'.* Matthew Arnold 1822-1888.

How apt that just a few days before our visit to Bodenham I (GH) should be reading the above poem by Matthew Arnold. Was it a warning of the weather we might expect?

We gathered under a dark grey sky with warnings of extreme gales and heavy rain, but despite the warnings 22 members signed up and braved the weather to enjoy the first event of the 2017/18 season. Organised by Tony Overland with assistance from Brian Phillips we enjoyed a guided tour of 'Worcestershire's Hidden Garden'. Led by the second generation's owner James Binnian we were shown a huge range of trees and shrubs, set within a beautifully landscaped 170 acre park with magnificent water features.

The arboretum is a privately-run garden, part of a larger family run farming business incorporating home produced lamb, pork and beef; log production producing 1,000 tons per year to feed the hugely increasing number of private log burning fires; a very popular lakeside licensed restaurant and shop. The restaurant has become a local destination attracting large numbers of visitors at the weekend. James informed us that in terms of

overall income, the most profitable was the food sales, followed by sale of logs and then admissions to the arboretum.



©Graham Heywood

The site is bowl shaped with an opening on one side, and converting it to its current purpose was relatively easy. Within this bowl there are two miniature valleys which are fed with water from a series of springs. David Binnians's (James' father) first task was to decide where the pools were to be created, and then the location of the



Leo Pemberton receives a birthday card from President Jean Griffin during lunch at Bodenhams Arboretum  
©Graham Heywood

planting of additional trees. There are now some thirteen pools with a constant supply of water.

When the property was purchased in 1973 by James' parents it was a near derelict 127 acres with extensive rough grazing and covered in brambles and scrub woodland. James' father David was a Kidderminster based estate agent and who read forestry at college. The arboretum opened to the public in 1998. It now employs 20 staff inside and five outside in the grounds. The site is on clay but with careful management the tree losses have been reduced. Part of the estate was heavily planted with poplar for the nearby Bryant and May matchstick factory, but this has long disappeared although large stands of poplar still survive in and around the site. One of the main features of the park is the Laburnum tunnel, styled on the fine example at Bodnant but laid out in a unique curving format. Honey fungus is a problem here. A splendid gazebo erected to mark the millennium and a new fernery both add greatly to the must see attractions.

The arboretum is a perfect wildlife habitat and the West Midland Bird Club hold their national bird surveys there every year. One of the busy times of year is Christmas when the donkeys become a firm favourite. James has received a host of awards including a Tourism Enterprise Award and an English Heritage Status Award in 1995. Bodenhams is the only site which has qualified twice for this prestigious award. James took a poignant moment to describe his experience when visiting the House of Lords to collect the Tourism Enterprise Award from Andrea Leadsom (currently, Leader of the House of Commons and formerly Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). He was on Westminster Bridge at the time of the terrorist attack in March of this year with his family on their way to collect their award.

James reminded us about the Kew links with the arboretum - Kew were assessors for the Heritage Status award and were also instrumental in the early days of its development by providing plant material. Sadly, these early links with Kew have not lasted and our President Jean Griffin promised to look into the possibility of these being renewed.

Finally, we asked about the future plans for the arboretum and the family business. James is not the kind of man to let the grass grow under his feet! There are two rapidly growing Forest Schools benefiting more than 3000 children each year and a programme of thinning and shrub colour enrichment. At this point James reflected on the knowledge he and his family have accumulated over the years and cautioned anyone in a similar situation not to plant trees too close together. They need room to grow!

We concluded our very informative and inspiring morning tour with a splendid lunch at the lakeside restaurant, after which many members took the opportunity to explore the gardens by themselves before departing home. However, before members and friends departed the restaurant there was one very important task for the President to perform. That was to congratulate Leo Pemberton on his 89th birthday (we had all signed a birthday card for Leo) who seemed to be more fit and agile than many present who were younger than he. We reflected on the support and encouragement Leo had provided to many of us during our time as students at Kew. Well done Leo; what a wonderful age and what a wonderful man! PS: The weather was, after all, relatively good for our visit with just a light occasional drizzle and no wind to speak of.

## Kew Guild Awards Scheme 2017

by Chris Kidd

The Awards Scheme Committee for 2017 was made up as follows: Chris Kidd - Chair, Marcella Corcoran - Secretary, Linda Baharier - Treasurer. Other members: Jennifer Alstop; David Barnes, Allan Hart, Christopher Weddell, Gillian Leese, Susyn Andrews, David Hardman, David Simpson, Richard Wilford and Sal Demain (student rep).

The KGAS met on 9th March 2017 and 13th July 2017 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 distances at personal expense, keeping good records and giving sage advice.

### Awards

A total of £12,190 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available at the meetings to be made as awards. Over the two meetings 15 applications had been made; all but two were successful after individual debate. These are listed below:

#### March meeting

David Tatham - Therapeutic horticulture course - awarded £360 from General Fund  
 Felix Merklinger - Studies in Gashaka Gumti National Park, Nigeria - awarded £1,200 from Redman Fund  
 Christina Clowser - Tour of historic gardens of France and Italy - awarded £500 from Ian Leese Fund  
 Katarzyna Babel - Travel to South Korea, Arboreta, Gardens, parks etc. - awarded £1,057 from Dallimore Fund

Of a total fund availability of £12,190 for 2015, £3,117 was awarded, leaving £9,073 potentially for award applications to be considered in July 2017.

#### George Brown Memorial Award

Nomination was received by the KGASC from member Jill Cowley for Sandy Atkins. The nomination was circulated and wholeheartedly agreed by the committee. The award to be presented at the Annual Dinner 2018. A nomination for 2019 has already been received and will be discussed at the March 2018 meeting.

#### July Meeting

Clare Drinkell - Complete MA in Museum studies - awarded £500 from General Fund  
 John Sales - Publish National Trust garden history book - awarded total £2,000, comprising £1,748 from General Fund and £252 from Turner Fund  
 Kathryn Braithwaite - Study alpine flora of New Zealand 4 weeks - awarded £840 from Redman Fund  
 Marcelo Sellaro - Work experience with expert in *Tillandsia* spp. in Netherlands - awarded £594 from Arnold Fund  
 Nina Davies - Complete MA in Museum studies - awarded £500 from General Fund  
 Rebecca Hilgenhof - Attend Passiflora society meeting and study tour in Colombia - awarded inaugural John Woodhams Award of £1,000

This is the first John Woodhams Award, made possible by the kind donation by Joan

Woodhams of a legacy in memory of her late husband. This annual Award, of £1,000 per year for 10 years, remembers John Woodhams, former Assistant Curator of the Tropical Department at Kew and Vice President of the Kew Guild 1992/93.

Richard Morton - Complete Wilson 50 Azalea collection in Japan - awarded £571 from Dallimore Fund

Shahina Ghazanfar - Visit St Petersburg Herbarium - awarded total £1,138.90 comprising £596 from Turner Fund and £542.90 from Redman Fund

Slawomira Wojtas - Attend landscape architects conference in Berlin - awarded £663.50 from Redman Fund

Of a total fund availability of £9,073 for July 2017, £7,807.40 was awarded, leaving £1,265.60 unallocated.

### Fellowship of the Kew Guild

John Melmoe nominated Professor Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough for the Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship 2018. The Kew Guild awards sub-committee in attendance agreed unanimously. Recommendation for both to be offered Honorary Fellowship to the Kew Guild in 2018 was made to the first full committee meeting following the AGM. Two nominations for 2019 have already been received and will be discussed at the March 2018 meeting. This is earlier than previous years, but has been felt easier to manage in a single Presidential year.

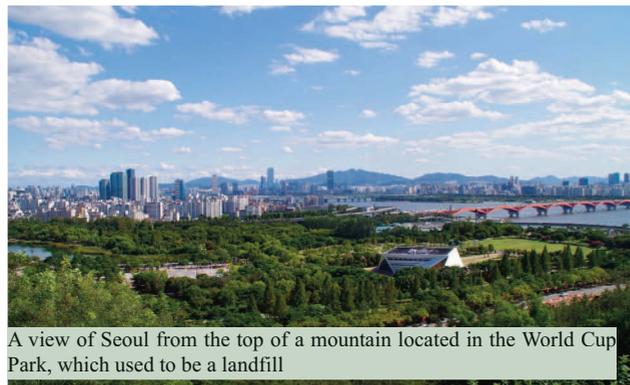
## **Award Scheme Reports**

### **South Korea Trip**

by Katarzyna ‘Kasia’ Babel (September 2017)

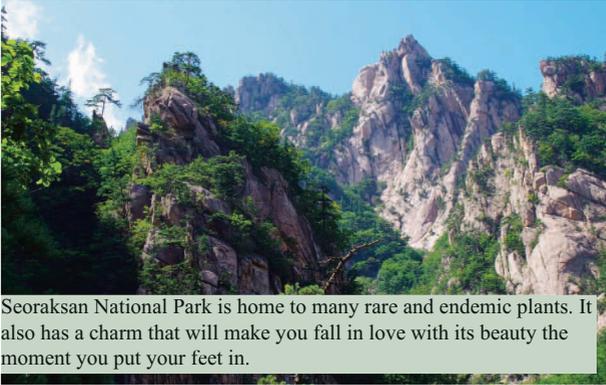
Thanks to the generosity of the Kew Guild I had the opportunity to re-visit South Korea in September 2017. I had already visited a small island, Jeju, in May 2015 to learn about alpine plants and I fell in love with the country, people and, obviously, its wonderful flora. Since my visit I had wanted to go and discover more of the richness of its plant kingdom. This time, however, I focused on north part of the country, covering the gardens, parks and Botanical Gardens in Seoul. Additionally, I went hiking to the Seoraksan National Park located on the north-east part of South Korea and spent a wonderful plant hunting day on Gyeongpo Beach in Gangneung before returning to Seoul.

Seoul is an interesting place to visit, not only because of its cultural assets or neither for



A view of Seoul from the top of a mountain located in the World Cup Park, which used to be a landfill

famous ‘kpop’ stars or busy night life. It is a place that offers something more – plenty of green spaces – some hidden some well known. The topography of the city is similar to the topography of the country – mountainous. It defines the design of Seoul, a city with lots of small mountains, some of them transferred into parks. They offer a place of rest from the noise in this city of 10 million.



Seoraksan National Park is home to many rare and endemic plants. It also has a charm that will make you fall in love with its beauty the moment you put your feet in.

Additionally, many areas along the Han river, which divide the city into two halves, have been quite recently also changed into public parks.

The most impressive for me to see was the World Cup Park. The site, where the park is located, used to be a landfill that held 92 million tons of waste. Now, you can play games or have a picnic in one of many playgrounds or resting areas. If you feel

energetic (and it seems that many Korean, when they pass middle age, become very energetic!) you can hike up to the top of the forested mountain and admire the overview of the city. However, probably the most popular park in the city is the Seoul Forest. This large park offers to visitors many attractions like the Butterfly House (located in glasshouse that used to be a water treatment plant), a deer enclosure, playgrounds for children, a forest trail and more. It is the location, the heart of the city, which makes it a perfect place for families to go and enjoy outdoor activities.

The highlight of the whole trip was the Seoraksan National Park which is famous for its autumn colours (unfortunately, I missed that, visiting in September). I spent altogether one and a half days which allowed me to reach Yangpok Shelter, which is on the way to Daechongbong Peak (1,708 metres). The views on the way up will be always in my memory as one of the most amazing and beautiful.

The trip allowed me to gain a better understanding of designing public green spaces, especially in a busy setting. I was also able to gain a better knowledge of this region's plants. I met great people who made the whole trip a wonderful and educational experience. Moreover, I am still hungry to learn more about Korean plants and I am already planning my next trip!

## A Tour of Heritage Gardens in Italy and France

by Christina Clowser (June 2017)

In June 2017, I embarked on a trip that would take me to see some of the most prestigious heritage gardens in France and Italy. Through this trip I hoped to gain insight into distinguishing features of French formal and Italian Renaissance gardens, and of the influence of the English style garden on the continent. Here follows a report of the main gardens visited on this trip.

My first week was spent in France, visiting the formal grounds of Versailles, Vaux le Vicomte, and the gardens of the Tuileries Palace; all of which were designed by André Le Nôtre, the renowned gardener of King Louis XIV. Versailles was the first to visit, and I made sure to go on a day that the fountains were running (much recommended). The grandeur of the place and the vastness of scale and extreme formality hit you immediately on entrance to the garden.

Beyond this, it was clear the need for double avenues for shading as well as formality (30°C heat brings perspective), and of the magical feel to the number of grottos and fountains throughout the gardens. The tale of le Notre being poached from Nicolas Fouquet

by King Louis XIV to create Versailles is one that is very well known. And upon arrival at Vaux le Vicomte it was clear why his work at this garden was so greatly admired. Vaux le Vicomte is a stunning garden, a picture-perfect creation that is exactly what you learn is representative of French formal gardens. The garden is a series of terraces, but one cannot appreciate this fact from the main view from the house, the terraces instead reveal themselves once you venture into the grounds. In fact the canals are hidden from this view.



The Orangerie at Versailles

After all that formality, a trip to Monet's garden at Giverny was a joy to the senses. The English style cottage garden was like coming home! It had a real 'Great Dixter' feel to it, with real lush English style plantings of Roses, Dahlias, Delphiniums, Lavender and many more. And then through an underpass you enter an almost entirely different world of the Waterlily garden. A large standing of bamboo greets you, and a serene pathway meanders through the gardens, bringing you out to the famous view of the waterlily pond and bridge. June the *Nymphaea* was in its glorious prime and the place really took your breath away!

The following week I met Anna Tack, a fellow Diploma student, in Milan to visit the most magical place we could have imagined! The Borromean islands are located on Lake Maggiore and have been owned by the Borromeo family since the 16th Century. They became part of the 'Grand Tour' undertaken by upper class European gentleman (and on occasion ladies) when they came of age to provide a cultural education. We met Gianfranco Giustina, the head gardener of the islands, who gave us an extensive tour of Isola Madre, the Botanic Gardens maintained in the style of the English romantic garden. Gianfranco explained that they see the garden as 'alive' and while the historic aspect is maintained, to some extent the planting is flexible.

A particularly interesting story was that of the cashmere cypress, *Cupressus cashmeriana* 'Glaucua'. The specimen on the island was grown from seed in 1862, but a particularly strong storm in 2006 took 200 trees in the garden and brought the cypress to the ground. Gianfranco could not give up on this iconic tree and so he brought in cranes to right the tree and cabled it to the ground. Over the years the cables are being slowly removed and the tree remains healthy. Through this feat Gianfranco gained the Veitch Memorial Medal 2014 for progression of scientific knowledge in horticulture.

After leaving Isola Madre we moved to Isola Bella, a very different garden! A stunning Italianate gardens for the palace, ten terraces carved from a largely barren rock, this is possibly the most beautiful garden I have ever visited. With impressive statuary, parterres and flower gardens; this is quintessentially Italian Renaissance garden with order and beauty in equal parts designed for contemplation and pleasure.

It was very hard to leave the beauty of Northern Italy and to head down to Rome, but the fountains of Villa d'Este were calling! A spectacular feat of architecture, a series of 51

fountains are gravity fed from the river Aniene with no need for pumps. The garden is laid out on a series of terraces, with much statuary and architecture, and great views of the



Isola Bella, parterre

surrounding countryside and olive groves. Plantwise the lawn is well kept, trees and citrus pepper the garden but there is not much in the way of flowers!

A tour of the gardens of the Vatican City could not be missed while in Rome.

Originally vineyards, the gardens date back to medieval times and now cover over half the country. A series of small gardens,

created by different Popes over the centuries the area is covered in grottoes, fountains and monuments. There is a real blend of different styles, Italian renaissance, French formal and English style landscape garden.

The final garden of the visit was the gardens of Ninfa, an exquisite English style romantic garden created in the ruins of a medieval town. The gardens open only two days a month and is by tour only; you are not permitted to wander from the paths which is a very different (and less enjoyable) way to experience a garden. However, the beauty of rambling roses over ruins is more than enough to make up for this!

At the end of the trip I feel I have understood the defining characteristics of French and Italian gardens, how political reasons have influenced this, and the influences that this has



Anna and me at Villa d'Este

had on our great gardens in England. It has also been clear the influence of the English landscape and cottage gardens on the gardens I visited during the trip.

I would like to thank the Bentham-Moxon Trust, Kew Guild and Great Dixter Trust for their great help in funding this trip; Rosie Fyles, Emma McNamara and Mark Lamey from the National Trust for their advice; and to Gianfranco Giustina for his time and passion. A huge thank you to Anna Tack for being my company in Italy, having

someone to discuss the gardens with greatly enhanced my experience.

## International Orchid Conservation Congress, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, Hong Kong

by Lauren Gardiner (May 2016)

Every three years, the international orchid conservation community meets for the International Orchid Conservation Congress (IOCC), an important opportunity for collaboration, networking, and dissemination of research and ideas. This year, the meeting took place in Hong Kong, a fantastic place to see and work on orchids, being a centre for orchid diversity, and the host organisation, Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden for some

really exciting orchid conservation research. I am extremely grateful to the Kew Guild for contributing to my attendance at the IOCC in 2016, funding my flights to Hong Kong and conference registration. With a small amount of funding from Kew and some of my own funds, I was able to meet the remaining costs involved.

My main contribution to the conference was a presentation in the main lecture programme, in the session entitled *Scaling-up conservation assessments and tackling key threats*. My talk, *Trials and triage: assessing the conservation status of nearly 1000 species in Madagascar*, was co-authored with my colleague Landy R. Rajaovelona from the Kew Madagascar team, based in Antananarivo. I spoke about the importance of Red Listing species, and my work with Landy to scale up the number of orchid species which have published Red List assessments. We currently believe that an extremely high proportion (circa 70%) of the nearly 1000 orchid species in Madagascar are likely to be threatened with extinction, but often we only have very limited data on which to base these assessments. I discussed how at Kew we are using new technologies, including using the citizen science platform iNaturalist on mobile phones, and DNA barcoding, to try to speed up the documentation of orchid distributions without the need for destructive collection of wild plants, and to produce better assessments, and more quickly.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to hold the workshop on Red Listing which I had planned to run at the conference, but I wove a lot of discussion around Red Listing into my presentation, had very productive meetings with colleagues from around the world on Red Listing work, and brought it up at the IUCN SSC Orchid Specialist Group meeting – and a commitment towards writing, reviewing, and contributing to Red List assessments by the whole community was included in the conference resolutions agreed at the end of the week. I organised an appeal for contributors and reviewers for recently completed, and ‘in draft’, Asian orchid assessments from colleagues working on the Sampled Red List Index project at Kew – and the team were able to subsequently follow up on some of these leads.

Four days of lectures were broken up with a full day at Kadoorie, a remarkable 150 hectare site originally created in 1956 as an experimental farm to help poor farmers in the New Territories of Hong Kong to develop their animal husbandry and agricultural skills. The beautiful site, with forests and streams, as well as animal enclosures and plant growth facilities and laboratories, has shifted its focus towards biodiversity conservation and sustainable living over the last twenty years.

## **The Arboreal Passionflowers of Colombia**

by Rebecca Hilgenhof (August 2017)

In August 2017 I set off from London to travel to Bogotá, Colombia. During my travel scholarship I had the great opportunity to visit and explore what is considered the second most biodiverse region in the world. Colombia’s flora is rich with the highest percentage of species endemism of any country. It is a known hotspot, especially for the genus *Passiflora*, a group of plants that I have shown a great interest in throughout my horticultural career. Of the 575 known passionflowers, slightly more than a quarter are native. Particularly well represented is a little known subgenus called *Passiflora* subgenus *Astrophea*, containing the nine species of true trees.

The richness in plant species is the result of Colombia’s complex geography and consequently diversity of bioclimatic zones. Over the course of three weeks I spent most of my time travelling around the Andean bioregions, visiting places in all the three major mountain ranges or cordilleras, exploring habitats with elevations from as low as 350 metres to as high as 3,450 metres.

In Villavicencio, which is located in the lowlands to the east of the Eastern Cordillera, I met up with Carolina Aguirre and Miguel Bonilla from the University of the Llanos. Together, we spent a number of days exploring the Apure-Villavicencio dry forests ecoregion. Here, in one of the still relatively untouched forest fragments, we were able to find amongst other passionflowers our first species of *Passiflora* subgenus *Astrophea*, *Passiflora securiclata*. This red-flowered forest liana is part of section *Botryastrophea*. The species is easily recognised from other climbers by their non-twining stems and the persisting tendril bases which appear spine-like.

The first true arboreal species of sect. *Astrophea* I encountered at slightly higher elevations above 1,000 metres. In temperate forests of Valle del Cauca and Antioquia I was able to study *P. emarginata* and *P. sphaerocarpa*. Both are freestanding trees that are recorded to grow as tall as 15 metres and have lost the ability to climb entirely. I was very fortunate to see both in bloom, as this is of great importance to distinguish species from another. Other bioregions I visited such as the Andean cloud forests are located at much higher altitudes, where the tree-like passionflowers are generally absent. Nevertheless, I was able to study yet another group of passionflowers that are particularly well presented within Colombia, the Tacsonias. These are vines that produce long tubular flowers which range from orange



to red and are adapted for hummingbird pollination. Examples of species are *P. cumbalensis*, *P. cruci-caetanoae*, *P. lanata* and *P. mixta*.

Another element of this travel scholarship was the annual meeting of the *Passiflora* Society International. Three days were spent exploring the natural surroundings of Anapoima, visiting commercial passionfruit growers and holding the official meeting which included presentations by *Passiflora* experts from across the globe. Thanks to this trip I was able to broaden my knowledge of the arboreal passionflowers, gaining a better understanding of their ex-situ growing needs. I would like to thank the Kew Guild for supporting this truly amazing trip. *Rebecca is the first recipient to be awarded the John Woodhams Award.* - Ed

## Shades of Green

by John Sales

Thanks to a generous donation from The Kew Guild, amongst others, my publisher Unicorn will be publishing a memoir *Shades of Green* in spring 2018, a mere sixty years after my leaving Kew. Several years ago I was persuaded, mainly by Brent Elliot former archivist of the Royal Horticultural Society and editor of the book, that recollections of my being for over a quarter of a Century the National Trust's Head of Gardens would comprise an important record. I now accept that it was a duty (as well as a bit of an ego-trip!) to publish my first-hand account of fifty of Great Britain's greatest historic gardens during a crucial time of their transition from private to corporate ownership. Never likely to be a best seller, the book needed some initial funding as a 'pump-primer' to enable the publisher to go ahead.

During the second half of the 20th Century the National Trust acquired the world's greatest assembly of historic gardens and landscape parks, often along with great houses and estates, in every condition of care and repair and under every conceivable regime of management, often after decades of decline. Usually with minimum funds and inadequate staffing, its duty was (and still is) "to preserve places of historic interest and natural beauty for the nation". This invariably entails picking up the reins of management under strict financial constraints and facilitating public visiting on an ever-increasing scale, often while

negotiating fundamental change with still-resident donor families and others. Many gardens and parks needed comprehensive schemes of restoration and all gardens demanded consistent long-term programmes of care, repair and renewal, negotiated with all concerned, and guided by gardens advisers.

This was a unique experience never to be repeated, because after the turn of the Century the National Trust changed in character and approach as it continued to grow and become, perhaps inevitably, more bureaucratic as well as popular, while still aiming to further its protection and conservation obligations. My work involved on the one hand working with gardeners, managers and historians towards the continual care, cultivation, upkeep and renewal of gardens and parks of all degrees of importance and complexity and on the other hand interacting with, and learning from, a fascinating range of people, many of whom became friends as well as colleagues. At a time when the study of garden history was still in its infancy, any understanding of the philosophy and practice of historic parks and garden conservation, as distinct from architectural and archaeological conservation, was little understood or even considered. The book includes my conservation philosophy for historic parks and gardens arising from 60 years experience.

Throughout my time with the Trust I was called upon to relate to people from all walks of life, including donor families, who sometimes managed and needed at least to be consulted. Also distinguished experts, academics and professionals, together with individuals with a lifetime of experience of great country houses and gardens. From them I was able to gather wise counsel to guide, encourage and temper our best efforts as gardens advisers.

The Trust was lucky to be served by my small team of dedicated advisers and technical staff and above all to be served by so many expert and accomplished gardeners, including some of the outstanding head gardeners of the century, to whom I owe a great deal. It goes without saying that the publisher will be sending a copy of *Shades of Green* to The Kew Guild as soon as it is published and will acknowledge the Guild's assistance with the book.

## **Utrecht Placement**

by Marcelo Sellaro

In late summer 2017, the Kew Guild supported my work experience placement with Dr. Eric J. Gouda, who is the world authority on the Bromeliaceae family and the curator of Utrecht Botanic Gardens, based on the university campus in the Netherlands. Prior to this, I have successfully exchanged genetic resources which greatly enhanced the living plant collections at Kew. This was a good time to continue the programme with European counterparts.

The main purpose of this visit was to secure a donation of bromeliads, giving priority to natural sources and threatened species from Latin America, but also to spending some valuable time studying the botany and taxonomy of Bromeliaceae, more specifically the subfamily Tillandsioideae, including *Guzmania* spp. with their conspicuous and colourful bracts, *Vriesea* spp. with their prominent warrior spikes and the incredible *Tillandsia* spp., the desirable air plants.

In fact, this group is mostly epiphytic plants, defined literally, as something that perches on another plant. The approximately 28,000 kinds of officially anointed epiphytes grow this way. The most spectacular of the epiphytic bromeliads possess vascular systems and the other attributes that distinguish the 'higher' from the 'lower' plants (liverworts and mosses). Another very important and representative group of bromeliads inhabit Inselbergs, which are isolated rises above a plain which consist of hard bedrock, usually



massive rocks. As a botanical horticulturist in charge of the bromeliad collections at Kew, the work experience in Utrecht Botanic Gardens helped me to improve my horticultural skills to cultivate epiphytic and rupicolous plants, studying their diverse bromeliad living collection with the respected Eric Gouda who has built up knowledge of their natural habitats by visiting so very often. Bromeliads are widely spread over Latin America, ranging from inhospitable environments, from rainforests at sea levels to high altitude rocky soil vegetations and desert areas.

The satisfactory result of this trip has been 47 new species donated to Kew Gardens: *Aechmea* (4), *Araeococcus* (1), *Billbergia* (1), *Canistrum* (1), *Catopsis* (3), *Fosterella* (1), *Goudaea* (1), *Guzmania* (1), *Neoregelia* (10), *Orthophytum* (1), *Pitcairnia* (7), *Tillandsia* (12), *Vriesea* (4). A new genus to science was acquired. *Goudaea*, described by W. Till & Barfuss (2016) was named in honour of Eric Gouda. The agreement on the supply of living plant material for non-commercial purposes follows the International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN).

Genetic resources are crucial for ex situ conservation projects and the tropical nursery at Kew has been developing horticultural protocols in cultivation of threatened species from Latin America. The specimens brought from Utrecht Botanic Gardens represent many countries, such as Brazil, French Guiana, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, Argentina, Honduras and Mexico.



After a regimented period in the quarantine at Kew, the new species of bromeliads will be released to grow in the tropical nursery and very soon can be admired in the tropical public displays of the Princess of Wales Conservatory and the Palm House at Kew. Barfuss, M.H.J.; Till, W.; Leme, E.J.C.; Pinzón, J.P.; Manzanares, J.M.; Halbritter, H.; Samuel, R. & Brown, G.K. (2016) Taxonomic revision of Bromeliaceae subfam. Tillandsioideae based on a multi-locus DNA sequence phylogeny and morphology. *Phytotaxa* 279 (1): 001–097.

## Completion of Thrive's Award in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture by David Tatham

I have been at Kew Foundation for over eight and a half years having previously worked as a fundraiser for homelessness charities. Prior to this I trained as a Landscape Architect, and plants and horticulture have always been central to my interests. Over the past 18 months I have been fortunate enough to volunteer some of my time at a Horticultural

Therapy project in Surrey, HighGround. Horticultural Therapy (also known as Social and Therapeutic Horticulture, or STH) can be defined as ‘The use of plants by a trained professional as a medium through which certain clinically defined goals can be met’, and it has a well documented history as an effective intervention for a wide range of physical and mental health issues.

HighGround provides Horticultural Therapy to the armed forces as part of their rehabilitation programme for injured soldiers, sailors and airmen and I witnessed remarkable change in service men and women who were suffering from often significant physical and mental trauma. It sparked a personal interest in the therapeutic power of horticulture, and so I was delighted to have been accepted on Thrive’s Award in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture course over the summer, and even more so when I learnt that my application to the Kew Guild for financial support towards the course had also been successful.

The Award is achieved via attendance of two days of teaching, in my case held at Thrive’s premises in Battersea Park during the early summer, followed by eight weeks of supported self-guided study culminating in the production of a report on how the use of STH can benefit people with specific support needs and how this can be implemented as a therapy programme. I chose people suffering from mental ill health as my theoretical client group.

The course was a fascinating insight into the efficacy of horticulture as a therapeutic modality, and specifically into the benefits horticulture can provide to people suffering from poor mental health and associated factors, such as anxiety and poor social interaction. I learnt how to develop a year-round programme of horticultural activities designed to address specific needs and outcomes, including enhancing physical fitness, self-expression through creative activities using plant materials, and increasing self-worth through learning to become stewards of the natural world through growing wildlife friendly plants and creating and managing a wildlife garden.

The Award has enabled me to:

- Describe the way that STH can be beneficial for a specific client group and meet that client group’s support needs
- Design a coherent horticultural programme to meet the specific needs of a chosen client group and the individuals within this group
- Identify and select an appropriate and relevant assessment method for different client groups.

I passed the course in August, having achieved a final mark of 72%. Furthermore, upon successful completion of the Award course, I decided to continue with my studies, and have recently embarked upon The Royal Horticultural Society’s three year Master of Horticulture course.

I am uncertain as to where my horticultural studies will lead to, however I am thoroughly enjoying learning at an advanced level and have no doubt that it will open interesting and engaging doors – and hopefully lead me further into the field of Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. I am indebted to the Kew Guild for providing the initial funding for my Award, and look forward to keeping the Guild apprised of my progress as I continue with my studies! Many thanks.

## Attending the 6th International School Grounds Alliance Conference Berlin, Germany

by Slawomira Ewa Wojtas (4th-6th September)

About 8 months ago I saw an advert about the Sixth International School Grounds Conference in Berlin posted on Landscape Institute website. I then thought: ‘this suits perfectly to my developmental needs’. At that time, I was already over a year in my new job where a majority of the landscape design projects I was involved in were educational projects. I perceived that as a perfect opportunity to progress my understanding of needs for schoolyards. Thankfully, the Kew Guild Award helped in funding my attendance at the Conference and at the beginning of September this year I arrived in Berlin to learn from others’ experience.

The conference was addressed to landscape architects, planners and educators. The fact that the subject was shown from different points of view of various professionals meant that we could learn from each other and benefit from a broader perspective. The conference was structured around three pillars which were: listening (lectures – day one), seeing (schoolyards and IGA’s visits – day two) and doing (workshops – day three).

Day one was filled with lectures carried out by speakers from Brazil, Bangladesh, Shanghai and various European countries who shared their experience and presented different models of schoolyards. Many of them emphasised importance of evaluating community. Successfully designed school grounds fulfil children and adolescents’ basic needs of constructing, expressing, inquiring, exploring and communication in educational processes.

One of the lecturers tackled the very bothering and important subject of safety issues. ‘School grounds should not be as safe as possible but as safe as necessary.’ This seems a breaking point in exaggerated safety precautions that quite often go beyond common sense. According to Julian Richter; *“Educators are responsible for providing children and young people with opportunities to develop competencies such as common sense, problem solving and confidence.”* They *“need to take risks in order to develop cognitive, social, physical and psychological competencies”*.

As risk is present everywhere in the world, children and young people *“need to be able to recognise and respond to risk (...) in order to protect themselves and to develop their own risk assessment capabilities”*.

The long day of intellectual workout was finalised with an evening event – a boat trip along the Spree river– a chance for networking and social integration. The following day was fully booked with visits to various schools which were working models of ‘Grün macht Schule’ - ‘Greening up schools’ movement in multicultural Berlin.

These exempla proved that schoolyards transformations do not have to be expensive and should never be left finished! There is always some scope to further the design, it ought to be a constant work in progress. Students should and want to contribute to their schoolyards! This gives them a feeling of ownership which means they have more respect and care for the site.

The positive effects of greening up the school grounds have been noted on a number of levels:

- “Green schoolyards can increase physical activity by offering a variety of option plays that engage children of varying fitness levels, ages and genders.

- They encourage beneficial play that is imaginative, constructive, sensory rich and cooperative.
- They can enhance mental health and well-being and promote social-emotional skills development.
- And lastly they can improve academic outcomes through hands-on experiential learning and by enhancing the cognitive and emotional processes important for learning.”

The last trip that day was to the International Garden Exhibition Berlin (IGA) 2017. We had received a guided tour around the IGA Campus – International School Garden Area and around the IGA ‘Play Station Unplugged’ – the Natural Experiential Area for Children. These semi-wild managed areas provide open natural areas for play. It has been proved that playing in open nature helps children’s development and mental health, to master body control and boosts creativity, risk and social competence. In such an environment children tend to play with other children more often than in traditional play grounds, can concentrate for longer and the plays are more complex. The last couple of hours of the daylight were left for individual exploring and drawing inspiration from the Gardens of the World that formed part of the International Garden Exhibition.

We got to the last day of the Conference which was mainly designated to Workshops. I participated in ‘designing walls’ group exercise. Wiebke Wagenführ, an experienced educator, introduced us to three different techniques of designing a blank vertical wall space, whether it is external or internal. The aim of that exercise was to explore one type of activity that would allow to engage students in transforming the school grounds. Such an activity, which can be a form of a play, creates space to enhance students’ creativity, curiosity, team building and leaves a legacy which they can later relate to.

The closing point of the conference was a visit and a guided tour at the “Prinzessinnengärten”. Located in the centre of Berlin, it is a place for urban food production, raising awareness of the need for sustainable way of living and also a social place. Based on a Cuban model, where the main aim remains growing food, it has been adopted and transformed to suit the current cultural and economical situation of Germany. Currently one of several alike gardens in municipal Berlin.



Providing uneven surfaces surprisingly decreases the number of accidents compared to flat schoolyards

Yokohama will host the next year Conference of ISGA 2018. So get ready if you want to hear more about Japanese approach to designing schoolyards.



Creative paving - transforming an existing path with students

## The Kew Guild Honorary Membership

by Allan Hart

This is now the twelfth year of the Fellowship and it continues to be highly regarded by the recipients. It is a vehicle by which the ethos and traditions of the Guild are made available to those from different backgrounds who have achieved so much in their professional careers. The Fellowship is awarded in recognition of those who are particularly distinguished in their careers in horticulture and the botanical sciences. The Fellowships are restricted to 25 at any one time. The Awards Scheme, which promotes and administers the Fellowship, carries out considerable research into the suitability of the nominees. It is regretted that the Trustees decided not to allow the 2016 nomination to go forward, in spite of every sub-committee member voting for the nomination of such an outstanding person. It is hoped that this will be re-addressed in the not too distant future.

### 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
2016	No appointment
2017	James Hitchmough, Nigel Dunnett

### Professor James Hitchmough and Professor Nigel Dunnett

The Landscape Centre at Sheffield University has been the heart of extensive research into the ecology, design and management of herbaceous vegetation, undertaken as a joint collaboration between these two professors.

From 1995-2003, James was Reader of Landscape, and from 2004 to the present day Professor of Horticultural Ecology. James was the head Planting Designer and Horticultural Consultant at the 2012 Olympic Park and was responsible for the design and implementation of over 10 hectares of planting. Nigel is the Director of the Green Roof Centre and Reader in Urban Horticulture.

I believe that the work undertaken by James and Nigel in the promotion of urban horticulture through the use of wild flowers should be recognised by the Kew Guild. The legacy of their research will continue to be far reaching.

### News of Honorary Fellows

#### John Melmoe

John Melmoe was awarded a Kew Honorary Fellowship for his involvement in the UK Landscape Industry through his tenure at Willerby Landscapes Ltd. John joined this Company in 1985 to assist with the development of the business. The Company went from strength to strength and worked on some of the largest and most complex contracts in the UK including Canary Wharf, The Sky Garden, Regeneration of Kings Cross, and the QE2



Olympic Park to name but a few. Under his stewardship the Company won nine Gold Medals at Chelsea Flower show and six BALI Grand Awards. In March 2017 John retired from the business.

John recalls that one of the many things he enjoyed about the industry was the eclectic mix of individuals who he encountered. “I have been fortunate enough to have worked with some fabulous guys and girls, some truly great characters. I’ve been in a position privileged enough to give people the

opportunity to excel and succeed to the best of their ability, both inside and outside of the business. In return they have given me great support and enjoyment for the past 32 years. I leave the company in great hands and will watch the ongoing development of the business with interest and pride. In leaving the business it will give me time to focus on my wife, Gail, and spend some time watching our four granddaughters growing up”.

*John has achieved the pinnacle of the landscape construction industry by winning a sixth British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) Grand Award - the largest number in BALI's forty years of awards. I hope that John's well-deserved retirement will enable him to continue to lobby for the highest possible standards in the landscape industry. - Allan Hart.*

### Tim Smit

My year has been one to barely catch breath with exciting developments in the UK and overseas. Our ambition to have an Eden Project in every inhabited continent continues apace and in 2017 we formed a new wing, Eden Project International Ltd, to drive this forward. We are now at an advanced stage of our planning, alongside our partners China Jinmao Holdings, to create a £150 million tourism and education centre in the coastal city of Qingdao. The project is one of four that Eden is planning in China and is due to open in 2020. We are also part of the advisory group working on very exciting plans for the Sustainability Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, United Arab Emirates. At our home in Cornwall we are embarking on a huge programme to examine our relationship with the invisible worlds around us and inside us, from microbiology to trends affecting all our futures.

Opening this coming spring (2018), the new permanent exhibition Invisible Worlds will explore planetary phenomena beyond our senses: too vast, too small, too fast, too slow and too far away in space or time. The year just gone has seen our contemporary garden at Eden reach new heights with the award of our first National Plant Collection status by the conservation charity, Plant



Eden Project horticultural apprentice Jorin Lenz-Williams and horticulturist Katie McBride among the red-hot pokers in Eden's new Bright Sparks garden.

Heritage, after we set a hillside ablaze with thousands of red-hot poker in our biggest planting scheme since we opened in 2001. We look forward to see that in all its glory in the months ahead.

### **Anna Pavord**

The year of 2017 was pretty quiet, as my last book, *Landskipping* had been published the previous year, and I spent a fair bit of time on the road, talking at various festivals, including the fine one at Aldeburgh in June. We were in Antigua for a week in January and saw two excellent gardens there: Lindsay Hill in Parham and Spring Hill Garden in English Harbour. I have been wondering how they survived in the terrible weather that later hit the Caribbean. We were on a sailing boat and fortunately had a calm time.

In February, I went to Vancouver to speak at a gathering of keen plantspeople. No snow, but wonderful views over the harbour. Towards the end of June, I was speaking at the Gardens in the Wild festival, held this year at Whitfield in Herefordshire, where the great plantsman, the late George Clive, built up a magnificent collection of trees, including 40 different magnolias. The place is now in the hands of his nephew, Ted, who continues to plant with great enthusiasm. It's a wonderful place and is usually open once or twice in the year for the NGS.

In September I was in Seattle, a city that is even more beautifully situated than Vancouver, to speak at a botanic garden. Conditions there are not so far from what we get here in the UK and they have some splendid nurseries. The highlight of that trip was staying with Dan Hinckley, who has made a superb new garden, Windcliff, right at the edge of the sea on the Kitsap Peninsula. I thought it even more breathtaking than his old garden, Heronswood, which we also went to see. Being at Dan's place was the highlight of the year: such gorgeous great drifts of plants and the garden most beautifully integrated with the house.

I've been a member of the group, chaired by Alan Street of Avon Bulbs, assessing a trial of *Eucomis* at Wisley this year. We had our last meeting in mid-September, when the plants were still looking excellent. The trial continues for another couple of years, but some strong contenders for the AGM are already emerging. Towards the end of September, my husband and I went up to Orkney and were blessed with superb weather. Skara Brae was astonishing of course, but I was equally astonished at the vigour and beauty of the *Nerines* which grew in so many front gardens. They were the best I'd ever seen and I wondered how and when they first reached the island. It would be appreciated if any Kew Guild member could help with information on this subject.

*Anna was a recent guest of Desert Island Discs when she chose an eclectic range of music ranging from classical to popular and related highlight of her career both in journals and hands on gardening - creating not one but two major gardens, much admired by John Sales among many other experts.*

### **John Brookes**

The world-renowned landscape designer who introduced Modernism to British Garden Design has been honoured with a major exhibition at the Garden Museum entitled 'The Man who made the Modern Garden'. His biography by Barbara Simms was published by Conran Octopus in 2007. ISBN-13:978-1-84091-448-1 and should be on every garden and landscape designer's book shelf.

At the end of June, the Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden, (NGBB) was well represented at the 6th Global Botanic Gardens Congress in Geneva, with four oral presentations. Afterwards I worked in the Geneva Botanic Garden Herbarium. As a result of this visit, as chief editor of the Turkish Flora, I was invited to join the World Flora On Line project, attending the next meeting at the Natural History Museum in Paris.

In addition to managing the Botanic Garden in Istanbul, the majority of my time during 2017 was spent completing the much-anticipated Volume 2 of the Illustrated Flora with publication early in 2018. Two more Checklists of Turkey have been published, Bryophytes in January and Lichens in October.

Collaboration with Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter, particularly with succession planting in NGBB continues. Fergus is a regular visitor to NGBB and visiting the garden at Dixter is always inspirational. In recent years staff have stayed at Dixter for practical training benefiting not only from Fergus' expertise and infectious enthusiasm, but his half Turkish parentage enables communication in Turkish very much easier.

In September NGBB hosted a group from the 105-year-old Batumi Botanic Garden in Georgia – a hidden treasure - currently undergoing restoration. This collaboration continues and later I visited Batumi and also visited Tbilisi Botanic Garden. During the year I have been an invited speaker at several conferences in Turkey and found a little time for a short field trip to Van in eastern Turkey along with two botanical illustrators to look for Iris species.

Garden developments continued including the completion of the redesigned and greatly enlarged crevice garden. On Thrace Island a fruit orchard has been planted and a new polycarbonate greenhouse for growing on nursery stock built. Some roadside slopes alongside the motorway have been landscaped and planted with mature olive trees.

### Graham Ross VMM

Graham has concentrated throughout 2017 establishing The Australian Garden Council and he now Chairs this distinct body which is involved in:



Lunch at Vacluse House Sydney Harbour: Front - Bernard Oosterom (President AIPH), Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Graham Ross (Chair AGC). Rear - Tim Briercliffe (Secretary General AIPH), Steven Haggart (Founder & MD Australis 2020), Kevin Chung (Chair AIPH)

*Engaging Youth* and has established a national Youth Mentoring programme, to inform and attract teenagers into the hobby of gardening with the possibility of introducing them to a career in gardening and horticulture.

*Community Garden Engagement* and supported the Garden Clubs of Australia's declaration of National Garden Week in October 2017. This initiative required radio and television exposure which the AGC was able to secure.

*Promotion of Australian Garden Tourism* and Graham, as the Chair of AGC, accepted an invitation to attend the Association of International Plant Producers (AIPH)

Congress in Taipei, Taiwan, to support the awarding of the International Garden Festival, an ambition of Graham and Jim Mitchell since first visiting the IGF in Liverpool in 1984. A support paper was presented by Graham to Congress and subsequently the AIPH Executive made a sudden visit to Sydney to meet AGC Board members, to visit the proposed Australis 2020 site and meet with executives of the NSW and Australian Government and nursery industry.

Onsite visits were organised with the AIPH Executive including an inspection of the proposed IGF site at Sydney Olympic Park, an ideal venue, known to Kewites who were on the 2008 Kew Tour of Australia. Later, a private meeting was held with Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister and the AIPH Executive to discuss the merits of Australis 2020.

The Southern Hemisphere is still to hold an International Garden Festival and Australis 2020 was planned to coincide with the 250th Anniversary of Captain Cook's voyage of discovery in 1770 mirroring the six month period Cook and botanist Joseph Banks chartered the botanical wonders of Australia from Botany Bay in NSW, to Cooktown in Northern Australia. However due to timing the international event did not receive government funding and therefore the "bid process" continues for another day. However it is sure to be an exciting time for Kewites to visit Sydney and therefore a date for your diaries.

### **Richard Bisgrove**

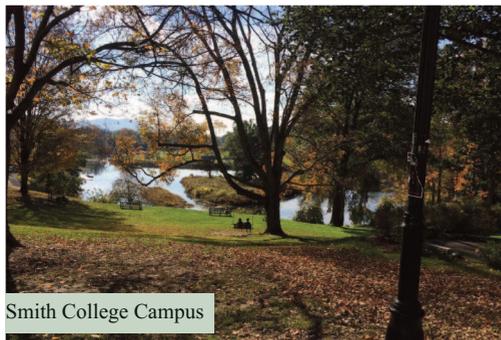
Not much very new or exciting this year. As always the year was topped and tailed by four days of lectures and associated visits in the School of Horticulture: 'History of Gardens' for year 2 in early spring and 'Amenity Horticulture' for the same students, by then in year 3, in the autumn.

On the garden design front I am still involved with the 200 hectare estate in Surrey and a much smaller but equally interesting garden by the Thames in Chiswick. The main challenge in the former – for the head gardener even more than me – is to create an instant landscape for the new and very smart hotel complex while repairing the ravages of heavy plant (the mechanical sort, not the green) and large vehicles trundling through to areas still under construction.

In February my wife and I went to Cuba, not specifically a garden tour but one including visits to two botanic gardens and passing through some fascinating landscape en route to towns where the dilapidated remains of an elegant past adjoined smart restorations. Interestingly, a visit to a tobacco farm and cigar factory brought to light than none of our dozen-strong party smoked! One of the highlights of the Museum of the Revolution in Havana was the 'Wall of the Cretins' with wonderful caricatures of four US presidents.

Oxford summer schools took up only one week in 2017 instead of the usual six so our own garden is looking much better than it has done for many years but the main activity of the year has been our more-or-less weekly visits to London to help with our three-year-old and six-month-old granddaughters. The former is already showing signs of being a keen gardener and we will work on her younger sister as soon as she is big enough to crawl. Next week (writing in mid-January) I am off to the Eden Project to give a week's lectures for Duchy College students and next month my wife and I are going to Egypt – a Nile cruise so I can use my own slides of Egyptian temples to begin my garden history lectures at Kew in 2019.

## Niall Kirkwood



Smith College Campus



Metro Forest Project

I spent the Fall of this year as the William Allen Neilson Visiting Professor on the campus of Smith College, Northampton, MA. USA. The campus originally laid out by Frederick Law Olmsted in the 1880s has a Botanical Garden and collection assembled by William Francis Ganong and Edward J Canning from 1894 onwards including 1200 types of woody trees and shrubs and the Lyman Conservatory greenhouses dating from 1895 housing 2,500 species for instruction of Smith students in the plant sciences to this day.

This November I was one of the Keynote Speakers at the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Asia-Pacific Congress in Bangkok, Thailand. During the Congress we had an opportunity to visit the award-winning Metro-Forest Project and have a private tour of the site-works by the landscape architect Tawatchai Kobkaikit of LAB (Landscape Architects of Bangkok).

## Raymond Evison

2017 was another busy year with travel and rebuilding our businesses after the turn down in sales during the last 10/12 years. Sales throughout the world continued to re-grow with exciting prospects in Japan, South Korea and China, where I spent most of October 2017. Our breeding programme with clematis is going tremendously well with marvellous pollination successes, and thousands of seeds already sown and having their cold period in our cold store.

Chelsea 2017 was again a great success as I was awarded my 29th Chelsea Flower Show Gold medal and also a special award for the innovated design of the exhibit, it was the first time this special award had been awarded by the RHS at Chelsea.

A new project that I undertook for the Charity named MUG in Guernsey (which is all about male cancers) was to redesign and plant a forlorn large mound in a long stay car



Clematis Nubia (tm)  
Evipo079 (n)



Tranquilite (tm)  
Evipo103 (n)



Sarah Elizabeth (tm)  
Evipo098 (n)

park. We are bringing the countryside to town! Many local school children helped plant native wild flowers including primroses and native bluebells. Chelsea 2018, is where I will try to be awarded my 30th Chelsea Gold Medal, we will launch three new cultivars that have come from our breeding programme. Sarah Elizabeth (tm) Evipo098 (n), Tranquilite (tm) Evipo103 (n) and Nubia (tm) Evipo079 (n).

## **The George Brown Memorial Award**

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

### **Nicholas Boyes**

by Allan Hart

This Award was inaugurated in 1981 in recognition of George Brown - Assistant Curator of the Arboretum, Kew, from 1958-1977. He taught and counselled many generations of students and staff. The Award is presented annually to a member of the Guild who is considered to have best furthered communication and diplomacy in the true spirit of the Kew Guild.

It is most appropriate, in the 25th Anniversary of the Award, that the recipient for 2017 is Nicholas (Nick) Boyes, who is one of a dying breed of hands-on gardener who is professionally trained and qualified in horticulture.

Nick began his career at Enfield Borough Council, gaining the practical experience required of a student at Oaklands College, before enrolling on the Kew Diploma Course from 1972-75. After graduation he was appointed Gardens Instructor to the National Trust Threave Gardens in Scotland. In 1977 he joined the CTVC estate team at Bushy, Hertfordshire as Head Gardener, a post he relinquished in 2005 when he became Head Gardener at Reveley House and Garden.

This was a great challenge as he had to manage more than 50 volunteers, fully exercising his diplomatic skills at all levels. Those Guild members who attended his open day in 2004 were very impressed with the high standard of maintenance and the wonderful ecological planting.

Nick has been a Guild member since 1972 and a committed Committee member for several years. In 1980 he was invited to join the Cases Committee of the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society and is now on the Policy and Services Committee of Perennial - a very long term involvement with the charity. The Kew Guild is delighted to recognise Nick's achievements with the presentation of the George Brown Memorial Award 2017.

## **Kew News: 2017**

**‘Kew And You’ is the 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. Once again précised by Richard Ward.**

### **January**

**Kew Orchid Festival 4 February - 5 March 2017.** Inspired by the vibrant colours, culture and magnificent plant life of India, this year’s festival features giant floral displays created using exotic orchids, decorative rickshaws, Indian soundscapes, films and much more.

**Can't sing? Won't sing? Join the Kew Choir.** In January we are starting a Kew choir and we are looking for members from across the whole Kew family. We need both beginners and experienced singers – this is open to all. If you would like to try something different and enjoy an hour of learning how to sing in a group, come along to one of our taster sessions with Kew's Choir Master, Sam Evans.

**Work has started on the major project**, announced by Historic Royal Palaces (HHRP) last year, to restore the Great Pagoda to its original Georgian splendour. Using innovative techniques and a team of highly skilled craftsmen, the famous eighty dragons that once adorned the original William Chambers design are set to be returned to the Pagoda. After a year of intensive research by a team of experts and HRP's specialist team, the design for the dragons has been agreed, and throughout 2017, a team of craftsmen will be re-creating them. In the meantime, important conservation work is to be carried out on the Pagoda, and last week work began on site. A scaffold will be erected around the Pagoda from March, which will be in place until at least the end of 2017, when installation of the eighty new dragons will begin. Over the past twenty years the Pagoda has been opened to the public infrequently, but HRP anticipates reopening this important building permanently from around Easter 2018 for visitors to enjoy. The Great Pagoda is an iconic landmark in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Built for Princess Augusta (mother to King George III) by the architect William Chambers, it is one of the most important examples of a Chinese inspired Pagoda in the world.

## **February**

**Denise Drummer** has joined the School of Horticulture team as Administration Assistant.

I am delighted to announce that **Meredith Pierce Hunter** will be joining Kew as the new Director of the Kew Foundation. She is currently the Director of Development and Alumni Relations at London Business School where, over the last six years, she has been a key member of the fundraising team responsible for the school's successful £125m campaign. She has extensive experience of major gifts, alumni relations, international fundraising and institutional support. She leads and manages a team of around 25 people and is a member of LBS's senior management committee. Meredith is originally from the USA and prior to London Business School worked in fundraising roles at Hollins University and Harvard University. She has a BA in French and International Studies.

We have taken great care in this recruitment process given the critical importance of this role to both the Foundation and to RBG Kew. Meredith is an outstanding fundraising professional and an accomplished leader. I have great confidence that she will flourish at Kew and fit well with our culture. I also believe she has the vision, ambition and leadership skills to enable the Foundation to deliver their exciting plans for growth and to ensure ever closer working with colleagues across all areas of Kew. She will be a member of the Kew Executive Board. Meredith will be joining in the first week of May and I very much look forward to welcoming her to Kew. – Richard Deverell, Director

**Congratulations to Kew's Volunteer Guides on their 25th Anniversary.** Guides know how to celebrate and did so in style when Janet Bostock and the Guides' Social Endeavours organised a marvellous lunch to celebrate their anniversary. Janet writes, '25 years ago when the visitor centre at Victoria Gate opened a desk was set up to recruit Friends to support Kew. Within two weeks it was becoming an information desk and it is still there staffed by volunteers answering mostly more interesting questions than the inevitable "where are the loos?"' At the same time, February 1992, the first volunteer guides started offering tours to the public. With possibly 25,000 tours under their joint belts, the guides are still offering a wide variety of tours. The Kew science and horticultural staff have

always provided the training needed to keep guides well informed and we are very appreciative of their generosity in giving us the knowledge we need to speak to the public.

To celebrate this amazing achievement we held a lunch on Monday 6th February in Museum No 1 inviting all current and as many retired guides as could be contacted. Ninety people came together to chat, reminisce and enjoy a splendid self-catered lunch. Charging £10 per head we made an unexpected profit of £250, which will go towards supporting Kew's work.

Richard Deverell read out messages sent by former Directors and Sir David Attenborough. At the top table with Richard Deverell were Dianne Cooper who ran the first Friends and information desk, Laura Giuffrida who as a union representative supported the introduction of volunteer guides, Jack Andrews who suggested holding this event, retired coordinator Barbara Boyle and our present leader Margaret Kemal-ur-rahim. A quiz devised by Jack Andrews gave guests cause for discussion and both that and a raffle raised £400 which will be sent to the Red Cross Appeal to help Syrian refugees.

### **March**

**Planting Kew Gardens Station Platform.** After 18 months of planning, the Kew Gardens station planting project is complete. Thanks to funding and manpower from Energy Garden and a Richmond Council Civic Pride Fund grant, they have planted over 1500 plants, laid over 11 tons of gravel as well as new soil, compost and bark all to designs provided by the Royal Botanic Gardens pro bono. After all the hard work, the fruits of their labours are beginning to spring forth.

**Kew's new Head of Interpretation.** We're pleased to welcome Sharon Willoughby who's just taken up the new role of Head of Interpretation, within the Horticulture, Learning & Operations directorate at the Kew site. Sharon brings a wealth of high quality experience and understanding of the theory, role and practice of interpretation in botanic gardens. She led the planning, formulation and delivery of the acclaimed interpretive features of The Australian Garden, an award-winning landscape development at the Royal Botanic Gardens Cranbourne, southeast of Melbourne in Victoria. She is also well-known within the global network of botanic garden interpretation and education professionals, and has a strong interest in environmental history and the cultural influence and development of landscapes, gardens and gardening. You will find Sharon in the upper level of the Wolfson Wing of the Jodrell Laboratory building.

**Formal Learning at Kew.** This financial year (2016-17) has been a historical year for the numbers of schools/schoolchildren visiting Kew - in fact, the best year on record in Kew's schools history. The nearly final figures are in and they are amazing:

Pupils visiting Kew 91,206

Accompanying Adults 15,491

Pupils taking part in education sessions 50,021

Congratulations to all staff and volunteers involved in the programme.

**New Teachers** - Earlier this month we welcomed four new teachers to our team. They will spend the rest of this month training and shadowing our programmes before they begin teaching after Easter. Please welcome Jane, Bella, Olivia and Florence to the team.

**Volunteer Training** - Kew teachers are ably supported by a group of talented Kew volunteers and we have recently completed all our volunteer training for existing and new volunteers. The training focused on three key areas, which include greeting school

students, supervising the schools' lunch area and engaging with students in the Palm House. Some of our new volunteers enjoyed training on our new Palm House Explainer topic. The role of Palm House Explainers includes engaging with school groups in the Palm House, delivering the theme "Plant pests, diseases and defence". This is in line with Kew's Science Strategy and the State of the World's Plants Report 2016, which highlighted pests and disease as the two biggest threats to plant health.

## **April**

**Plants of the World Online launches to the public.** Following its internal launch, Plants of the World Online, Kew's first digital resource for the world's flora, goes live from Monday, allowing access to our data resources, with images from the digitisation of our collections. Plants of the World Online (POWO) is a key output from the Kew Science Strategy. It's aimed at digitising and sharing known data on flora so that it can be accessed by anyone, anywhere, and used for research, as well as to inform decisions about conservation, land use, policy and practice.

With over 8.5 million items, Kew's Herbarium and Fungarium house the largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world. They represent over 95% of known flowering plant genera and more than 60% of known fungal genera but only 20% of this knowledge is currently online. 'It's very exciting to now have the technology to share Kew's 250 years of botanical knowledge in a global e-resource. It's a single point of access for authoritative information on plant species, from anywhere in the world and a multi-dimensional catalogue of plant life, including information on identification, distribution, traits, threat status, molecular phylogenies and uses. It uses Kew's extensive data resources alongside images from the digitisation of the collections,' said Abigail Barker.

POWO features:

- Will contain Information on all world's known seed-bearing plants online by 2020.
- At launch, POWO will cover Floras of Tropical West, East and Southern Africa plus orchids, grasses and palms
- User friendly interface with search by Latin or common name, place, or trait, and accessible via a mobile, tablet or desktop computer.

Prof. Sebsebe Demissew, Keeper of the National Herbarium & Project Leader of the Ethiopian Flora Project, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, and recent recipient of the Kew International Medal, welcomed the launch: 'This is a great leap forward to access knowledge and data at a global level. As an African botanist who has been involved in the documentation of plant resources in the form of Floras in Africa in general and in Ethiopia in particular, the main challenge has been to make the published volumes available to students, teachers, the public, policy makers and NGOs. Access to the new online portal will open up a world of possibilities and put the flora at our fingertips regardless of location.'

## **May**

**The State of the World's Plants.** Last Wednesday we launched our second State of the World's Plants report at Kew Gardens. Prof. Kathy Willis led the work and presented the headline findings to journalists in the Nash Conservatory. The report is full of novel, timely and important insights into plant distribution and conservation and this year includes chapters on plant adaptations that build resilience to climate change, the impact of wild fires and a country focus on Madagascar.

It was the latter that provided, for me, the single most remarkable stat in the whole report – that 83% of Madagascar’s flora is endemic (i.e. found only in Madagascar). This single number, to me, underscores the unique importance of this island and explains why it is the home for Kew’s only permanent overseas research base. This second State of the World’s Plants is global in scope and is the result of a huge amount of work by 128 scientists from within Kew and partners in 12 countries. It has drawn upon very extensive analysis of datasets and collections both at Kew and globally.

I was delighted with the quality of the report and the diversity of fascinating insights it contains. The latter has been reflected in the extraordinary press and media coverage we have had – including full page spreads in a number of national newspapers. There are too many individuals to thank personally – it has been a huge and collaborative effort. But I would like to pay particular credit to Kathy for leading this work and for being the ‘face’ of the report when it was published. I understand how tiring the round of press and broadcast interviews can be! – Richard Deverell, Director.

**Visit by our Patron.** On the same day, we also hosted a visit by our Patron, HRH Prince Charles. He was keen to hear first-hand of our work on the SOTWP and to meet the scientists who have led much of the work. I greatly enjoyed accompanying him as he courteously interrogated our scientists on their work – he is both knowledgeable and highly interested in plant science and conservation.

This was followed by a walk down the Great Broad Walk Borders. The leaden skies were not ideal – but they did make the purples and greens almost synthetically vivid. Richard Barley and Richard Wilford explained our design approach and answered a slew of questions - including, as is often the case, advice for the Prince’s own borders at Highgrove. The visit concluded with a tour of the Waterlily House where His Royal Highness was shown tropical botanical treasures by Dave Cooke and met one of our apprentices, Bradley Gangadeen, who explained how *Victoria amazonica* is pollinated. Thank you. These visits happen only as a result of a great deal of careful preparation by many teams. I would like to thank in particular David Cope’s External Affairs team for organising the reception for our Patron; our Press and PR team led by Ciara O’Sullivan for their tireless work to ensure we achieved maximum media interest and coverage, John Deer and the Constabulary team for ensuring it all ran securely and, finally, those Horticultural staff working on the Borders in the rain. – Richard Deverell, Director

**Yayu coffee partnership.** The Yayu Forest Reserve in Ethiopia is one of the last and most important remaining places for the conservation of wild Arabica coffee and home to a key RBG Kew conservation and climate resilience project. Wild coffee forests and surrounding areas are part of a coffee farming system that benefits both people and nature. We are working with the communities at Yayu to improve the quality of their coffee, which means that better prices are paid to the farmer. And, of course, if the coffee is worth more, so there is a greater incentive to preserve the forest. For these reasons I am delighted that we have agreed to work in partnership with Union Hand Roasted Coffee to sell Yayu coffee in Waitrose. The coffee comes with a small insert that talks about Kew’s work in Ethiopia. And, for every packet sold, 25p goes to support our work. This is a really great initiative. Well done to Aaron Davis who has led this work for RBG Kew. – Richard Deverell, Director

## June

**Do you know how many tree species there are in the world?** BGCi can now tell you! BGCi has been working for over two years, consulting over 500 published sources and liaising with experts all over the world to find the answer – 60,065 tree species.

'GlobalTreeSearch' is the first list of its kind, documenting all of the world's known tree species and their country level distributions. You can search the database on the BGCI website or download the full list. A paper was also published in the Journal of Sustainable Forestry, which is now open access (BGCI). Tree facts: Of all the countries in the world, Brazil has the most tree species, with 8,715 species, followed by Colombia (5,776) and then Indonesia (5,142). Apart from the Arctic and the Antarctic (which have no trees whatsoever), the region with the fewest tree species is the Nearctic region of North America, with fewer than 1,400 species.

**Composting and recycling: what goes on in the Stable Yard?** The RBG Kew sustainability committee was recently treated to an informative tour of the composting and recycling facilities in the Stable Yard by Dave Barnes. Lucy Brown writes about some of the things they learned:

The compost heap is situated on a concrete/metal pad surrounded by a water moat. The moat isolates the compost and stops organic matter leaking into surrounding watercourses. The moat also acts as a reservoir to water the compost piles – the only things that are added are water and oxygen, so it is completely natural. The machines roll the material to get oxygen in and stimulate bacterial and fungal action. The piles of material from the gardens are separated into woody and herbaceous matter. The matter is then passed through the shredder to speed up the natural decomposition process by increasing the surface area for bacteria and fungi to work on = mulch.

We buy 50 m<sup>3</sup> of manure a week (to supplement the plant material) from the Royal Horse Artillery. If it reaches a temperature of 60 degrees centigrade for three days then the mulch is sterilised – weeds and seeds are killed. A six-inch layer of this mulch added to beds has three benefits:

- weeds are killed so there is less need for chemicals/herbicides.
- less water needed as the dark thick layer reduces water evaporation from the soil underneath.
- it increases soil temperature which in turn causes plants to grow faster.

Paper, cardboard and recycling - All the waste paper and cardboard is taken from offices in clear plastics bags by the cleaners and collected by contractors. We have our own cardboard baler – a 50 tonne press – and the bales are recycled and sold. There's also a smaller baler for aluminium cans, which are separated from the general rubbish bins. Extra timber, spare pallets and scrap metal are either recycled or sold where possible. We also recycle wood from felled trees – for example, some logs are to be carved into animal sculptures for the new Woodland Walk. General waste - Non-recyclable waste, treated wood and noxious weeds are incinerated. Kew collects about six tonnes of general waste a week. Garden bins are emptied between one and three times a day depending on the season.

All in all, we learnt how efficient the compost heap is and the huge effort RBG Kew makes to recycle anything possible. Apparently Stable Yard is famous for its facilities and experts come from far and wide to admire it. Thanks to Dave for showing us around.

**Grow Wild awarded second grant.** The Big Lottery Fund has awarded Kew a second multi-million pound grant for Grow Wild, through which Kew connects people with nature and each other by sharing native plants and fungi, transforming spaces and changing lives across the UK. The second grant is for activities in 2018 and 2019 and comes thanks to huge support from teams across Kew and Wakehurst and feedback from our participants and partners.

Since Kew launched Grow Wild in 2012, over 4.3 million people have taken part, particularly younger people and people living in urban and disadvantaged areas. Enough UK native wild flowers have been grown to stretch to space and back in a one metre-wide path, 20 times.

## July

**The new Lisa Sainsbury lecture theatre in the Jodrell.** I am delighted to say that the Jodrell lecture theatre has now re-opened and has been renamed the Lady Lisa Sainsbury lecture theatre. Lady Lisa Sainsbury was a longstanding supporter of RBG Kew. She sponsored a number of projects here including our work on the flora of the orchid family. She very generously left RBG Kew a legacy and she indicated that she wanted this to be used, in part, for meetings and seminars to facilitate Kew's work. We therefore decided to use part of her legacy to refurbish the Jodrell lecture theatre.

The refurbishment work was led by David Cope and Louise Hansen from the Capital Development Programme was the project manager. We used the new theatre for the first time recently for the International Garden Tourism Conference and then the State of the World's Plants Symposium. Today, it is being used for IT's tech day and on Friday it hosts the Joseph Hooker bicentenary conference. We will be mounting a small plaque outside the lecture theatre to commemorate Lady Lisa Sainsbury's generosity.

The lecture theatre is now open for bookings again, and the temporary conference facilities provided by Estates in the Banks Building will be taken down. When booking the Lady Lisa Sainsbury lecture theatre on the booking system, look out for its new name. The facilities have been improved and modernised, with simple to use audio-visual equipment installed. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and for hitting the deadlines for this project. It is a huge improvement – a great step forward. Thank you. – Richard Deverell, Director

**Millennium Seed Bank capacity expanded.** Last Friday saw the official opening of two new cold rooms deep underground in the vaults of the MSB. The expansion is confirmation of the success of the world's largest wild seed banking project. Seed collections conserved within the vault of MSB represent the highest concentration of living seed-plant biodiversity on earth with over 83,500 collections from 37,940 vascular plant species originating from nine bio-geographical areas, 189 countries and territories, 35 biodiversity hotspots, 357 families and 5821 genera.

The ribbon was cut by Kathy Willis who said: "I am delighted that we have secured funding to expand the facilities for seed storage at the MSB. It's a sign that we have done a lot and yet have a lot more to do in reaching our ambitions of storing the most important, threatened species we know of in the world today. Plants underpin the majority of life on earth; we must conserve and enhance them for future generations and seed banking is a key part of this process." The new cold rooms, built by Secure I.T. Environments Ltd, took 20 weeks to complete. They increase the seed storing capacity by 65 square metres, plus an extension of 54 square metres has been made to an existing dry room used for the preparation of seeds. These were always scheduled to be added, after the initial build. Keith Manger, Property, Health & Safety & Sustainability Manager at the MSB, said: "The extension to our storage capacity represents a critical piece of infrastructure that forms an important part of our work, as we continue to expand the seed collections we hold."

**Colombian Environment Minister visits Kew Gardens.** The Colombian Minister for the Environment, Luis Gilberto Murillo and the Colombian Ambassador to the UK, Nestor Osorio, visited Kew last week to hear about the work Kew Science is doing on Colombian

biodiversity and about our living collections. President Santos of Colombia was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year, after the end of years of internal conflict. Colombia is one of the most biodiverse countries on the planet, but because of the long conflict many parts of the country are undocumented by science and their plant diversity hasn't been described. Kew is working with the Colombian government to resolve this issue.

The President has established a programme called Colombia Bio, which is also supported by the UK Government. Because of RBG Kew's unique skills and expertise, we have secured a large share of the available funding, and after robust peer review the first projects are just starting up. The Minister heard from some of the scientists leading these projects. Maria Vorontsova, Carolina Tovar, Pepijn Kooij, Ester Gaya and Gwil Lewis described the work that they and colleagues are doing as a result of this generous funding. The Minister was clearly interested and knowledgeable, commenting how important it was that Colombians understood the richness of their biodiversity and how it benefits them. He clearly wanted to put the scientific knowledge that our teams are generating, in collaboration with Colombian scientists, at the heart of Colombia's future environmental policies. Following the talks, Rebecca Hilgenhof gave an excellent tour of the Tropical Nursery, showing a variety of Colombian plants and explaining how the living collection provides a crucial resource for global conservation as well as education. Despite being on a tight schedule, the Minister kept stopping to ask more questions: he said that the tour brought back memories from his childhood of living in rural Colombia. The work in Colombia demonstrates how Kew is a vital global resource of plant and fungal knowledge. Many thanks to Kathy and Richard B's teams for making the visit so successful. These collaborations are important for us and it's always great to see passionate colleagues sharing their enthusiasm for our mission. – David Cope, Director of Strategy and External Affairs

## August

**Michael Gove visits Kew Gardens.** The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs visited the Gardens recently to learn more about RBG Kew and to discuss how our work will contribute to his upcoming 25 year environment plan.

Richard invited Michael Gove to visit shortly after his appointment as Secretary of State in June. Ensuring a strong and mutually supportive relationship with Defra is important for Kew and his visit demonstrated that he wanted to build on the improving relations we've seen over the last few years. Marcus Agius, our Chairman, led the visit with support from Richard and me, ably choreographed by Jasmine in my External Affairs team.

The Secretary of State was interested to hear how well we are progressing against the objectives set out in our strategy, from Science priorities such as State of the World's Plants; to commercial growth through events such as Christmas at Kew; and horticultural improvements at Kew Gardens and Wakehurst. Mr. Gove was interested in Kew's history, and how our historic strengths have relevance today: David Goyder showed him historic and modern specimens in the Herbarium and we talked about how digitising the Herbarium collection would be a great gift to the world. The 25 year environment plan is one of the Secretary of State's current priorities and he wanted our views on what should be included.

Kew is involved in developing the plan in three ways:

- Kathy is a member of the Natural Capital Committee, an independent group set up to advise Defra on issues around natural capital and ecosystem services. She will be feeding in advice to the Secretary of State as part of the Committee in September.
- Through our public engagement activities in Kew Gardens, Wakehurst and through Grow Wild, we reach millions of people to connect their lives to plants and fungi. This

connection of people to nature will be a central theme of the plan.

- Our extensive network of international partnerships and collaborations around the world allows Kew to be a global resource, raising the profile and reputation of the UK in the process of managing these relationships. The Secretary of State is enthusiastic about how the UK can be a global leader in the environment and conservation.

All in all it was an energising discussion. The Secretary of State was inquisitive, intelligent and engaged with our work. There are many things to follow up with him and civil servants in Defra, but as a first step in building a strong relationship with the Secretary of State himself it went well. I personally most enjoyed seeing the Secretary of State making a bee hotel in the children's activities zone in the natural area. The team there was excellent and found time to talk to him as well as entertaining some enthusiastic children. I'd like to thank them and everyone else who helped make the visit a success. David Cope, Director of Strategy and External Affairs.

## September

**Sadiq Khan visits Kew Gardens.** Last week I was delighted to host the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, at Kew Gardens. He was joined by a number of colleagues from City Hall including the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues.

Despite the grey skies and steady rain Sadiq declined a (Kew branded) umbrella and we set off from Elizabeth Gate to the Broad Walk at a crisp pace. Here we met Richard Wilford who described the Great Borders and our aims in creating not just a horticultural spectacular but also to use distinctive design and planting to help our visitors understand more about plant diversity and taxonomy. Sadiq met a number of apprentices and work experience volunteers stoically working on the borders and he also made time to be photographed with various children surprised to find themselves meeting the London Mayor with his greeting 'Hi, I'm Sadiq'.

After press photos (with the Palm House and borders as the backdrop) we headed into the Princess of Wales Conservatory where Olwen Grace described the importance of her research on succulents. Elisa Biondi and Lara Jewitt then took Sadiq through the tropical section showing him some of our treasures and bringing to life why researching and conserving these plants is so vital to humanity. For a couple of minutes all attention was diverted to one of our resplendent Chinese Water Dragons which looked magnificently indifferent to the press, Mayor and Kew delegation admiring him. It was rather amusing.

We ended at The Hive where Phil Stevenson and Hauke Koch described their research on plant/pollinator interactions and the importance of pollinators to human wellbeing and ecological health. Sadiq was particularly interested in their work and asked a number of questions about pollinators and the role of urban pollinators. He was also wowed by The Hive which, despite the rain, looked fantastic. The Mayor used his visit to The Hive to launch his new initiative, the Greener City Fund. This is a £1m fund that works in a similar way to Grow Wild, with grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 available to community groups for projects such as lining walking routes to schools with air quality boosting trees, creating mini play spaces and community gardens in built-up areas.

He also recently launched a draft London environment strategy, in which RBG Kew has a keen interest. Jasmine Ryder-McGiff in the External Affairs team will be coordinating a Kew-wide response to this. These visits always feel rather rushed – we try and convey a lot quickly. I am aware we somewhat bombard our visitors with information about the many facets of Kew and it is hard to tell sometimes what impressions are created. I was keen to stress that Kew is a world-class organisation with extraordinary collections and a

network of partnerships from all over the world. I also wanted to convey that Kew Gardens are a great asset for London – and for the Mayor – and that I hope he will use it to showcase London to the world.

He was very absorbed by all that he had seen and heard. After his press interviews at The Hive he turned to me to say goodbye and said ‘you should be very proud of Kew’. To which, I somewhat simply replied, ‘I am!’ May I thank everyone who participated in this and especially Jas Ryder McGiff who did a great job organising the event. – Richard Deverell, Director

**President of Madagascar visits Kew.** On Tuesday we welcomed President Hery Rajaonarimampianina, and guests including Sir David Attenborough, Environment Minister Therese Coffey and NGO representatives for a discussion about and celebration of Madagascar’s amazing plant biodiversity. Kew has strong links to Madagascar, employing a team of Malagasy botanists who implement a range of projects focused on plant diversity, research and conservation. We were asked to host part of the President’s visit to the UK by the Foreign Office to demonstrate Kew’s contribution to Madagascar plant science and conservation work.

Arriving at Kew with a delegation of ministers, the Madagascan President took part in a round table discussion chaired by Kathy Willis, attended by the Madagascan Minister for Foreign Affairs, Defra minister Therese Coffey, and Timothy Smart, the British Ambassador to Madagascar plus representatives from Defra, NGOs and Kew Science. The round table focused on Madagascar’s biodiversity, and the challenges and opportunities facing conservation and restoration efforts. The discussion was a great opportunity to showcase Kew’s thinking about conservation policies and both the President and Therese Coffey remarked on new ideas we were proposing.

The President also saw stands illustrating this year’s State of the World’s Plants report, meeting many of the scientists involved, and took a tour of the Gardens with Richard Barley. Sir David Attenborough was the guest of honour at lunch where the President presented him with the medal of the National Order of the Republic of Madagascar.

Many Kew people were involved in the day – too many to thank individually. Special mention goes to Marcus Agius, our Chairman, for hosting the day, Kathy Willis for planning and chairing the roundtable, and Liz West in the External Affairs team for organising the event and making sure it all ran smoothly.

I am confident that Kew’s reputation in Madagascar has grown and we have made new and valuable contacts and hopeful that many new opportunities will open up as a result of this event. Being able to convene this type of group of influential people is a privilege, and positions Kew to influence public policy in the UK and around the world.

On a personal note, I managed to get Sir David to sign my copy of *The Private Life of Plants* book that accompanied the TV series from the mid-1990s. Working here definitely has its perks. - David Cope, Director of Strategy and External Affairs

## **October**

**Welcoming the new science students.** Last Friday Kew Science hosted a reception in the Jodrell atrium to welcome our new MSc and sandwich students. We have 18 (or possibly

19, or even 20) starting for the one year MSc in plant and fungal taxonomy and conservation – a degree run jointly between RBG Kew and Queen Mary University of London. Many different nationalities are represented within this group including three students from the People's Republic of China. It's really fascinating to hear how they know about Kew and why they wanted to come and study here. The answers cover our reputation, our collections and our expertise. They are excited and enthusiastic to be here at Kew.

We also welcomed eight 'sandwich' students – all undergraduates who are spending a year studying science in different parts of Kew. The universities represented include Exeter, Sheffield, Brighton, Bath, Bangor and Bournemouth. I really enjoyed meeting these undergrads and asking them about their interest in plant science and their aspirations for their year at Kew and beyond. Many of them are already interested in undertaking a PhD and pursuing a career in science. I hope we can continue to grow our student numbers, both in science and horticulture. Training the next generation is one of our most important roles as a botanic garden. However, I recognise this will require resources. We have to ensure we can offer our students excellent facilities, and access to both our experts and our collections.

I am also acutely aware that accommodation in this part of London is both scarce and expensive. We need to do more to help our students find good and affordable accommodation. We will in the second half of the current financial year start to look at a range of possible options to enable us to achieve this so that, from next year, we can start to improve the help we can provide to our students with finding accommodation. Do please join me in welcoming all our new science students to Kew. I hope they have a fantastic year here with us. – Richard Deverell, Director

### **Welcome to new Kew site volunteers - our exciting new Youth Volunteer Explainer.**

As some of you may know we are launching a youth volunteering programme (funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund contribution to the Temperate House project) including a nine month Youth Volunteer Explainer Programme for 14 to 17 year olds which will be linked to the Silver D of E Award and the CREST awards. (CREST is a project-based awards scheme for the STEM subjects i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, run by the British Science Association linking the personal passions of students to curriculum-based learning). We have recruited a new youth volunteer coordinator, Shara Ismail (an ex Kew volunteer and experienced youth worker) who has worked hard on the design and delivery of the programme resulting in a really exciting offer for our young people.

Our youth explainers will be having skills based training and their new skills will be used at weekends and school vacations in both the Temperate House and areas such as the Hive and family friendly areas of the gardens. We have recruited to the first pilot group of 28 explainers from two targeted schools – Dormers Wells High School and the Alec Reid Academy and they enjoyed their first taste of Kew on their introduction day last Saturday. Volunteers Anne Rendell and Angela Fenhalls did introductory tours today for the Youth Explainers and were impressed by the students, who they found to be 'engaged, engaging and communicative'. The students' induction takes place for three days during the Autumn half term week on Monday 23, Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 October so look for the group in the gardens. During the induction period we will be using a professional film maker to put together video footage of our first cohort of volunteers for our sponsors, but which will be also be used to promote the programme on channels such as the Kew website, Instagram, and Facebook. Exciting times!

The pilot programme will be evaluated fully with a plan to open up future programmes to

a wider group of students. Watch this space to find out what the group have been doing and hear some of their stories. Our grateful thanks to both Kew volunteers and staff who are helping to tutor and inspire our young students.

## November

**Plants of the World.** We are delighted to announce that *Plants of the World*, an illustrated encyclopedia of vascular plants, is now published and available to buy from the Kew shop and online. This impressive body of work is authored by Maarten Christenhusz, Mike Fay and Mark Chase, and is the result of a 20 year project with intensive writing in the last five years. This is the first comprehensive book to cover every vascular plant family in the world, including all families of lycopods, ferns, gymnosperms and angiosperms. Organised in a modern phylogenetic order (APG IV for flowering plants and equivalent systems for other groups), over 450 families are described and illustrated, with full information relating to their characteristics, relationships, etymology, economic uses and distribution. Maarten has taken the majority of the stunning 2,500 photographs, which illustrate every plant family. Also included is a glossary of terms illustrated with colour photographs, making this an accessible, comprehensive and authoritative reference for all.

## December

**Ancient Oaks wins Reference Book of the Year at Garden Media Guild Awards.** ‘Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape’ by HRA Aljos Farjon, published by Kew, has won the Garden Media Guild Reference Book of the Year Award. The prestigious awards, presented last Thursday in London, are known as the ‘gardening Oscars’ and celebrate the best in garden writing across all media. The judges said: ‘A truly remarkable piece of work from Aljos Farjon, which celebrates how the oak has indeed shaped the English landscape. Excellent production values... A riveting read, with immense scholarship. Text informative in every paragraph, beautifully written, excellent and instructive photos. A really impressive book...about whose merit we were unanimous.’ Thanks go to Aljos and all who worked on the book: Sharon Whitehead for great editing, Ocky Murray quality production.

## **An update for the Kew Guild provided by Director Richard Deverell**

2017 was a busy year! There has been a tremendous diversity of achievements by many different teams at both Kew Gardens and Wakehurst. I feel hugely proud of all that we have achieved.

Kew’s annual Orchids Festival returned in February 2017. The theme was a celebration of India’s vibrant colours, culture and magnificent plant life. The festival was a resounding success, attracting over 120,000 visitors in the four weeks it was open.

Early in 2017 Kew secured the future of one of the UK’s favourite drinks - gin. The UK National Seed Project, set up by Kew’s Millennium Seed Bank, has been collecting native seeds from across the UK since 2013 and Juniper is the first species to be collected in its entirety. To date, 5.8 million individual seeds have been banked from approximately 6500 trees, which will play a vital role in protecting UK trees and tackling the threats facing our woodlands today. With pests and diseases such as *Phytophthora austrocedri* threatening the UK’s Juniper trees, and ash dieback present in over 40% of the UK, completing a viable and genetically diverse collection of the nation’s favourite and most important tree seeds has never been more urgent. Kew’s Great Pagoda disappeared behind hoarding in March 2017, as work began to restore it to its original Georgian splendour.

Using innovative techniques and a team of highly skilled craftsmen, the eighty dragons which once adorned the original William Chambers design are set to be returned to the Pagoda. After a year of intensive research by a team of experts and HRP's specialist team, the design for the dragons was agreed, and throughout 2017 a team of craftsmen have been re-creating them. The iconic landmark is set to reopen in summer 2018. In March 2017 Kew launched the Plants of the World Online, a new portal aimed at digitising and sharing known data on flora. The project aims to have information on all known seed bearing plants online by 2020, accessible for research purposes and used to inform decisions about conservation, land use, policy and practice.

Also in March we received our visitor numbers for 2016 at Kew and Wakehurst. I was delighted to hear that in total, 2.1m people visited either Kew Gardens or Wakehurst, 19% up from the 1.8 million total for 2015. These impressive figures represent a huge amount of work by our staff.

The Second Annual State of the World's Plants (SOTWP) report was launched in May 2017. It revealed why some plants are more vulnerable than others to global threats such as climate change, disease, or pests, and presented data never seen before on patterns affecting plants in different regions. It also records the 1,730 new plant species discovered in the year, including foods of the future. RBG, Kew's Patron, HRH Prince Charles attended the launch, held in Kew's Nash Conservatory. He was keen to hear first-hand of Kew's findings on the SOTWP and to meet the scientists who have led much of the work.

The work on the SOTWP then travelled to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Kew's stand featured rare and endangered plants from our living collections with background information drawn from the SOTWP report. The hard work of three teams - Horticulture, Science and Design - to communicate Kew's scientific and conservation work paid off, and the stand was awarded a Gold Medal, which I am immensely proud of.

As the summer holidays came around, Kew was prepared to meet the influx of children and young families in August 2017 with the Science Festival. After a hugely successful first year in August 2016, the festival returned for three days of exciting activities, workshops and tours to inspire children and adults alike, celebrating the incredible plant discoveries and pioneering solution-driven science undertaken by Kew. Later in the Summer we welcomed the then newly appointed Secretary of State for the Environment, Michael Gove, to Kew. He was interested to hear how well we are progressing against the objectives set out in our strategy, from Science priorities such as State of the World's Plants; to commercial growth through events such as Christmas at Kew; and horticultural improvements at Kew Gardens and Wakehurst.

The Mayor of London Sadiq Khan also visited us, to launch his Greener City Fund, which will provide grants to community groups for urban greening projects. He was joined by a number of colleagues from City Hall including the Deputy Mayor for Environment and Energy, Shirley Rodrigues. We toured the Great Broad Walk Borders, the Princess of Wales Conservatory and The Hive. Although I felt we had barely scratched the surface of Kew, the Mayor was very absorbed by all that he had seen and heard. When he turned to me to say goodbye he said 'you should be very proud of Kew'. To which, I somewhat simply replied, 'I am!'.

In September we welcomed President Hery Rajaonarimampianina of Madagascar, and guests including Sir David Attenborough, Environment Minister Therese Coffey and NGO representatives for a discussion about and celebration of Madagascar's amazing plant biodiversity. Kew has strong links to Madagascar, employing a team of Malagasy botanists who implement a range of projects focused on plant diversity, research and conservation.

We were asked to host part of the President's visit to the UK by the Foreign Office to demonstrate Kew's contribution to Madagascan plant science and conservation work.

Work begun on our new Children's Garden in October, which will replace the current children's play area. We are completely replanting and landscaping the surrounding area, to create an innovative new play experience, in a natural setting. It will offer hours of fun, perfect for a family day out at Kew. The garden will also be a unique and inspiring area where children can learn about the importance of plants and the value of nature and the environment. The exciting new play space will open in Spring 2019. We were very proud to announce that the recipient of 2017's Kew International Medal was President of Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos Calderón. President Santos is the first head of state to receive this honour and was been selected for his ideology, foresight and work to protect the biodiversity of Colombia. The medal is awarded to individuals for distinguished, internationally-recognised work aligned with the mission of RBG Kew. The award was presented at the Institute for Civil Engineers in Central London, where the President delivered a lecture on his government's conservation pledges and on the Colombia Bio programme, among other exciting initiatives. It was an excellent event, and I am excited to see the nominations for this year's award.

As Christmas 2017 neared, Kew Gardens was illuminated by over one million twinkling lights, to create a magnificent after dark landscape. The much anticipated Christmas at Kew, now in its fifth year, was more popular than ever, with 246,000 visitors joining us to celebrate the festive season. I am always struck by the fact that traditionally, on December evenings, the Gardens are shut up and empty, but thanks to Christmas at Kew they are transformed into an ethereal spectacle of light and sound for our visitors to enjoy.

Finally, just before Christmas our Head of the Arboretum at Kew appeared on BBC One with Dame Judi Dench in a one off programme exploring Dame Judi's love of trees. Tony Kirkham spent time with Judi thinking about the role of trees in our history and in our future, the science behind how they work and communicate to each other, to create a truly unique and special television programme. I hope the programme inspired viewers to learn more about our trees, to take care of them and that they will walk through a woodland, park or even their own back garden and look at trees in a different way. 2017 was an excellent year for Kew, the article lists just some of our highlights. I now look forward to the coming year, and the new successes it will bring.

## **2017: A Review of the Wakehurst Year**

by Ed Ikin

Wakehurst has continued its return to business as normal in 2017, following the temporary challenges caused by car parking charges. Visitor numbers for the calendar year of 2018 were over 340,000, our festivals and events were packed and the Friends of Wakehurst membership scheme has continued to grow. Lorraine Cheesmur joined as our new Head of Programmes and Learning and has brought energy and focus to this department, showing how we weave our learning, activities, events and festivals together into a coherent programme: expressing Wakehurst's purpose whilst generating valuable income.

Glow Wild goes from strength to strength and has grown from a capacity of 4000 tickets to 40,000 in four years. The event sold out months in advance and despite the extraordinary numbers of people flowing into Wakehurst for Glow Wild, the event's beauty, soul and energy remained intact, built on the extraordinary efforts of a dedicated team. Our harvest festival, Bountiful Botanics continues to grow, with over 7000 visitors experiencing music, food, Millennium Seed Bank tours, tractor rides and hands-on propagation. We also hosted

our first Kew Science Festival in July, and we were delighted with the numbers of visitors coming to discover our plant conservation and botany.

Welcome investment from DEFRA has dramatically improved paths, fences, boardwalks and facilities via the Infrastructure Critical Works programme, led at Wakehurst by Iain Parkinson. This project wants to make Wakehurst fit for the future, ensuring the fabric of the site is more robust and easier to care for. It's also dramatically improved access, with better surfaces. This programme recognised the value of our nursery, a centre for Kew Science growing and funded the demolition of derelict glasshouses, replaced with a new high-specification polytunnel.

The promise of a proper winter, tantalisingly dangled before Christmas with a series of crisp frosts, descended into damp indifference in the New Year, saturating the soil and horticulturalist alike at Wakehurst. Undeterred, our new Winter Garden continues apace. Designed to be a garden of pleasure and sensory delight, our Winter Garden will be packed with shimmering bark, swaying grasses, rich scent and uplifting massed bulb drifts. Our trusted contractor, PHB, are installing a Cedec path (smart, permeable and hard-wearing) whilst the Landscape and Horticulture team, led by Winter Garden designer Francis Annette, have planted a grove of pure white *Betula utilis* var *jacquemontii* and coppery-barked *Prunus serrula* var. *tibetica*. No less than 35,000 shrubs, grasses and perennials from nursery Bernhard's of Rugby will be delivered in the weeks to follow. The Winter Garden will be complete by the end of March and, following a summer's establishment and growth, at its ravishing best from December onwards.

The Winter Garden is the second project from Wakehurst's Designed Landscape Plan, a 10-year guide to future development that spans a range of projects from woodland renovation to exotic new landscape design. The plan was developed by the Wakehurst team in conjunction with LDA Design, who developed the Olympic (now Queen Elizabeth) Park. At the heart of our plans is Wakehurst's philosophy of 'wild plants from wild places', working with wild-collected material facilitated by Kew's conservation science programmes and evoking wild landscape in our plantings and designs. Wakehurst is Kew's Wild Botanic Garden, an expression of an extraordinary global scientific force in a rugged Wealden landscape.

Horticulture is a long-term business and we're already planning projects for 2019 and 2020. Wakehurst's Temperate Woodlands of the World allow visitors to travel around the world in 80 minutes, through the tall trees of Chile, Tasmania, North America and temperate Asia. Composed solely of wild-collected plants and reaching a satisfyingly coherent maturity, we want to complement this iconic arboricultural statement with new non-woody landscapes, closer to Wakehurst's Mansion.

A North American Grassland and 'Silk Road Steppe' are in the planning stage. The latter will evoke the steppe grasslands of central Asia, with a focus on the extraordinary plants of Kyrgyzstan, a flora which Kew has been entrusted to conserve in the Millennium Seed Bank. Our new landscape will chart exciting new territory for Wakehurst, horticulture of beauty and drama, underpinned with botanical and conservation significance. This summer, we're starting field trials in the Asian Heath Garden, led by Gardens Supervisor Paul Reader, to explore which Kyrgyzstan perennials thrive in our climate and soil. Please come to Wakehurst to follow our progress.

## Wakehurst Place Weather 2017

Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>January 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>February 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	103.6 mm	Month's total rainfall:	70.7 mm
Rainiest day:	22.0 mm on 31 <sup>st</sup>	Rainiest day:	20.4 mm on 26 <sup>th</sup>
Rainless days:	7	Rainless days:	6
Highest Max Temp:	11.8° C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Max Temp:	18.4 ° C on 20 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Max Temp:	3.5° C on 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lowest Max Temp:	1.7° C on 10 <sup>th</sup>
Highest Min Temp:	8.4 ° C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Min Temp:	9.7 ° C on 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Lowest Min Temp:	-2.7° C on 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Lowest Min Temp:	-0.4° C on 11 <sup>th</sup>
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 15		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 2	
Windiest day date: 10 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> Direction: NW & WNW Wind speed: 19 MPH		Windiest day date: 24 <sup>th</sup> Direction: NW Wind speed: 25 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>March 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>April 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	29.1 mm	Month's total rainfall:	5.3mm
Rainiest day:	9.4 mm on 22nd	Rainiest day:	2.9 mm on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Rainless days:	13	Rainless days:	24
Highest Max Temp:	22.9° C on 30 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Max Temp:	24.1° C on 9 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Max Temp:	8.8° C on 1st	Lowest Max Temp:	14.1° C on 26 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup>
Highest Min Temp:	11.0 ° C on 31st	Highest Min Temp:	10.2° C on 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Min Temp:	5 ° C on 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Lowest Min Temp:	0.6° C on 25 <sup>th</sup>
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0	
Windiest day date: 26 <sup>th</sup> Direction: NE Wind speed: 21 MPH		Windiest day date: 1 <sup>st</sup> Direction: SSW Wind speed: 20MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>May 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>June 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	75.3mm	Month's total rainfall:	92.6mm
Rainiest day:	19.2mm on 18th	Rainiest day:	49.9mm on 27 <sup>th</sup>
Rainless days:	15	Rainless days:	20
Highest Max Temp:	30° C on 26 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Max Temp:	35.8° C on 21 <sup>st</sup>
Lowest Max Temp:	13.9 ° C on 3rd	Lowest Max Temp:	17.5° C on 6 <sup>th</sup>
Highest Min Temp:	17.4° C on 27th	Highest Min Temp:	18.5° C on 19 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Min Temp:	4.8° C on 10th	Lowest Min Temp:	8.7° C on 6 <sup>th</sup>
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0	
Windiest day date: 6 <sup>th</sup> Direction: NNE Wind speed: 20MPH		Windiest day date: 6th and 7 <sup>th</sup> Direction: WSW and West Wind speed: 20 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>July 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>August 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	95.3mm	Month's total rainfall:	99.2 mm
Rainiest day:	32.5mm on 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rainiest day:	46.4mm on 9 <sup>th</sup>
Rainless days:	15	Rainless days:	14
Highest Max Temp:	32.1 ° C on 6 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Max Temp:	30.7° C on 28 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Max Temp:	19.5° C on 26 <sup>th</sup>	Lowest Max Temp:	17.2 ° C on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Highest Min Temp:	17.6° C on 19 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Min Temp:	17.1° C on and 23rd
Lowest Min Temp:	10.6° C on 23rd	Lowest Min Temp:	8.7° C on 31st
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0	
Windiest day date: 12 <sup>th</sup> and 13 <sup>th</sup> Direction: North and ESE respectively Wind speed:16 MPH		Windiest day date: 4th Direction: SW Wind speed: 23 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>September 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>October 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	75.3mm	Month's total rainfall:	38.0mm
Rainiest day:	8.6mm on 8 <sup>th</sup>	Rainiest day:	10.6mm on 19 <sup>th</sup>
Rainless days:	5	Rainless days:	13
Highest Max Temp:	25.6 ° C on 27 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Max Temp:	22.2 ° C on 16th
Lowest Max Temp:	16.2 ° C on 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lowest Max Temp:	13.9° C on 31 <sup>st</sup>
Highest Min Temp:	15.7° C on 5 <sup>th</sup>	Highest Min Temp:	15.0 ° C on 13 <sup>th</sup>
Lowest Min Temp:	8.9° C on 19 <sup>th</sup>	Lowest Min Temp:	3.2° C on 30 <sup>th</sup>
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 0	
Windiest day date: 13 <sup>th</sup> Direction: 23 Wind speed: 23MPH		Windiest day date:22 <sup>nd</sup> Direction: WNW Wind speed: 22MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>November 2017</b>	Wakehurst Place Weather:	<b>December 2017</b>
Month's total rainfall:	54.3mm	Month's total rainfall:	129.7 mm
Rainiest day:	9.9mm on 22nd	Rainiest day:	27.4 mm on 26th
Rainless days:	10	Rainless days:	5 days
Highest Max Temp:	17.8° C on 2nd	Highest Max Temp:	13.4 ° C on 30th
Lowest Max Temp:	4.1° C on 30th	Lowest Max Temp:	1.8° C on 11th
Highest Min Temp:	11.5° C on 21st	Highest Min Temp:	8.9 ° C on 23rd
Lowest Min Temp:	-1.4° C on 29th	Lowest Min Temp:	-3° C on 12th
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 3 nights		Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0° C and below): 7	
Windiest day date: 22nd Direction: South Wind speed:28 MPH		Windiest day date: 31st Direction: S.W Wind speed: 25 MPH	

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

## Kew Guild Medal Recipient Chris Beardshaw

by Bryan Howard

Your Guild was delighted to welcome Chris Beardshaw to our annual Kew Dinner in May when our President made this presentation in recognition of his considerable contribution to ‘all things horticultural’, ranging from the sciences to the arts and essential practical craft skills.

As a landscape designer Chris has been responsible for many attractive planting schemes including the RNLI commemorative feature at the National War Memorial at Alrewas (Staffs) along with many imaginative award winning plantings that have supported important charities at RHS Chelsea. Along with many contributions to radio and television he perhaps is best known as ‘the Helicopter Gardener’ as he ‘dropped in’ to view many top ranking UK garden landscapes.



All of the UK’s major horticultural events have benefitted from his expertise, often adding an appealing and captivating touch of humour along the way. Chris uses his natural skills to encourage any age group seeking to pursue an interest in growing plants whether it be for colourful amenity planting, productive cropping or the natural landscape.

In making a Kew Guild Award to Chris Beardshaw this new link with Kew will serve to reinforce the importance of plants for our very survival - a message that must be heard increasingly today. We live in an age when it appears that so many, especially young people, often seem far removed from the real world of plants and their essential benefit in our environment and in conservation. We know that in Chris we have a strong campaigner who will continue to reawaken an appreciation of the value of plants in learning but also for the pure enjoyment of the wider community.

### Subtropical Splendour in Hackney

by Sandra Bell

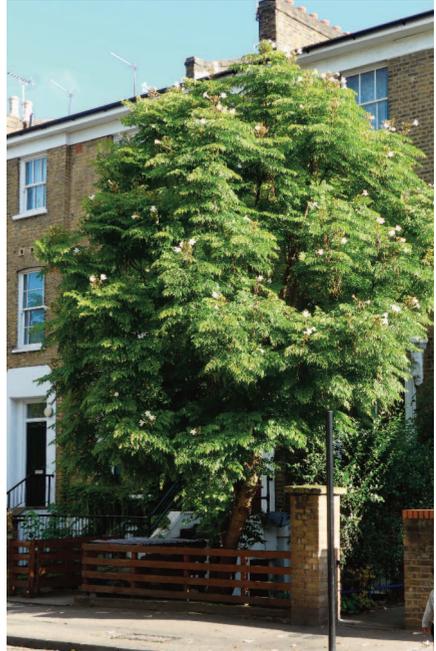
We have probably all had the experience of seeing a familiar face away from its usual context and being temporarily unable to remember the name of the person it belongs to. Finding a familiar plant in an altogether new guise and being completely unable to conjure up the name immediately can provoke a similar sensation as I found one morning last summer. *Radermachera sinica*, in the family Bignoniaceae, was a very familiar, almost ubiquitous houseplant during the 1980s. Although it makes a substantial tree, up to 30 metres high, in the mountains of Taiwan and Southern China where it originates it is very adaptable and was popular as a small foliage plant sold at about 45 centimetres tall with three or four stems bearing deep green, bipinnate leaves, delicate and fern-like when young growing glossy and robust as they matured.

During the four years I worked as the Horticultural Therapist at the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond I unpacked and grew many of them with the disabled residents since the local branch of Marks and Spencer gave the Home houseplants which had passed their sell-by-dates. Since then the popularity of foliage plants such as *R. sinica* seems to have waned, retreating partly perhaps under pressure from the year-round flowering phalaenopsis orchids which have become much more affordable in recent years and which have become the staple, default houseplant in all garden outlets. For some years *R. sinica* does not seem to have been offered for sale at all but in the run up to Christmas 2017

Homebase stocked some and it is also available online.

Small wonder then that when, in August 2017, I encountered *Radermachera sinica* growing as a tree just under 10 metre tall in a front garden in Hackney, East London, I could not immediately remember its name despite a nagging feeling of déjà vu. It lent an air of the tropics to the summer streets of London with its luxuriant glossy foliage, profusion of white, flared trumpet-shaped flowers and long, thin, twisting seed capsules. The name emerged tentatively at last from distant memory based solely on the foliage which exactly matched that of the houseplant but scaled up ten times. Never had I seen such a *Radermachera* as this, even under glass, despite the many hundreds of thousands that must have been propagated and sold over the years!

The tree's owner proved completely unaware of its identity. She remembered that it had been planted by a friend just over thirty years ago in the early 1980s and that it was quite small then whilst now it needs a certain amount of pruning to keep it within the bounds of her garden and to remove die back if it occurs in the winter. Her front garden in Hackney faces onto a wide and busy road. It is not sheltered although it does face southwest and the height of the house must help keep the worst of the northeasterly winds off. Even so survival for such a long time is remarkable for a plant normally considered to need subtropical conditions.



It is some years since I lived in London and I wondered if *R. sinica* may in that time have become an established garden plant in the capital's milder microclimate but not so apparently, for a search through the literature and online for hardy trees and shrubs or those expected to become so as our climate warms failed to produce any reference to it at all with one sole exception. This was a single listing in John Medhurst's online "Trees in London" giving details of a smaller *R. sinica* in Brixton which has since died. *Radermachera* did not feature at all on the database organised by the Tree Register of Britain and Ireland until both these trees were reported and the Hackney tree is now the TROBI champion for both height and girth since it is at the moment the only documented tree of its species growing outside in Britain. But for how long I wonder? These two trees were noticed because both had been planted in front gardens in full view. Could there be even larger specimens enjoying the protection of gardens out of site? It would be fascinating to know and I for one will be looking out for a tantalising glimpse. If you know of one or find one in the future I would be very interested to hear (my address given at the back of the Journal).

## No April Showers - more wildflowers

by Sandra Bell

The month of April is celebrated for its changeable weather and can in many years bring spells of frost, snow, strong winds, sunshine and torrential showers all in the space of thirty days. 2016 and 2017 provided two of the consistently warmest, sunniest and driest April's



*Lotus corniculatus*

on record at Kew and whilst the weather made it a real pleasure to be out in the Gardens for staff and visitors alike, it was not necessarily good for the plant collections or turf. The weather of just one spring month in each year was to influence the remainder of the growing seasons. Turf suffered, showing signs of wear and tear very early while the dominant grasses in the long grass areas were less competitive than they would have been had soil moisture levels been higher. As is often the case, the adversity

suffered by one group of plants allowed another to flourish and for the last two years Kew's wildflowers, many of which grow among grass, cashed-in as the grasses, both short and long, were temporarily weakened by the dry, warm April weather.

Over 1000 taxa of British native or naturalised plants have been logged in Kew's 300 acres since the first records were made in about 1780. This total excludes UK native taxa known only in cultivation. Not all still grow in the Gardens and it is not easy to provide a current headcount as species not seen for years and presumed lost can appear quite unexpectedly when the conditions are suitable. New taxa continue to be added to the list from time to time too. In the area surrounding the Gardens losses of wildflowers have been immense as the land has been built on ever more densely so Kew's populations may be considered to have grown in importance. Meadow Saxifrage, *Saxifraga granulata* for instance, once grew in profusion in meadows on the southern bank of the Thames to the west of London and now those in the Gardens are all that remain in the area.

For the last few years I've been collecting the seeds of Kew's rarer native wildflowers for storage in the Millennium Seed Bank. Their unpredictability has posed a particular challenge since many are opportunists, germinating, growing, flowering and setting seeds when the conditions are suitable then retreating possibly for years, into the soil seedbank. Some are hardly ever seen in the same place two years running while others grow and flower when conditions are optimal but remain vegetative and hard to find during the intervening years. Skullcap, *Scutellaria galericulata*, provides a good example of this. A hundred years ago it was widespread close to water but now grows wild in only one part of the Gardens, on the eastern bank of the Lake among the stones on the margin which are normally thick with reeds and purple loosestrife. The site has been searched for its light blue, paired flowers every year since 2013 without success but in 2017 it emerged vigorously from the surrounding plants which grew more weakly than usual and flowered for five months continuously.

The grass banks surrounding Kew's glasshouses are often rich in wildflowers. They are frequently well-worn by visitors as well as being almost too well-drained and can be very dry even in a wet spring. In the dry spring of 2017 one bank close to the Princess of Wales Conservatory where the turf cover became very thin hosted a mass flowering of Knotted clover, *Trifolium striatum* so profuse that the seed heads crunched underfoot for yards as seeds were collected in early June. This is an annual and one of Kew's rarest wildflowers since years may pass without anyone finding it. On the same bank another rare Kew annual, Field madder, *Sherardia arvensis*, germinated and produced several generations through 2017, eventually dispersing into the nearby beds and becoming a weed!

Growing in amongst ubiquitous White clover, *Trifolium repens* and Black medick, *Medicago lupulina*, the perennial Birdsfoot trefoil, *Lotus corniculatus*, has done very well

on the same banking over the last two years. Flowering on and off for six months it produces a succession of seed capsules which forcibly expel seeds away from the parent and nearby bare patches in the worn turf provide space free of competition for germination. It is quite widespread at Kew, if not common, but more is always welcome as it is one of



*Trifolium arvense*

the larval foodplants of the Common blue butterfly. A taller relative, Greater birdsfoot trefoil, *L uliginosus*, prefers much wetter conditions and has not been seen for some years.

Excavations large and small can bring long-buried wildflower seeds to the surface where they germinate and may grow to flowering size if not over-run by more vigorous grasses first. In 2016 a badger scraping in the meadow surrounding the new Quarantine House gave a

foothold to another rare clover, this time Hare's foot clover, *Trifolium arvense* which produced a profusion of its soft furry pink flowers before setting seed over half of which was allowed to fall around the parent plant but in spite of this it has not been seen there since. Near the Herbarium a back-filled trench gave Scarlet pimpernel, *Anagallis arvensis* the chance of a mass-flowering in 2017 as its seeds germinated in the bare, dry earth well ahead of the competition. A few weeks later Spotted Medick, *Medicago arabica*, also germinated thickly there and its tiny yellow flowers were followed by the curious curled seed capsules.

The past two dry springs have conjured wildflowers into view which might not otherwise have grown and enabled seed collections to be made. Those mentioned above are some of the highlights. There remains quite a list of species which are still being sought and perhaps a quite different set of weather conditions may favour some of those.

## Rematio (to return) again

by Graham Burgess

I have written at length on various aspects of Decimus Burton's application of numerical and geometric skills in his various tasks designing Kew Gardens. It seems he was tuning in earlier key dynamics.

There is an early Royal connection and, if you draw a line from Buckingham Palace, it runs down the long axis of St Anne's Church on Kew Green. This was positioned in 1714. Later on the Parish Hall was positioned at ninety degrees. The line continues to the entrance to Cambridge Cottage built initially in 1740 by Christopher Appleby, and he was a barrister of The Middle Temple. It became a Royal residence.

## Trust in Tryst

by Graham Burgess

A National Campaign will soon be underway to facilitate the planting of many thousands of Birch Trees November 2018 onwards. A competent trade source has been set up and people will be encouraged to carry out a Tryst Planting, done by the ancients, so two trees spaced 44 inches apart (Egyptian Cubit). They grow and intertwine as a symbol of love of any sort. A website is underway explaining the full story and advice on planting.

One option is two trees delivered to a home address but we are also linking to individuals and bodies who can help enrich the end result which will include a record of all the plantings done. As a Kewite you may have some influence on focussing people via the website on locations where they could do a tryst Plant or link to Composite Ones. *If you*

*think you may be able to assist contact Graham Burgess at [graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk](mailto:graham@gyrdan.demon.co.uk) for more details/website link.*

## **The Friends of Kew**

by Allan Hart

It had always been a bone of contention that all ex-students and gardening staff had to pay the full amount of the entrance fee into Kew Gardens - no concessions allowed. During my Presidential Year in 2012, I was able to negotiate with the (then) Director, Peter Crane, for a substantial reduction in the annual subscription. The rate for 2018 is £35, which is approximately 30% of the full amount. This is for two people and includes all privileges. All you need to do is obtain the application form and write on it 'Kew Guild Member'. This information used to be sent out with the Members' Certificates, which are no longer issued by the Guild.

## **Chartered Institute of Horticulture Young Horticulturist of the Year 2017 The Percy Thrower Bursary Grand Final**

by Bryan Howard (Dip Hort. Kew Cert Ed)

This year's Young Horticulturist of the Year competition final was appropriately held in May at the University Centre Shrewsbury where eight brave contestants faced challenging questions to win the top prize of £2,500 (a bursary set up in memory of Percy Thrower), to travel the world and explore many plants in their natural habitats.

The competition kicked off in January with over 60 heats taking place across the UK. Those candidates successful in their heats progressed to the regional finals of which there were eight challenging competitions spanning all aspects of horticulture. The determined finalists for this year's challenge, including Kew student Julia Andersson, were encouraged by a large and attentive audience including the Thrower family and members of the SH Soc. The competition commenced with a plant identification session along with similar 'idents' for the recognition of pests and diseases including control measures.

The final and decisive stage consisted of sixty 'quick fire' short answer questions when candidates, each with an electric 'buzzer', competed against each other to be the first to respond with a correct answer. This year's finalists produced an exciting last minute 'neck and neck' situation with the winning top score gained by the Scottish candidate Lachlan Rae.

The beautiful town of Shrewsbury, still referred to as the Town of Flowers, was an appropriate venue for this event as TV's celebrity gardener Percy Thrower was for many years Director of Shrewsbury Parks and always keen to encourage budding gardeners along within the established Shropshire Horticultural Society. Bryan Howard was privileged to be appointed Question Master for this Grand Final. *If Members would like to find out more or view photographs of the Event, please visit the Institute of Horticulture website.*

## **Sweetpeas Business**

by David Matthewman

Since leaving Kew in 1974 I had carved a career in local Government Parks Services, mainly working for Wakefield Metropolitan District Council and had attained a quite senior position being responsible for half of the City's parks and open spaces involving approximately 1800 acres of land.

We knew that compulsory competitive tendering (CCT) was coming to local Government parks in the 1980s and changes were being made to accommodate this. However, it spelled the beginning of some very dark days for those of us who were career parks professionals. This got me pondering as to what alterations there might be that could take me away from the disastrous CCT situation.

As a hobby, I had been growing and showing sweetpeas for a number of years and had won a number of awards at National level. During this period I had grown my own seed and supplying a few exhibitors and had been involved with flower shows from a very young age and could see the potential. The trigger came when my wife Pauline was made redundant from her job and after much discussion we decided to put our dreams into place, i.e. putting on trade displays shows and selling sweetpea seed at the shows. At this stage I was still employed in a managerial capacity by Wakefield MDC and used holiday entitlement to help Pauline who was working on her own. Our first major success was at the Great Yorkshire Show where we achieved 'Best in Show' which led to a very successful first year in business. Another year on, after great successes I found I had a difficult decision to make, stay in a well paid, pension job or put all my efforts into growing the business. I chose to leave. At this stage we had started attending major shows including some RHS shows.

Up until now we had been able to grow everything ourselves, but success overtook us and we found a small unused nursery in our village which suited our requirements perfectly. I knew that sweetpeas were long day plants and wanted to produce flowers much earlier than June. After much research, (information was very minimal) I purchased some high pressure sodium lights which meant that I could manipulate the plants to produce bloom for the beginning of April. At this point we were invited to apply for space at Chelsea Flower Show. Fortunately, the sodium lights played their part and we managed to take in excess of 2500 blooms to Chelsea in 1997 and achieved a Gold Medal at the first time. We subsequently went on to attain a further twelve consecutive Gold medals. As we knew we would be unable to produce sufficient seed ourselves to sell at Chelsea we contacted the Unwin family in New Zealand and were invited to stay with them at their home.



What a wonderful country and our experiences out there with that amazing family would be worthy of a further article in itself.

We continued showing our blooms from April to September until about six years ago, when retirement beckoned. Not quite though, the successful mail order business still continues in the capable hands of our daughter and her friend. I have reverted to growing all the seed myself and grow plants for various garden centres and the many talks I am invited to give. A wonderful life, which of course was enhanced by my experience at RBG Kew.

## **The Kew Guild Archives**

by Astrid Purton

Since January 2017 I have had the pleasure of being Archives liaison officer for the Kew Guild. In that time the catalogue has been updated, new papers have been deposited, conservation reports written, a new Archives and History webpage added to the Guild's website, and I've been fortunate to become part of a sterling organisation.

*And yet, what is the value of the Guild archives? Why should the Guild continue to have them, maintain them, and cherish them?*

1. *Celebrate the Guild's history:* The Guild has a rich and extraordinary history, which deserves to be recorded for its own sake alone. It is a unique record of the personal experiences of Kewites, encompassing stories and narratives which may not be found anywhere else. It is an invaluable social history. Not only do these stories add sparkle to the history of RBG Kew, they also enable the descendants of Kewites to trace their ancestors.

However, the Guild's history also allows the charity to demonstrate its impact over time and underlines its longevity. This enhances the Guild's reputation, particularly in the eyes of the public. Indeed, a report published by the Charity Commission in 2016 indicates that small, local, charities which have been established for a long time, and which are able to demonstrate what work they have done in that time, are more likely to secure public recognition and trust.

Last, but by no means least, having a history allows the charity to celebrate anniversaries and the contribution of staff, trustees and volunteers. This can boost morale, forge an identity, and inspire ongoing and future work.

2. *Enable Business continuity:* The great value of having an archive is that would-be dispersed records are instead stored together in one, accessible location. This mitigates the loss of information and enables its transfer from one Guild member to another. This is particularly important for the Guild given the majority of its work is carried out by geographically dispersed volunteers and staff. Thus work that has already been done is not unduly repeated.

This year, I myself experienced the benefits of sifting through the Guild archives. I came across records relating to a 1940s film about RBG Kew entitled 'Kew's World Garden' stored at the British Council. According to the records the Guild had intended to make the video available on the Guild's website. Having discovered this, I researched the film and have respected the wishes of my predecessor by linking the British Council film to the Guild's website. This is but one minor example of how the Guild's archives can enable business continuity.

3. *Accountability and Trust:* In recent years, as a 2016 report from the Charity Commission revealed, a spate of scandals - such as financial mismanagement at charity KidsCompany - has reduced public trust in the voluntary sector. Lack of accountability and lack of information about "where the money goes" has also affected the reputation of the sector. Now, more than ever, charities must be accountable. Having an archive greatly helps meet this requirement. It provides the public with the information it seeks. Whilst the Guild's journal and website do a fantastic job of meeting some of that public demand for accountability, there is no denying the archive gives it that greater 'oomph', by providing more in-depth detail.

4. *"The history of modern Britain cannot be written without the voluntary sector"* - Dr Georgina Brewis, UCL, 2016: Looking beyond the Guild alone and to wider society, charities are now hugely significant in modern society in that they support over 28 different sectors. These range from Animal Welfare to Armed and Ex-services, Culture and Heritage, Medical research, Human Rights, International Aid and of course, Botany and Horticulture. Charity records are thus crucial for ongoing research. Indeed, as organisations such as the Voluntary Action History Society (VAHS) and Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archive (CVSA) strongly highlight, the pervasiveness of charities in modern society means that



today's history "cannot be written without the voluntary sector". The Kew Guild is rather unique in the sense it has a well-curated archive, one of the few charities that does. May it inspire others to follow suit.

To conclude, the value of the Guild Archives is such that they are indeed an asset to the organisation and to wider society. It has an historical use and a present-day use (namely by demonstrating the long-term impact of the Guild, enhancing the charity's reputation, meeting growing public demand for accountability and enabling business continuity).

I would therefore invite members of the Guild to help the archive develop by depositing their records and photographs with the Archives. Your personal stories from your time at Kew, your studies and research, whether it be in the form of correspondence, student notebooks, diaries, photographs or other, provide a unique social history and repository of information regarding the gardening world.

It is important that the legacy of Kewites be remembered.

\*Please note, unless subject to Data Protection, all material deposited in the archives will be made available to the public.

This article draws substantially from a dissertation entitled 'Charity Archives & Value' written by Astrid Purton. The dissertation was submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for an MA in Archives and Records Management (ARM) at University College London (UCL), for the academic year 2016-2017. If you wish to quote from the above article, please also reference this dissertation. The following sources must also be acknowledged:

Report by the Charity Commission, 'Public trust and confidence in charities 2016'

The Voluntary Action History Society (VAHS) website, particularly its 'Save the Archives campaign' page  
 Campaign for Voluntary Sector Archives (CVSA) website which is run by the British Academy Research Project 'Digitising the Mixed Economy of Welfare in Britain'.

## **100 years ago** by Richard Ward

In 1917 the Kew Guild Journal had 63 pages. At the AGM held at the Holborn Restaurant it was reported that 170 members had not paid their 1s (5p) annual subscription. Members were encouraged to pay £1 for Life Membership. Over 100 Guild members were serving in His Majesty's Forces. Benevolent grants were made to two members. The Annual Dinner cost 3s 6d.

It was reported that 24 ex-Kew men attended a reunion Dinner in New York, of the 75-80 known to be in North America at that time. They resolved to establish 'The Association of Kew Gardeners in America.' Fascinating reports from Kewites were published concerning their war experiences. Obituaries of 15 Kewites were recorded, some as a result of the war.

## Committee Deliberations

by Richard Ward

Dear Kew Guild members - From time to time the Guild Committee Minutes are lodged in our archives, which are available to you upon application. The current hardworking and voluntary Guild Committee members are listed in our Journal. Some are elected, a few are paid due to lack of volunteers, and some are advisors. Meetings are usually held approximately five times per year, in the Kew Guild room in Kew's Herbarium building,



From L to R: Graham Heywood, David Hardman, Tony Overland, Jean Griffin, Peter Styles, Alan Stuttard, Sara Arnold, Linda Baharier, Leo Pemberton, Stewart Henchie, Jen Alsop, Jonathan Rickards, David Cutler, Sparkle Ward.

starting around 4pm. and followed by an option to repair to the Coach & Horses Hotel for supper and drinks.

I hope you find it interesting to read about some of the many things that your Committee discuss, sometimes at great length, to provide for a better Guild year on year. During 2017 amongst matters under

discussion, in no particular order, were: Guild Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) headed up by Bob Ivison (ongoing); Charity Law advice; liaison with the Charity Commission; Honorary memberships, and Fellowships; appointment of Archivist and her report to the November Committee; updating the website; student mentoring and outreach ideas together with forging closer links with the School of Horticulture; updating the Civi database of members, and the website; John Woodhams Award; subscriptions by direct debit; forthcoming events; Kew Guild medal suggestions; Annual Dinner; Guild room donor boards; George Brown Memorial Award; contacting lapsed or underpaying members; refurbishment of the Guild room; partnership with S & SE and London in Bloom; Journal advertising, costs, front cover, and copyright forms; defining student membership; Kew Guild Awards.

Such is the draw of Kew that Committee members travel sometimes great distances to attend meetings, often staying in the Kew area overnight. As for current Committee member Ian Lamont Smith, who is our current overseas member and lives in Toronto, he has flown over and attended all five Committee meetings and our AGM in 2017!

Fancy joining the Committee?! Become part of Guild history. Contact our Secretary Sara Arnold.

## Kew wins Gold Medal for State of the World's Plants 2017 stand at RHS Chelsea Flower Show

by Dr James Wearn (Project Manager, State of the World's Plants 2017)

In May 2017, a fantastically successful collaboration between Kew's Science, Horticulture and Design staff produced a visually stunning 'Discovery' stand with engaging content at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show, for which we were awarded a prestigious Gold Medal. The exhibit was entitled State of the World's Plants, complementing our 2017 report, which was launched on 18th May – showcasing exciting plant discoveries, exploring plants

The core Kew team on the stand on Press Day, L to R: Lara Jewitt, Tom Freeth, James Wearn. ©Colin Clubbe



capable of withstanding extreme environments, highlighting compelling plant conservation activities, and focusing on the biodiversity hotspot of Madagascar.

Our Kew exhibit featured rarities such as *Nymphaea thermarum*, a tiny water lily from Rwanda, now extinct in the wild but fortunately held in living collections at Kew and in Germany; a handsome live specimen of

the Philippine pitcher plant *Nepenthes robcantleyi*, described by Kew's Dr Martin Cheek in 2011; *Isoglossa variegata*, a Tanzanian plant described as new to science by Dr Ian Darbyshire in 2009 from a glasshouse at Kew; the Madagascan 'suicide palm' *Tahina spectabilis*; and the lizard-pollinated Mauritian plant *Nescodon mauritanus*, which is evaluated as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, and drips blood-red nectar!

State of the World's Plants is a cutting-edge overview of plant life on Earth. The 2017 report summarised new discoveries reported in 2016, which include plants of horticultural interest, plants of economic importance, and country-based novelties. It provided an assessment of global threats to plants and identifies those plants that have traits which enable them to be more resilient to global climate change and those that are more prone to extinction. The report also considered the effectiveness of international policies for promoting sustainable use and conservation.

Through this Kew-led initiative we are engaging the public, scientists and policymakers – highlighting the simple but often overlooked truth that all our lives depend on plants and their future is in our hands. Readers can explore our interactive website at [stateoftheworldsplants.com](http://stateoftheworldsplants.com).

### **Kew's WWI Centenary – 2017 update**

By Dr James Wearn (Project Manager, First World War Centenary at Kew)

We sought in 2017 to reach wider audiences and expand our perspectives on the relevance of remembrance to modern culture and science, capturing the momentum of Kew's successful Somme 100 endeavours in 2016 – the product of which was published in July 2017 in the journal *First World War Studies* and highlighted through an 'Interview with Kew Gardens' for the Imperial War Museum's First World War Centenary Partnership.

A three-day gathering in Bologna in March became a superb way of interacting with horticultural and architectural experts, wearing a conservation management hat. The conference, organised by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, included stimulating discussion of heritage sites, changing climate and resource implications, management plans, and it was also appropriate to weave-in Kew's State of the World's Plants initiative.

On 23rd May, the Commission held a Centenary Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, in the presence of His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent and Vice Admiral Sir

Tim Laurence. On entrance to the architecturally and atmospherically impressive building, invitation clasped in hand, I was greeted with “ah, you have an orange ticket” – at which point I was somewhat apprehensive, not knowing quite what that meant, and duly proceeded to follow the usher along the length of the Abbey. Fortunately, the colour represented a seat very close to the lectern! The service was a tribute to a unique Commonwealth institution which commemorates 1.7 million casualties of the two world wars, and I felt extremely privileged to be there, hearing Kew’s contribution during and after the First World War acknowledged in the speeches. Kew’s former director, Sir Arthur Hill, was credited in particular by the Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Alexander Downer.

Community engagement is a strong component of the activities of both Kew and the CWGC, and our two organisations came together once again on 2nd September through a Family Day at Brookwood, the largest military cemetery in the UK. I was very ably and enthusiastically supported on the Kew stand by former Kew Science Education Officer Chryseida Callanan. Tours of the newly created CWGC Centenary Exhibition were popular. The exhibition includes a panel dedicated to Sir Arthur Hill’s contribution as ‘Botanical Advisor’; the Commission stating: “Our approach to horticulture was shaped by Hill’s scientific reports and practical recommendations. His skill and experience helped ensure the highest standards of horticulture in Commission cemeteries, something we still aspire to.” Hundreds of visitors enjoyed the free Family Day, which also included dramatic performances, trails, stone-carving, posy-making and various other activities.

Family Day at Brookwood Military Cemetery



CWGC Centenary Exhibition panel at Brookwood showing Sir Arthur Hill

In recognition of his achievements, Sir Arthur was knighted and hailed as “one of the pioneers of the Commission’s work.” However, there was some controversy over whether he was in fact officially considered on active duty in a theatre of war during the First World War...as we discovered by delving into the archives of RBG Kew and the CWGC. The drawn-out, fascinating, and sometimes exasperated, correspondence relating to his ‘ineligibility’ and eventual award of First World War medals is highlighted in a recent article by the author in collaboration with Jessica Hudson (a former Kew Library graduate trainee).

In the autumn, through engaging with the Grow Wild team (thanks to Philip Turvil and Alice Carder), we released a WWI-themed

promotion for building community spirit and engagement through wildflower species which are known to have actually been seen by First World War soldiers on the battlefields of the Western Front and by those who visited to remember 100 years on. The selected wildflowers are available in Grow Wild seed mixes and provide a direct and striking visual link with the past, whilst providing hope for the future. To find out more, please see the blog 'WWI Battlefield wildflowers' on the Grow Wild UK website (published 8th November 2017). Continuing the unique and poignant theme of 'war botany' (polemobotany) research and outreach, 2018 will mark the first time that Kew has led a paper at a conflict archaeology conference, helping to further bridge the gap between sciences and humanities.

## **Kewites at English Heritage**

by Christopher Weddell

(1997-2001, Course 35, plus a bit more time in the Palm House)

For many years there has been a small cabal of Kewites at English Heritage. In fact I started as maternity cover for Senior Gardens Advisor, Annabel Brown (nee Chantler), in August 2008 - who started at RBG Kew with Course 28 as a sixth form entrant, graduating with Course 29 - joining the small Garden and Landscape Team headed up by John Watkins (Kew apprentice 1978-1980). The Team also included Alan Cathersides (Course 19 - 1981-84) as Senior Landscape Manager. Alan is now part of Historic England (officially the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, it was first established in 1984 and until 1 April 2015 was commonly known as English Heritage. At that point its common name changed to Historic England and a new charity, officially called the English Heritage Trust, took the name of English Heritage).

Now a charity, English Heritage Trust's role is to look after the National Heritage Collection of more than 420 state-owned historic sites and monuments across England, and it cares for and opens them to the public under a licence from Historic England that runs until 2023. There are currently 12 garden sites with dedicated garden teams, some with a Garden Supervisor, or Head Gardener and Gardener, while the largest have around 10 garden staff with Head Gardener, Garden Supervisors, Senior Gardeners, Gardeners and Trainees.

While some Kewites have successfully come and gone (Sheila Das (Course 48), Rowan Blaik) and some Staff, Trainees, and Volunteers have gone on to be Kewites (including Karen Clayton, Alex Cairns, and Susan Urpeth), others have joined and overall there are now eight Kewites in various teams/sites amongst a total of around 80 staff responsible in some way for gardens and landscapes across more than 420 sites.

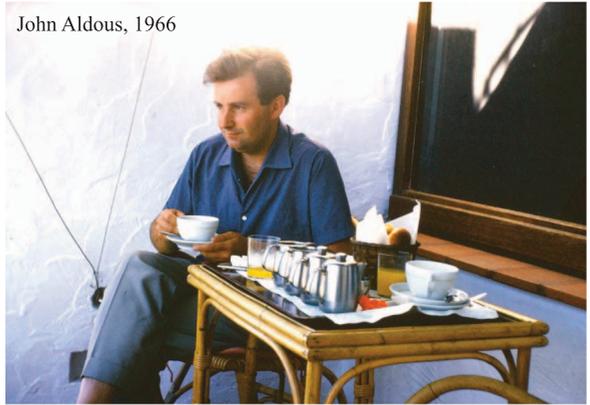
Having been the only Senior Gardens Advisor for seven years, it was with great relief that the role was split in two in 2015 and a second Advisor post was created working out of the York office. Michael Klemperer (1988-1991- Course 26) now covers the North and Midlands. There are Kewites in three gardens, Down House, Walmer Castle and Wrest Park.

Mark Brent (Course 27, 1989-1992) is Head Gardener at Walmer Castle and Gardens Antony O'Rourke (Course 36, 1998-2001) is Head Gardener at the Home of Charles Darwin, Down House and there are three Kewites at Wrest Park: Andrew Luke (Course 38, 2000-2003) is Head Gardener, with Amy Moffett (a trainee for a year 2010-11, then a Diploma student 2011-14, Course 49) as Great Gardens and Trainee Manager at Wrest Park, and Gillian Hobley (Course 51, 2013-2016) who is Senior Gardener for the formal upper gardens.

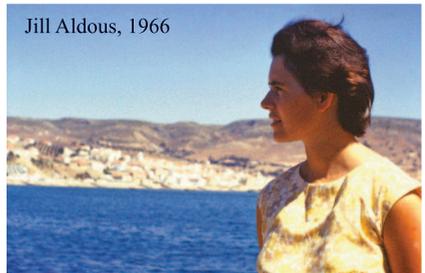
## My Career

### John Aldous

It was 1960 when I arrived at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for the two year course leading to the Kew Certificate. This was, for me, an amazing time and I look back to those years with fond memories. It was also at Kew that I met my wife to be – Gillian Dawson or ‘Jill’ as she is known who at that time was looking after the orchid collection in the T- Range under the direction of George Nicholson – the photographs were taken on our honeymoon in Portugal in September 1966.



With an interest in landscape design my first post on leaving Kew was with Stevenage Development Corporation – Stevenage was one of several new towns taking overspill from London. I was appointed to a fairly junior role within the landscape section headed by Gordon Patterson the Principal Landscape Architect. However, some four years later with Gordon leaving to set up in private practice and taking with him his immediate assistant I found myself leading the landscape team although it was a further two years before I qualified as an Associate of the Institute of Landscape Architects (later to become an Associate of the Landscape Institute as the Institute embraced other disciplines).



In 1970 I joined Jack Digby the County Architect and Landscape Architect for West Suffolk County Council where I gained valuable experience within a department which was, at that time, achieving numerous design awards for its County Buildings. However with the imminent reorganisation of county boundaries and the prospect of a further move to Ipswich I took the opportunity when it arose in 1972 of taking the post of Principal Landscape Architect within the Department of Architecture at Oxfordshire County Council where I would remain until retirement. Those who have worked for a County Council will know that these authorities are forever reorganising themselves and it was not long before the Departments of Architecture, Planning and Estates were merged to form the Department of Planning and Property Services. This, for me, was advantageous as it increased my area of interest and in particular my input into the process of identifying and fine tuning of possible route options for new roads and bypasses in the county. Possibly the most interesting of these was the M40 motorway through north-east Oxfordshire. This was, at the time, the responsibility of the Department of Transport, however the Oxfordshire County Council had a significant input into its development.

We have two daughters. Sarah, our eldest daughter works for the Countryside Service at Oxfordshire County Council and interestingly has had an input into the HS2 project on

issues such as its impact on public rights of way. As with the M40 motorway this is also expected to be routed through north-east Oxfordshire. Our younger daughter, Rachel, has worked as a designer for British Ceramic Tiles in Devon but is now a freelance designer for the ceramic and textile industries.

So what are we up to now? Well, Jill and I both enjoy gardening as you would expect. We also enjoy walking, especially coastal walking when the opportunity arises and visiting houses and gardens. I also have an interest in the Arts. Of special interest to me is 20th Century design, Mid-Century Scandinavian design and contemporary British and European studio ceramics.

It is now 2018! Just where have the years gone?

### **Jim Emerton**

As an introspective boy, I left Grammar School for a career in nature. My apprenticeship was as a garden boy under the care of the late, great Frank Constable at Derby Parks. Taught by Percy Thrower's head man, I was fast-tracked from first class to distinction in the City and Guilds and ANCH at Askham Bryan. Arriving at Kew in 1969, my first year of studies yielded five honours in my subjects and I was top student of that year. Finding life in London hard to bear, I graduated from Worcester College to teach rural studies. Not satisfied I studied Humanities and Social Sciences at University level. Eleven years of a washed mind by academia, I took off travelling to around 60 countries and islands as a hedonist and bohemian - it was the time of my life! After a great deal of career diversity on Southampton and York Parks where I led the various Council Unions at all levels in the corridors of power, including the manual worker review of '88-89, securing the highest graded gardeners in the UK I retired aged 47 to nurse my mother in the country. In 2006 my career as a journalist started to soar writing for magazines and websites. Now I function as a professional philosopher/poet and author with my eight books reviewed in over 100 counties in Mensa International. With a measured IQ of 154 there have been films and interviews of my life and work, although I sprinkle salt on the shallow sting of fame. My work has evolved as writer for 16 special interest groups of Mensa, and I had a stint as feature writer for the Kew Guild Journal. My books on marathon pigeon racing are peerless in the world and why apologise for driven egocentricity?

### **David Morgan**

'Life through corridors of uncertainty' - this is the title of my book, and is it not an apt title? In my formative years, I lived only nine miles from Bath. My Dad was Deputy Head Gardener to Nicholson's, the Gin Company, at Hartham Park. Generations before, the family bought Lord's Cricket Ground, and built the old original pavilion for the Marylebone Cricket Club. The great grandfather Nicholson had been a top class cricketer in the early 1800s.

I had a great-uncle who was a Head Gardener at Petworth House, with a staff of 27 gardeners, and an uncle who lived in Tenbury who was an expert on apple trees and taught my grandfather how to do grafting. The family had apple orchards, and made their own cider. We go back 300 years as tenant farmer gardeners, teachers and coopers. My father and grandfather were experts on hedge laying – an art form that not many people do today.

I first started at Kew in September 1960 and lodged with my grandparents in Isleworth. I would cycle the six miles to and from Kew everyday for a 7.15am start, five and a half days a week and working security some Sundays for a bit of extra money. I would cycle back on Monday nights for mutual improvement lectures. For me, Kew was a very good



On the Cricket Team, L to R standing Dorathy Evans scorer, N. Jayman, D.A.V Morgan, J. Warrington, A. Gunn, J. Stanley, and the Umpire. Seated M. Evans, T. Preston, G. Ganney, J. Maddox, H. Bell, M. Theron. The photo was taken on Kew Green in 1961.

platform of experience and really stimulated my life. My love of classical music enabled me to meet people with similar tastes. My first friend at Kew was John Woodhams, like me an improver – he cheered us on in the Kew-Wisley relay.

Len Gibbons from Leigh in Lancashire was one of the first people I worked with. Years later, I met an ex-pupil Len had taught in the big comprehensive in Leigh; he said Len was the best teacher in his school. There were several from

Kew, Mike Lycett and Ben Penberthy being others. In those days, armed with the Kew Certificate, one could take a one-year intensive course for a Diploma in Education, followed by one year teaching practice and if your adjudications were good you were a qualified teacher. A lot of very fine teachers followed that route.

One memory I have is playing cricket for Kew on Kew Green against old Kewites. Don Pringle bowling at 80mph – he had played a lot of Lancashire League cricket and was a fast left arm. As a pro myself years later a left arm fast bowler is harder to pick up. I enclose a photo of our Kew team. We had no helmets in those days.

In July 1963 I left Kew to train as a Groundsman at the Pyrene Sports Club. Then on to Borough Road College as Deputy Head Groundsman working on cinder running tracks and cricket pitches. I then worked for the DOE at Kneller Hall and Hounslow Barracks.



David Morgan handing over the lead to John Gaggini. Dave Ralston jogging in the background. This year we won the relay (1962).

At Cardiff I gained valuable experience at the Arms Park and Glamorgan county cricket in Sophia Gardens. I was second in the Welsh indoor steeplechase, and won a medal in the Welsh cross country Championships. I ran for Wales in a semi-marathon in Luxembourg, and also in an indoor international at Cosford, the only team to beat England, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Lynn Davies was our Captain.

My first job was as Head Groundsman at Winchmore Hill Sports Club. I had just got married for the first time, and I was there for one year. I then applied for the job as Grounds Superintendent and Coach at Edinburgh's Academy. I had MCC and AAA's Coaching awards and Institute of Groundsmanship awards. I moved there in June 1972. I was a member of Edinburgh

Clog race down the Broad Walk at Kew, quarter mile – October 1961



Lothian's branch and became Secretary Treasurer, organising the annual field day. In later years it became a two-day event indoors at Ingliston. I started Groundsmanship courses at Oatridge East of Scotland Agricultural College and lectured there once a week. It later became the most popular course they ran. We put down a putting green,

later it was expanded to nine holes. It is used by the public and brings in over £100,000 a year.

I made extra cricket squares for the prep school at Edinburgh Academy, and also started a tree-planting scheme. In 1976 I planted a Norway maple with the Queen to commemorate 150 years since Sir Walter Scott founded the Academy. In the five years I was there I transformed the place, 41 years later the Queen's tree is still alive. My cricketing students won more matches than they lost. We played King's Canterbury, there was a 17 year old left hander who scored 84 runs – David Gower. Two years later aged 19 he made his debut for England as a test player.

In 1978 I applied for the job as Ground Manager at Motspur Park. In September of 1978, 1979 and 1980 I organised the IOG show. I helped the University athletic team and became Secretary of various events. I took a team to Japan twice, and coached them to finish sixth in a road relay in 1985. We beat the top two universities of the USA and one from China. I organised the 50th anniversary of Motspur Park, a sporting bonanza – the blue ribbon event being athletics track and field. The guest of honour was Sir Roger Bannister. The black cinder track was at its best. Sydney Wooderson had broken three world records there, in 1937-1938. The Cricket Square was the best wicket outside of the county scene. My best bowling was four wickets for six runs. I played in Matches v Celebrities XIs and held my own against top test players. We would get a thousand people watching on a Sunday afternoon. In 1988 the track was filled in and representative teams including athletics slowly died. Eventually Fulham FC was given a long Lease as a training ground. There was an atmosphere at Motspur Park that money couldn't buy. Today, if you visit, it's as if the heart has gone from the atmosphere.

I moved to King's College Merton as Ground Manager. This site had some of the best soil and turf I had ever worked with. In 1989 I was made redundant and the site was sold for building. I then did contract work for King's College until 1994, until that site was also sold off.

With my second wife Barbara who was Polish and a qualified vet, we moved to Krakow Poland and opened a surgery for small animals practice, which we called Morgan's. I started teaching at Krakow University of Technology and the Jagiellonian University, advanced English, problems with civilisation, English literature and English drama. I then started my own school, Morgan English classes. I employed five teachers, also taught Spanish and German, to 60-70 students. We had over 90% pass rate for Cambridge exams.

In 2005, my mother was admitted to hospital after a stroke. She had also been diagnosed

with vascular dementia. I was her only living next of kin so I went back to England to look after her. The school was kept going to the end of term in mid June when I had to close it for good. My mother died in a nursing home on 27th June 2006. I went on to rent a house in Market Drayton and worked for the local Council. I was in charge of Parks, Gardens and Cemetery. In one year I transformed the place with hanging baskets. I won two awards, one for town in bloom and the other for best cemetery. When I left I had cards and letters from all the Councilors and Mayor in appreciation of my work there.

I decided on a new challenge, doing security at John Lennon airport. When I got tired of the shift work, I then worked in mental health with people in supported housing. I spend eight and a half years working for the company called Making Space. On November 30th 2016 I retired. My employers and clients didn't want me to go as they said I was a one off. To this day I haven't been replaced, as it wasn't an easy job and one needs plenty of tact, patience and a ready smile. On the 2nd of December 2016 I retired to Church Stretton.

I have finished my autobiography, and written two plays – the People's King's Council, about the Life of Ernest Bevin who was Foreign Secretary 1945-1951 (to me, the most fascinating political leader of the 20th Century). My other play was about four conscripts who were in the British Army in the Royal Artillery in 1947-1948 in Palestine. I have also done some freelance journalism – I wrote for Parks and Sports Grounds and Turf Management as a regular contributor. My book gives a History of University of London sport, as well as cameos of people and friends I knew and admired. The success I have had in life I owe to my formative years and the characters I met at Kew, as I travelled through life and corridors of uncertainty.

## Quirky Corner



**Alex George** - The Big Foot only in North America? No, it's clearly been at Kew for many years, this one (masquerading as a Syrian Ash) spotted by the path from the Victoria Gate past King William's Temple. Perhaps it symbolises Kew's footprint on the world of horticulture.

I was amused by the notice about Hooker's cat because you could take it to mean a real one, maybe in its 9th life (in fact it refers to a painting of William Hooker's cat that used to hang in the Herbarium). Taken 1992.

Hooker's Cat has been temporarily removed for exhibition in Kew Gardens Gallery



Not a glimpse of what a drying climate may bring and the fate of the last 65 bus, rather a country road in the agricultural region of south-western Australia, named after an early family in the district (Kew).

## News of Kewites in 2017

by Pamela Holt and others

**Rebecca Bower** - I turned 60 on 9th January and with the help of suggestions from family and friends, set myself a list of 60 new things to try or new places to visit, to be completed by 8th January 2018, consequently I have been extremely busy all year. Some of the things

were quite small, like sending a Tweet (one sent and not used since), some quite challenging, like trying stand-up paddling (done in a rough sea off Minehead beach – I got dumped in the water many times) and some bigger than they looked, like visit all Devon Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves – there are 50 scattered all over Devon! It has been tremendous fun and I have enjoyed trying some more creative things such as making a mosaic and making a Christmas garland, and contributing to more community activities like taking part in a beach clean and volunteering at a Foodbank (and I'm now a regular volunteer for Exeter Foodbank). I've enjoyed watching two new sports - ice hockey and track cycling - as well as going to the World Athletics in London - all had a great atmosphere and were very exciting.



The new places to visit have resulted in some fantastic holidays. I've been to Sudan on a small group holiday where we wild camped in the desert and saw many of the wonderful pyramids and other ancient buildings there. I had a three week trip round Peru seeing the Nazca Lines, Lake Titicaca and Cuzco, and culminating in a four day walk along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu - amazing to see such an iconic place. I had two weeks on safari visiting the southern Tanzanian reserves of Selous and Ruaha, as well as the Masaai Mara in Kenya, and saw huge numbers of

fabulous animals and birds. Closer to home, I had a walking holiday in the Dolomites, a wonderful week on the Isles of Scilly, each day taking a boat to a different island and exploring them on foot - the weather was perfect and it was delightful, and a National Trust working holiday at Standen House & Garden in Sussex.

As I write this just before New Year, there are only two things left on my list to complete so I am confident it will be achieved and there will be big celebrations on 9 January! In-between all the list activities I've fitted in other things too with regular trips to London for my two charity trusteeships, and my sister Anna and I enjoyed the Kew Guild weekend in Dorset in May visiting Compton Acres and Exbury Gardens. Hopefully I'll make at least one event in 2018 too.

**Chris Crowder** (1984) has been head gardener at Levens Hall in the English Lake District for over 30 years where he and his team of staff and volunteers maintain and continue to develop this much loved and historic garden. The 17th Century topiary, the oldest, most extensive and dramatic to be found anywhere in the world, being just a small part of this

varied horticultural gem. Chris and the visually stunning garden are regularly featured in the press and on many TV programmes. Many years ago he prepared and presented BBCs 'Blue Peter' garden items and has since written apps, blogs, newspaper columns and a number of books including the award winning 'The Garden at Levens'. He is an entertaining and inspirational speaker, having given presentations throughout the UK and at centres across Europe, Japan and the USA. Chris has long standing relationships with gardens and garden organisations in Portugal, to which he is a frequent visitor. He is married with two children and any spare time over and above that most important family life is spent in indulging his passion for all things bees and beekeeping. His father and horticultural inspiration George Crowder (1953) died in 2017 at the age of 91.



**Sheila Das** (2010). Enjoying the challenge as Gardens manager at RHS Garden Wisley whilst it undergoes tremendous redevelopment. Sheila has recently embarked on a programme to improve her health and fitness. Starting by completing a walk across the Lake District last year from Keswick to Barrow a distance of 43 miles in a day! Our congratulations on Sheila's target by completing this in under 13 hours. She plans to repeat this walk in 2018 to beat her 11.5 hours walking time by having a shorter lunch stop. Meanwhile the trimmer Sheila is planning other big walks and has radically changed her diet.

**Geoff Dykes** (1970) has often helped out at the Nursery where he used to work prior to retirement, particularly with irrigation problems. He now enjoys working in his garden and allotment, home improvement projects and returning to Malaysia where he enjoys the warmth and wealth of tropical plants.

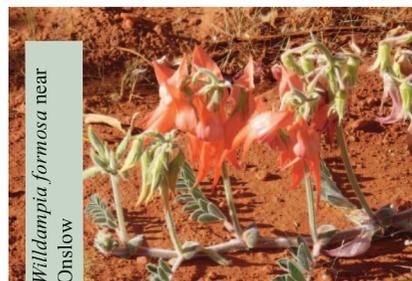
**Maité Delmas** (nee Trolliet), a member of Course 16 of the Kew Diploma, was awarded the title of Chevalier in the order of the Legion d'honneur on April 7th 2017 at the French Ministry for the Environment.



Maité Delmas

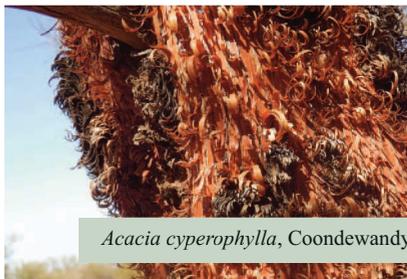
**Jim Emerton** - My books are selling well, and have been reviewed by Mensa World Journal in around 110 countries to many thousands of people. I am dedicated to a dozen or more specialist subject areas including Ecology@Conservation. The profile is large to project my original ideas and lyrical imagery. I hope another award is on the horizon to satisfy my research efforts over a lifetime of study. I combine art/science and philosophy in my intellectual efforts. On a lighter note Countryside Audio@Visual filmed for a DVD, and will be available at shows. I use the image to get my creative ideas injected into some deep waters of the mainstream consciousness.

**Alex George** - A highlight of 2017 was a six-week visit to Britain that included the Guild's weekend of garden visits in Derbyshire (reported elsewhere). I also visited the World Garden in Kent, especially to see their national collection of *Eucalyptus*, fortuitously arriving as Tom Hart-Dyke was about to show several visitors around



Willdampia formosa near Onslow

the garden and he kindly included me in the group. While spending a weekend with members Brian and Sylvia Phillips we visited Chartwell where, besides seeing the house and estate, we had an interesting encounter with Black Swans (in 1948 Winston Churchill painted those then in residence). In Norfolk I caught up with Kewites Roger and Diana Polhill and in London Jill and Roger Marsden and Gren Lucas, all former staff of the Herbarium. I spent some time at Kew, especially in the Library researching for my book on the meaning of Western Australian plant names, and attended the Guild's AGM the day before flying home. For my days at Kew I enjoyed finding accommodation with the Ward family.



*Acacia cyperophylla*, Coondewandy

At 'home' a friend and I made a trip to our North-West searching for several plants including the group of *Acacia* species that have an attractive bark known as minnie ritchie and the spectacular Sturt Pea (*Swainsona (Willdampia) formosa*). For three nights we stayed in the small town of Marble Bar, the State's renowned hotspot with summer temperatures regularly over the 100 degree F mark (37.8 C). During one summer they recorded 162 consecutive days over this mark. Our visit coincided with midwinter day when it was a cool 27 degrees. During all my fieldwork I had not visited the town so it was good to fill in another blank.

**Jenny Grundy** - In August Paul Smith (BGS�) asked me to design a Christmas card to go out internationally.

On the 5th of September Gren Lucas came, and Margaret my friend drove us to the Sir Harold Hillier gardens where Wolfgang Bopp welcomed us. We were joined by Elizabeth Rollingson and Elisa from The Linnean Society. After coffee and a quick peep at the winter garden we had a guided tour of the Education Gardens by Carla, ending at my dipping ponds to see the new table and storage. Then on to the Centenary Border which was very colourful and to Jermyn's house where we were given lunch in a private room. The ten year plan was shown to us, and we then saw the view points before heading back to the Visitor Centre. Carla and Elizabeth had a further meeting. We came home. Everyone thought it was very useful. It had been my idea. Our thanks to Wolfgang for his kindness.

On the 5th of November Margaret Jones and I attended a lecture by Andy McIndoe at Hilliers, and lunch. Then Wolfgang took us to see my latest tree and Margaret was asked to put the dedication sign on *Carpinus x schuschaensis*. The Acer in the Valley of Fire I can now tell you is *Acer palmatum 'Trompenburg'* from Japan.

**Allan Hart** - These have been fairly quiet, uneventful years, dominated by regular visits to the doctor, local pharmacy and hospital! I had a routine blood test January 2016 and was diagnosed with the condition Haemachromatosis - excess iron in the blood. A normal reading is 50 units - mine reached 850! Regular fortnightly visits to St. George's Hospital, Tooting to have 0.5 litres of blood extracted (or as Tony Hancock - the hero of Cheam would have said - a bleeding armful) did the trick, and thanks to the care and expertise of the NHS by September the level was down to 48 units and I only have to have a check every two to three months and watch my diet.

Travelling has been somewhat curtailed and reluctantly we have had to miss many of the excellent Kew visits organised by Pamela Holt. In January (2016) our two sons, Richard and Mathew, organised a week-end visit to Merseyside, to watch Liverpool (2) v.

Tottenham (0) - as a lifelong supporter of Liverpool, it was a great treat to experience the hospitality suite of the new stadium. A brilliant late 80th birthday present! In April we took our son Richard and family to explore the Isle of Wight, staying in a cottage within the Ventnor Botanic Gardens. Our grandkids loved opening their curtains every morning to see Palm Trees and exotic Ferns - just like being back in Australia, where they lived for three years (but not as hot!). This is a very special place to stay and members should contact Chris Kidd, Curator, who can organise bookings.

Another highlight was a tour of the newly opened Canary Wharf Cross Rail Station Roof Garden, organised by the Chartered Institute of Horticulture - different planting zones, some open to the elements and others enclosed - very good horticulture.

I had been involved with the Wharf since day one of the construction programme - some 30 years ago! If any one wants to have a successful landscape scheme over such a period - it is easy - the right budget, high quality design, good construction and plant materials, careful installation and long term maintenance. Not cheap but worthwhile!

Allen Paterson, a Kew friend for over 60 years, is a Trustee of the Moat Brae House Trust in Dumfries and he invited Joan and me to a reception at the House of Lords, hosted by Joanna Lumley, a Patron of the Trust. The house was formerly owned by James Barrie, author of Peter Pan, but had been allowed to fall into disrepair. Fortunately its plight was recognised by local residents, who raised funds for renovations and new buildings. When fully restored, Moat Bray House will be a residential centre for children's literature studies,

Another invitation was to join Allen at a dinner at Brookes Club, Mayfair, for the Garden Society. Its members own most of the UK's large estates, renowned for their gardens and parks. We returned home after midnight on the underground, in full evening dress, clutching large bunches of exotic plants - very interesting for the travelling public!

Yet another invitation from the Patersons to attend a recital at the Bluther Piano Centre in Baker Street was most welcome and such a treat. Allen and Penelope are keen and generous supporters of Absolute Classics, an organisation which promotes music in rural communities in Dumfrieshire.

Cultural events included a visit to Stokenchurch Opera, (our picnic rather spoiled by strong winds and torrential rain), the new Design Museum at the former Commonwealth Institute in Kensington, Ray and Charles Eames exhibition - modernist designers at the Barbican Centre, Monet and contemporaries interpretations of their own gardens at the Royal Academy. We visited the modernist Lawn Road flats in Hampstead, now beautifully restored. This Isokon Building (1934) designed by Welles Coates, is like a giant concrete ocean liner and was a hub of left wing bohemians, housing Walter Gropius, Henry Moore, Piet Mondrian, George Orwell and most of the Freud clan. It was also, in the 50s, the centre of a Russian spy ring, which operated undetected for several years.

I have been working for the last three years as a landscape/horticultural consultant on the new American Embassy in the Nine Elms district of London. A great privilege - being the only non-American involved with the project, which has an inspired design and challenging and innovative methods of construction. Due to strict security requirements I was only able to visit the site on two occasions, which was very frustrating for someone who enjoys hands-on experience!

We have had to replace in our garden the railway-sleeper paved areas and Cedec gravel path with granite slabs and resin bonded gravel, after 27 years of wear and tear. The work was carried out by the same craftsman who did the original installation! We also have to

replace our ageing conservatory and have finally received planning consent for a modern glass structure, which we hope to have constructed this year.

Son Richard and family invited us to join them for a long weekend in Northumberland in a very modern eco-house near Amble. There was a Harry Potter themed event at Cragside and Alnwick Castle where the grandchildren (and parents) learned to fly on broomsticks! The castle gardens were disappointing - full of tourist attractions, some rather tatty - a contrast to the quality when we first visited them on Colin Hindmarch's excellently organised Kew Guild event some years ago. Joan has retired as Secretary of our local Amenity Society after 14 years service - not as hard to hand over as she thought - so we can now look forward to a leisurely retirement, taking life as it comes and enjoying the company of family and friends.

**Stewart Henchie** (Course 8) - Pat and I had a number of really enjoyable visits from Leo Pemberton (1988) this year in Teignmouth. During his stay with us in March we showed him the sights of the surrounding town area and I took him to RHS Rosemoor which Leo and I had not visited for a number of years. While enjoying the delights of early spring flowering shrubs in the grounds we bumped into Sarah Chesters (Course 24) responsible for Horticultural Education and Learning at Rosemoor.

We also took the opportunity of a short, guided tour by Martin Abrahams (Course 8) of interesting plantings in and around Exeter city including the extensive University campus and also plantings to commemorate the connections of the Veitch nursery planted up by the City in conjunction with volunteers. Martin took us to see a large multi stemmed tree of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* originally planted nearby the family home of the Veitch nursery. It is now surrounded by a new housing estate but the tree has been saved and protected.

In early April Glyn Sherratt (Course 40) now Head Gardener at Holker Estate, Cumbria and Annette Dalton (2010) National Trust Gardens Advisor visited us on their way to visit gardens in Devon and Cornwall. We also caught up with Penny Hammond (Course 22) and Sue Minter (1983) in June who live nearby and enjoyed their wonderful garden and lovely food.

Leo also stayed with us during the Kew Guild trip to Devon which I organised from 23-25th June and again in early October. Amongst other places we visited Plant World near Newton Abbot, a four acre landscaped garden attached to the nursery with plantings of trees shrubs and herbaceous plantings.

Pamela Holt (Course 9) managed to squeeze us into her busy schedule in mid-September after attending an arboricultural conference in nearby Exeter. So we showed her parts of Devon she didn't know over the few days she stayed with us.

**Pamela Holt** (1971). Since retiring in 2013 after six years as Arboricultural Officer at the London Borough of Barnet, Pamela has continued with her love of mountains and rock climbing from Morocco, Sicily, Madeira and Sweden to Kyrgyzstan where she photographed many beautiful alpine meadow plants. Her recent escorted trip to China took in Shanghai, cruising on the Yangzi, the awe inspiring Terracotta Warriors, Giant Pandas in Chengdu, the Great Wall of China and the various Palaces in Beijing. A Parish Councillor, volunteer at RHS Wisley gardens library and training as a flower show judge, keep her occupied when not helping with the Alpine club buffet at their London lectures or supporting the charity Project Peru.

**David Howarth** - Have you ever been to a place where your memories take you back?

Seeing, feeling and hearing echoes of the past as if it were now? The last time I was here was over 40 years ago. I could see fellow students from my year 1970-1973 still on those tiered seats. I recalled clearly advice I was given in that very room, “Quid pro quo” and “Always make it easy for somebody to say yes to you”, by Leo Pemberton. *The people and horticultural skills we learn as a Kew student are life-skills.*



©RBG Kew (School of Horticulture)

In 2015 I was back in the Jodrell lecture theatre as a Trainer on the Civil Service Learning programme, training staff on Presentation Skills. How did I get there? As a student I was fortunate to speak as a debater in two of the three annual debates with students from RHS Gardens Wisley. How can I forget my maiden Kew Mutual Improvement Society (KMIS) lecture – “The 3 C’s” – Contraception, Consumption and Conservation” a polemic on how fast we were heading towards self-destruction!

Another opportunity from which I learned was being Assistant Secretary to the KMIS. I remember sitting around a table with other committee members asking what we will do after Kew. Most of us said Parks Officer with a local authority and one person said they will be the next TV gardener after Percy Thrower. It’s practical to set realistic objectives. An acronym I often use in training and for coaching are “Smart” objectives:- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time related.

After being a Horticultural Instructor at Gunnersbury Park, Hounslow under another Kewite (Roy Jones), I became a Parks Area Manager in Redbridge and gained my Diploma in Leisure and Amenity from ILAM.

Privatisation came along in the 1980s together with the Amstrad PC and a Communications Model called NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming). I found myself leaving horticulture, re-training in new skills and becoming a freelance trainer. This career transition has taken me all over the world working in numerous commercial companies and government departments meeting and working with fantastic people. Looking at plants in their natural environment is exciting and rewarding from cacti in Texas to tree ferns in the Blue mountains of Australia.

Times change and so do we. Many people label professionally trained horticulturalists as Gardeners, older IT trainers as dinosaurs, mature soft skills trainers as gurus and media personalities as celebrities. What is your label?

Another key skill I learned was “adaptability”. Plants readily adapt to new environments. I am now Vice President of Education to a speakers group called Toastmasters International (TMI) with clubs all over the world helping people develop their speaking and confidence skills. Many TMI clubs are in Government and Commercial organisations. I am a member

of the Kew Guild and a Friend of Kew, finding the gardens a great place to visit and relax.

My latest venture was taking a week off early in December 2017 at “The Hurst” Shropshire on a Non-Fiction Writers course, so watch this space and the book shelves, virtual or wooden! I finished 2017 contracting with the NHS Blood Donor and Transplant Dept in Cambridge facilitating their change to different IT hardware and Software systems (If you are over 85 they don't need your organs!) before my wife and I go for our usual winter break in Spain.

**Jim Mitchell** (1966) has spent considerable time in the UK this year attending a funeral, repatriating his son to London after a serious skiing accident in the Alps, attending the Kew Dinner and the Guild AGM. The funeral was of his cousin who he first worked with at St Helens Parks and Cemeteries Department in 1959 and who had encouraged him to further his professional horticultural studies and therefore indebted to. The opportunity to attend the Dinner came after a cruise on the Queen Victoria from Sydney to Southampton to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a cruise from Southampton to Sydney when with wife Valerie immigrated to Australia in 1967. He couldn't resist attending the AGM to witness the inauguration as President of Jean Griffin a lass he first met in the 'Tropical Decorative Pits' in 1963. My how they have changed not to mention the 'Pits'. 2018 is also planned to be as eventful with a Tour of Gardens in India in February, joining the Kew Tour to the Scilly Isles, a cruise to the fjords, a visit to Chelsea FS and of course the Kew Dinner in May.

**Udai Pradhan - News from the Himalayas.** Dear friends old and new, warm greetings for the New Year from Kalimpong! In life's journey, some incidents may not hold significance momentarily, but when the time comes for it to spread its wings, we come across a whole array of persons, events and good things that make us reminisce and smile. One such incident is related to a 'mutilated' walking stick that travelled with me all the way from England to Scotland and then arrived at my home in the Himalayas! So for me it is no ordinary stick and this is how the story began!



Udai with the mutilated walking stick

On April 1972, while I was still a voluntary student at Kew, I began getting interested in hitch hiking sojourns during the weekends. The very first place that I wanted to visit was Haslemere. There was a nursery there of one Col. J.A. Mars who was interested in Himalayan plants. I took a train to Haslemere and stayed at the Ewhurst Green Youth Hostel. While hiking my way back almost 20 miles to the hostel, I came across a piece of fallen branch that was smooth and sturdy (I guessed it was a Beech branch) and decided that it would be a worthwhile article to retain for my hitchhiking trips to Scotland and North England.

With the advent of summer, I approached Mr. Leo Pemberton (my Principal/Supervisor in Kew) and put my plans forth to him regarding the trip requesting him for a furlough, as I wanted to see and understand the U.K. better. In the beginning he was a bit taken aback but when he saw my keenness to travel and learn

he informed me that the leave would be sanctioned if I managed to get a written consent from my Father/Guardian. The consent finally came through and I set forth on my venture on 27th of August 1972, the stick my only constant companion on this unknown yet exciting journey that took me 21 days to complete! The route that I followed was as follows: London - Barnard Castle - Darlington - Newcastle Upon Tyne - Edinburgh - Aberdeen (via Dundee and Forth Bridge) - Huntly - Elgin - Inverness - Grantown - Glen Affric - Loch Garten - Fort William and Ben Nevis - Mallaig - Isle of Skye - Glasgow (via Glencoe and Rannoch Moors) - through Lake District - Manchester - Birmingham - Stratford upon Avon - Cambridge - Huntingdon - London.

The Botanical Gardens at Edinburgh was most impressive. The new glass houses were supported on tetrahedron structures, thus eliminating the use of supports inside, giving ample room for planting, and landscaping. At Aberdeen, the “Granite City” of Scotland, I met Dr. G. Hadley to discuss the problems of germinating terrestrial orchid seed. He later showed me around the city and took me home for a wonderful dinner of curry and rice! He of course had spent some time in Burma with his family and his wife had learnt eastern cooking then.

I carried good weather with me wherever I went, and I really loved the walk through the heart of the country. I got short hitches up to the town of Elgin, but from then onwards I did not have to walk a single mile until I reached Fort Mallaig as I got a ride from an elderly man just outside Elgin. Soon we got talking and he introduced himself as Alan Lockhart. He was quite impressed when I told him where I came from and what I was doing. He kindly volunteered to show me something of Scotland, so that day quite unexpectedly, I found myself a guest of a man who was a complete stranger to me (and vice versa). He took me through the village of Cawdor well known for Castle Cawdor of Macbeth, Battlegrounds of Culloden, burial grounds of Picts (1200-1500 B.C.), and finally we went to Loch Affric, which brought back memories of home, hills, and the rivers we have in the Himalayas.

By the time we left Loch Affric it was quite late so he offered me a room for the night in his “home” which turned out to be a sprawling Scottish Manor by the River Spey in Grantown! He took me straight to his kitchen where he kindly offered me bread, omelette and tea and told me that he literally lived in his kitchen! After the simple supper he took me to a large room with a dreary painting of a war theme, which loomed over the large king sized bed. Before saying goodnight, he told me he was a relative of Mary Queen of Scots. He also particularly pointed to a painting of a beautiful lady whom he said he had been in love with but had unfortunately died! By the time he left the room I had chills running down my spine and I remember particularly bolting the door tight and looking for an exit by the window if in case I had to make a getaway! I also made sure I kept my Scarpa boots on and my walking stick and rucksack close at hand. I did not realise that I had actually succumbed to a deep sleep sometime in the night. A loud noise that I thought was a knock woke me up - it was morning and Alan had come to wake me up with a nice warm cup of tea that helped to warm my soul once again! The next day he drove me via Loch Garten (Sanctuary for Ospreys), Fort William, Ben Nevis, Glenfinnan, down to Fort Mallaig where I bid my friend goodbye. I was supposed to catch a ferry from Fort Mallaig to the Isle of Skye which I unfortunately missed by few minutes and so spent a night at the Garramore Youth Hostel.

I toured the Isle of Skye from Armadale right up to Portree in the north and Elgoll in the southwest, Kyleakin in the east. I enjoyed the fascinating view of the Cuillins from Elgol, where incidentally, mountaineers are trained to scale peaks like the Everest! I cycled all three days I spent in Skye. “I must return to Skye one day”....that’s the only way I can express my feelings for that exquisite, weather-beaten island of the West Hebrides! (\*I got

the opportunity to return to Isle of Skye with my family in 2008. Refer to Kew Guild Journal, vol.15, no.113, pg 334).

My return was through Glencoe, Rannoch Moor, Glasgow where I spent a night and saw the Botanical Gardens. From Glasgow I threaded through the Lake District, Manchester, Birmingham down to Stratford-upon-Avon. It was 12.30 at night when I reached Stratford-upon-Avon, and since all places for lodging were shut, I felt helpless. I walked around for a while and I thought a park bench would be a nice place to rest for the night. I put my rucksack on it and was just about to fall asleep when I heard a loud whistle and someone shouting at me. Looking up, I saw a policeman who told me I was not supposed to be sleeping at close proximity of the asylum. When I related to him my story, he told me to follow him to the police station. Feeling a tad nervous I went along with him not knowing what was in store for me. Consequently, I found myself being offered a bed in a prison cell! When one is so fatigued that the feet refuse to move any further, even a prison bed looks very inviting! So I accepted the offer with much gratitude. The police officer sent me away the next morning with a nice cup of tea! I spent two wonderful nights in this lovely little Shakespearian Town where I visited Anne Hathaway's Cottage and also saw a magnificent play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre... 'Anthony and Cleopatra'! From Stratford-upon-Avon I went to Cambridge where I spend three nights with Dr. and Mrs. T.A. Russell. Dr. Russell was my professor when I was doing my graduation at the Allahabad Agriculture Institute, India. He took me to visit the University Botanic Gardens and the Colleges in Cambridge.

I spent the last week of my holiday in Houghton Mill Youth Hostel on a Conservation Holiday organised by the Youth Hostel Association Adventure Holidays. I met 11 other students with whom I had wonderful interaction! We spent the time visiting nature reserves, conservation areas of British flora and fauna, boating and swimming in the River Ouse, which ran just below the Youth Hostel (Mill itself was built in 937 A.D.). I was much impressed by the amount of effort that had been put into the studying and conservation of the native flora and fauna and also to conserve them for their posterity. We also made several visits to Monks Wood Experimental Station where I spent most of my time observing the techniques of studying flora and fauna, their mapping by computer, and receiving explanations on many other related things, like the International Biological Programmes, their functions, etc. I made some good contacts there and gained ample

Atsushi and Kazuko Kuyama in Phalut near Darjeeling Himalayas



knowledge and ideas that could be implemented in our own localities. By the time we said goodbye, my new friends knew something about orchids too. In fact in the end they voted to ban the word 'orchid' and anyone saying the word on the last day was fined ten pence! It was sheer fun!

And the Walking Stick? It remained a constant companion and an observer throughout the hitch-hiking trips. I mapped my entire journey on it and it had also been autographed upon by many souls that I had met during the travel! It was a priceless relic for me and I wanted to carry it back to India when I completed my course at Kew but this was not to be so as they did not allow any sticks to be carried onboard the flights! But as luck would have it, my very good friend Atsushi Kuyama, a student of Kew from Japan and Kazuko his wife, had decided

to travel from England to the Himalayas in a their camping car in 1973 and pay us a visit too. So I requested Atsushi to carry the precious stick for me to which he readily agreed. When my friends finally arrived in the Himalayas and presented the stick, I was devastated to see that it had been broken into pieces! Atsushi apologetically explained to me that on his long drive from England through the Hindu Kush Mountains some miscreants had attacked them and it was this very stick that had come to good use and had saved their lives! While attempting to hit the offenders, the stick had broken into three pieces of which two pieces had come back to me and the third one had been 'left behind' somewhere in the Hindu Kush region! Yes, the two pieces are still with us even today after 44 years - a tele-transport that brings me very fond memories of Kew and all the wonderful people whom I had met and befriended along the way.

Atsushi is now 70 years old and is the Director at the Sakuya Knonohana Kan Botanical Gardens in Osaka and Kazuko teaches English for adults in Japan. They wrote to me saying that they still have very fond memories of Kew and Sikkim and that the experiences they got during those years were invaluable!

In early February 2017, we (Tej, Hemlata, Chris and myself) were in Southern India and we decided to pay a visit to the renowned Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary located in Kerala. It had been a dream that I had been nurturing ever since I had first heard about it. The story of Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary began with the discovery of a single plant of an epiphytic orchid, *Arides crispera* growing on a rotting piece of branch that had been collected for firewood by Dr. Wolfgang Theerkauf. It was amazing to find out that he had actually come to India from Germany to learn about spirituality. He decided to settle down in India in the late 70s as a disciple of Nataraja Guru, the successor of the great spiritual leader Sree Narayana Guru. In the 1980s, the Guru gifted Wolfgang with 55 acres of land in the forested area at Alattil, near the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where he was supposed to set up an "ashram" and begin practicing and teaching spirituality. But with the discovery of this bizarre, waxy and strange looking plant clinging with all its might on to the rotten branch, his curiosity got the better of him and he began spending much time on research until he found out that this tiny plant was an orchid!



With Graham and Suma at the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary

Thus began a journey that was filled with exploration, discovery, adventure, magic, education and fun, which he later wanted to share with the world at large! As more people joined hands to help him in his venture, they were successful in establishing a botanical garden and institute that today boasts more than 400 species of orchids and numerous other plants. Wolfgang Theuerkauf later corresponded with me showing keen interest in obtaining orchids from my collection as well, to which I happily obliged. The botanist was known for his works related to rainforest restoration activities, especially in the Mukkuruti forest in Karnataka.

We called up the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary to set an appointment to visit the garden and Suprova, the person in charge kindly provided us with the directions and necessary details. As we drove from Orel (a local town where our hotel was located), we passed through many small villages, tea and coffee plantations before we reached Periyar, the place where the Sanctuary was located. (Periyar is well known for its National Park which is a home to tigers and a significant elephant population, as well as rare lion-tailed macaques, sambar deer, leopards and Indian bison.) Crossing the Wildlife Sanctuary itself was quite a happy experience where we came across many forms of wildlife roaming freely in their natural habitats. After travelling for about 30 km, we found an 'insignificant' signpost with directions to the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary. Following this, we crossed a temporary bridge that gave way to a dust path and once again the greenery and canopy began to thicken until finally we reached our destination.

As we alighted from the car and made our way towards the entrance, we were greeted by beautiful relief works with the theme of *Monstera* leaves etc. on the sidewalls. We also observed that the garden had been naturally landscaped with *Anthurium* varieties, ferns and selaginellas - the different shades of greens bringing a feeling of freshness and rejuvenation to us. A little further on were stone steps strewn with flaming red and yellow flowers of *Amherstia nobilis*. Our eyes immediately travelled upwards, towards the direction from where the flowers could have fallen and there, standing tall and beautiful was a magnificent specimen of the Pride of Burma, flowering profusely! What a heartwarming experience this was for all of us!

Midway, Suma, one of the older members of the garden team, welcomed us and took us immediately to their newly made kitchen for a warm cup of tea, homemade cookies and some garden fresh bananas. As we were climbing up the steps towards the kitchen, we noticed a simple and well planned structure that blended very well with the environment and Suma informed us that it was accommodation to host fellow students who visited the garden and could house up to 30 people at a time. While having tea a little while later, Mrs. Leela Theuerkauf, Wolfgang's better half came to meet us. She was a petite and simple lady with a gentle demeanor whom everyone in the garden looked up to as a mother figure. We were also introduced to Mr. Graham Doctor, a very close friend of Wolfgang ever since his initiation into spirituality. It was he who later related to us stories and anecdotes of how the garden began.

After refreshment, Graham and Suma took us around the well-maintained garden. What a spectacular sight it was to see the numerous varieties of Orchids like the *Paphiopedilums*, *Phalaenopsis*, *Cymbidiums*, *Dendrobiums*, *Calanthes* etc. thriving so well! To my sheer delight, Orchids like *Sirhookera* - a genus honouring Sir Joseph Hooker was in bud and the exotic *Phragmepedium sedenii* too was in full bloom! There were also many varieties of insectivorous plants, anthuriums, impatiens (of note was *Impatiens hookeriana* in bloom), ferns, begonias and many other unfamiliar varieties that complimented every nook- and- corner of the garden. Suma with her 23 years of experience in the garden was well versed and knowledgeable about most of the plants that they grew there and she was very happy to share this with us most generously! As we walked on she pointed out some healthy plants of *Cymbidium bicolor* and to our great surprise, informed us that these plants had travelled all the way from our plant nursery in Kalimpong! What a treat and honour for us that was!

The Late Wolfgang Theuerkauf dedicated over 30 years of his life to the conservation of plants of southern India. He helped nurture hundreds of thousands of plants endemic to the Western Ghats without any external support. He was very passionate about sharing his experiences and knowledge with everyone, be it a young student or a layman. Until a few years back there was a constant exchange of letters between us about Orchids. In 2009 I

was doing a research on a jewel orchid, *Aenhenrya rotundifolia*, which was endemic to South India (Kerala and Tamil Nadu). This was for an article that I wanted to write for The Orchid Review (Vol.117, No.128, pg 208-213). Wolfgang had made excellent observations of the orchid in its natural habitat and he was able to provide me with the necessary answers to my query! Today, his dreams, visions and spirit live on through the Gurukula Botanical Sanctuary and its wonderful garden team!

Back home in the Hills, there was a sudden call for an indefinite strike for Gorkhaland from the 14th of June 2017 that lasted for 104 days! Life came to a complete standstill with all the schools, colleges, other institutes, shops and government offices being completely shut down including a total ban of the internet. But all through this period there was also a strong will amongst the local people to spread hope and positivity and to help each other and the community get through this dark phase. So we experienced something that we had never experienced before! Farmers and butchers from very remote villages began to hitchhike and sell fresh products. Many people even began to grow their own vegetables and food crops. Fields that had lain barren for many years began to come alive once again. Teachers and senior college going students joined hands to begin classes in non-political spaces like the temples, mosques, monasteries, gardens and parks in their own villages which meant that the young school going students could continue with their education. Hemlata had to shut down the Art school during the period too but encouraged by what she saw and experienced she took the initiative to carry on with art classes in her own home. Some of the students attended almost every day, which gave them an opportunity to take their creativity and their strength in tackling botanical subjects to the next level. They also got the opportunity to make close studies of habitats of the subjects that they were painting and could thus incorporate these studies in their paintings.

During this period, my wife Tej and I also wanted to spend some time with Hemlata and her students, imparting our knowledge and experiences in whatever way we could. So



Hemlata's student working on a painting of  
*Arides multiflora*

we ended up having a lot of fun gardening and going for short botanical treks around our land looking out for orchids and other plants in bloom in its natural habitats. We sighted a sizable specimen of *Papilionanthe teres* with large pink-purple blooms on one of the teak trees along with scarlet red blooms of *Renanthera imschootiana* on the neighbouring



Udai instructing the HTNHA sponsored children on  
self-pollination of *Renanthera imschootiana*

trees. I took this opportunity to show them self-pollination of *Renanthera* and *Papilionanthe*. I demonstrated the techniques to them after which they were motivated to try by themselves. They found it enthralling that a toothpick could actually do the job of a bee! What they thought was 'easy' in the beginning quickly gave way to 'this is more difficult than we thought' and after dropping pollens with nervous and shaky hands they finally got the process right! Over the next few months

their homework was to observe the development of the embryo and document them in their diaries. Consequently, they also learned cross-pollination.

On 12 December 2017, we lost a very dear family friend who was an excellent plant breeder and horticulturist. Born in Karkal in S. India, he initially went to the Pan American Seed Co., U.S.A. where his career as a plant breeder began. My late father, Mr. Badri N. Pradhan and Dr. Manmohan met frequently, either in Kalimpong or in Bangalore and kept encouraging each other in their plant ventures. In 1965 he returned from the U.S.A. and singly founded the Indo American Hybrid Seeds (IAHS) in Bangalore that became the top notch firm. It dominates the scientific plant breeding and horticulture scene even today. His scientific breeding techniques brought excellent flowers, vegetable, pulses and grains and has been revered by the floriculturist, horticulturist and the farmers.

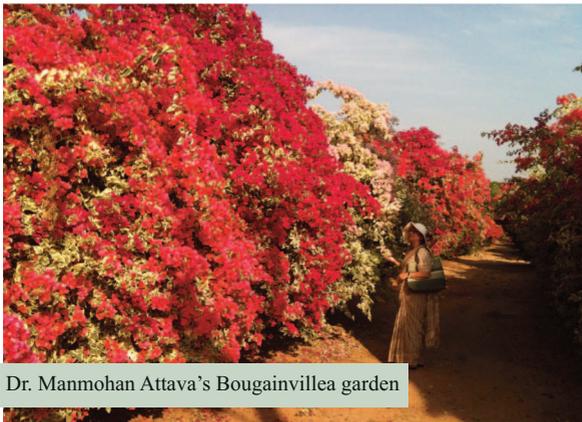
Dr. Attavar was nominated as an expert on the board of several National and International organisations including the Scientific Advisory Committee-Ministry of Commerce; Federation of International Seedsmen-Switzerland; Board of Directors - National Horticulture Board, etc. for his rich contribution to the horticultural farming community. He was also a winner of many laurels, among which are - Eminent Horticulturist Award by the Horticultural Society of India, Export Award for 1991 and 1992-93 and the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award. When Tej and I met him last year in February, he welcomed us over a hot cup of tea after which we were given a tour of his production centres of tissue cultured plantlets, the seed testing unit and his vegetable, flower, cotton and rice seed storage facilities. He later took us to his private garden where we drove through a long avenue of *Roystonea* and *Areca* that led to a beautifully landscaped area where his house stood.

After taking us to see his favourite Orchid and succulent collections, we had a tasty meal.



With the Late Dr. Manmohan Attavar

The meal consisted of red Amaranthus vegetable, two types of local fish, chicken curry, fried rice, nimboo (lemon) achar and curd at his residence. He then took us to the village where he wanted to show us his Bougainvillea collection – what a marvellous sight it was! He also showed us the vegetable seed production farm where 147 varieties of some 24 different crops were being grown for seeds. We also admired the roses developed by Dr. Vishnu



Dr. Manmohan Attava's Bougainvillea garden

Swarup. During Dr. Swarup's and Dr. Manmohan's visit to Kalimpong to see our Orchid nursery, I had expressed my admiration for Indo-American Hybrid Seeds to which Dr. Manmohan had responded: "Small is beautiful!" By the time we said our goodbyes to Dr. Manmohan, it was 5:30 pm. It was a day well spent with a great and humble person who loved sharing and encouraging everyone around him. With his skillful management, more than 2000 people are employed in his

nine regional centres today! The first setup we saw of 40 acres was beautifully landscaped with the rocky hills in the backdrop. His daughter Reshma, his son Santosh and his colleagues are currently looking after IAHS.

On 11th May 2017 more of our Orchid hybrids were registered with the Royal Horticultural Society. They were as follows:

NAME	PARENTAGE	REGISTERED BY
<i>Phalaenopsis</i> Memoria Doctor Debasmita	<i>Phal. Vibhuti</i> Sri x <i>Phal.</i> Robert Bauman	U.C.Pradhan
Prasanti's Sarat	<i>Phal. mannii</i> x <i>Phal.</i> Taisuco Glory	U.C.Pradhan
Saniya Diba Salim	<i>Phal. mannii</i> x <i>Phal.</i> Snow Champion	U.C.Pradhan

During the New Year we received a lovely mail from the Hooker family Lucy and Diana updating us about the grand celebrations in Kew Gardens. Quoting Lucy and family:

*Phalaenopsis* Memoria Doctor Debasmita, *Phalaenopsis* Prasanti's Sarat, and *Phalaenopsis* Saniya Diba Salim



"We did indeed have a wonderful weekend of celebrations at Kew this summer. I have attached a few photos for you. And yes, we were lucky to have met Sailesh who gave us an interesting talk about Sikkim. Lovely to see references to some of the places we knew. In the main photo of Sailesh here he is pictured in the Marianne North Gallery, (where my brother, Tim, also gave a talk) seated with my Aunt Meg who, as his grand-daughter, is the oldest relative of Sir Joseph. (She is 97 now but 96 in this photo). Much fuss was made of her as you can imagine. My brother Tim is in the middle of Jackson and Finn with Diana and myself either side. Barnaby unfortunately could not make the weekend as he was playing with his band. Gordon came along but managed to avoid all of the Hooker family photos. Below is a photo of the actor hired to play Sir Joseph for the weekend. He read from Sir Joseph's diaries and generally wandered around answering questions. Aunt Meg gave him quite a hard time quizzing him on family history!"

Back in India, Sir Joseph Hooker's 200th year was celebrated and honoured by the Botanical Survey of India by inaugurating a permanent display of Sir Hooker's works at the BSI Gallery in the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

Reflecting back on my journey, I realize how deeply everything connects and interconnects, be it the family that I was born and raised in, my deep interest in Orchids and other plants, the travels and all the souls that I met and interacted with, from different parts of the world, kindling friendship, sharing knowledge and experiences along the way. Enthusiasm and responsibility being the key wherever the journey took me. As we step into the New Year we convey our good wishes and warmest regards to one and all and we hope that this connection will forever grow.

**Anna Saltmarsh** - After leaving Kew in 2014 I worked for two years as a Projects Coordinator in the 'Europe Conservation Programme' (now 'Wetlands and Estuaries') of the Conservation Programmes department at ZSL (Zoological Society of London). This year we decided to move out of London to my home town of Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk,

and the children (Harry, 10 and Hebe, 9) started their new schools in September. I am not currently working but am increasingly involved with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust in a voluntary capacity and am aiming to use this opportunity to brush up on my ID skills for the UK flora.

**Valentine Tynan** - Happy New Year to one and to all from the West of Ireland. I became a member of the Irish Society of Botanical Artists this time last year and within weeks of joining committed to exhibiting on the 18th of May 2018. It gives me such delight to share this with you. The drawing I handed in last November to be judged in February. Leo, Mr P. critiqued them in September 1981. Watercolour drawings were requested so my pen and ink drawings may not be selected for exhibition, however, our graphic designer Jane Stark assured me they could use them as promotional for the day. I have just recently realised I had reached The Kew Standard before the exams. I'm in a sublime state of happiness. Thank you for moral support and companionship.

**Richard Ward** (1963) writes - I took over from 'Mac' MacDonald as MC for the Guild Annual Dinner in 1974 and, apart from a few absences abroad, continued up to this year. Good luck to Tony Overland who has volunteered to do the job in 2018. I was truly sorry to miss the AGM, but couldn't pass up the offer of a fourth hip replacement op. in that very week! I continue to attend Guild Committee meetings, as self-appointed Advisory Editor! It's great to meet generations of Kewites and marvel at all the wonderful things they achieve.

**John (Log) Whitehead - Travelling for Trees.**

Between my early days at Kew in 1969 and the year 2016, I completed my ambitious plant explorations to all 196 United Nation countries of the world plus a further 36 dependent territories and the lesser known, such as Ingushetia, Nagorno Karabakh and far away Tristan da Cunha. This tends to install a botanical twitcher mode in a person and a Guinness Book of Records frame of mind.

But all photographs and documents from my early adventures were unfortunately lost in 1978 in a fire, which destroyed the Mansion House at Merrist Wood College in Surrey, where I was a warden and a lecturer in arboriculture for 25 years. In 2017, my travel plans were now focused on replacing the loss of photographic records from before 1978 and I began to revisit the early countries previously explored. Top of the list was the Seychelles, the location of my Thornton-Smith Travel Scholarship, awarded to me at Kew in 1972.

*Seychelles revisited.* It was a memorable return to the Seychelles in 2017 with my partner Brenda March visiting Praslin Island, to see the amazing palm jungle, dominated by tall dioecious palms with gigantic leaves of the endemic double coconut (*Lodoicea maldivica*), famous for having the largest and heaviest seed in the world. The main large islands of the Seychelles are the only mid oceanic granite

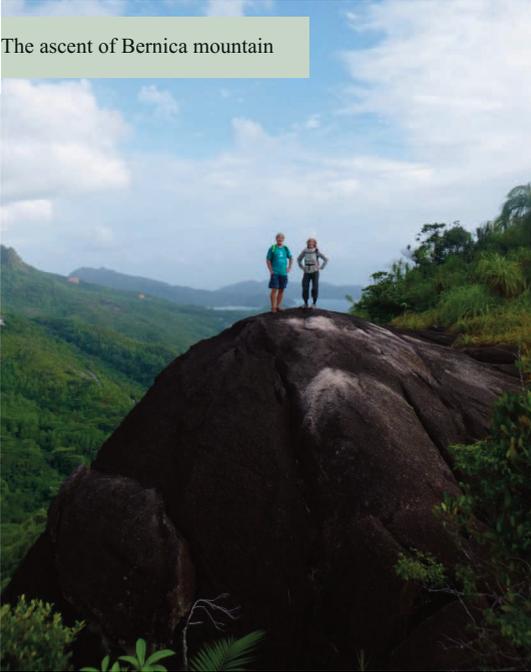


Brenda March holding a huge dry double coconut (the largest and when fresh is the heaviest seed in the world) in the Vallee de Mai, a UNESCO World Heritage Site on Praslin Island, Seychelles

Jellyfish tree seedhead



The ascent of Bernica mountain



rock islands in the world (not volcanic or coral islands) resulting in a remarkable flora and fauna.

Our expedition on the main island of Mahe to Bernica mountain in search of the rare endemic jellyfish tree (*Medusagyne oppositifolia*) was led by a local conservationist and botanical guide, Lindsay Chong Seng. He specialises in monitoring the gradual increase of the jellyfish tree population. They have been found in previously unknown locations, in virtually inaccessible areas of vertical granitic cliffs and a few hidden trees occur among some of the exposed boulder strewn mountaintops. The tree is named after the curiously shaped dry seed head's resemblance to a jellyfish and before 1970 it was thought to be extinct. During a month's study on the Seychelles in 1973, I was able to photograph a group of jellyfish trees, which at the time, was one of the rarest trees in the

world. My picture, along with an image of the Seychelles tree fern (*Cyathea seychellarum*) was published in Nigel Hepper's book, *Plant Hunting for Kew* (1989).

*From Iran to the end of the world.* During Easter in 1978, after visiting China at peach blossoming time, I was travelling back via Iran, when my visit was cut short because of political troubles in Tehran. I revisited Iran again in 2017 in pursuit of the iconic autumn colouring Persian Ironwood (*Parrotia persica*). An email contact from John Simmons provided information on a good location near Abbasabad for finding huge tall specimens of *Parrotia* trees found in the wild. John was the Curator of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and had explored northern Iran, to collect seed during his Kew expedition with Hans Fliegner in 1977.

In central Iran, we also visited the mighty *Cupressus sempervirens* at Abarkuh, one of the oldest trees in the world and shared a discussion about the tree's condition with the conservation staff who guard it 24 hours a day including CCTV monitoring. The main problem we found with the tree which is growing in a very dry climate, was a moderate infestation with characteristic white webbing of the conifer spinning spider mite on the outermost foliage. Arboreal advice included - alternative tree



Lindsay Chong-Seng next to the jellyfish tree and climbing on the distinctive shaggy barked trunk is the endemic vanilla orchid *Vanilla phalaenopsis*.



John Whitehead measuring a big *Parrotia* tree near Abbasabad



John Whitehead with an ancient windblown Canary Island juniper on El Hierro, the most westerly island of the Canary Islands.

surgery limb bracing, the control of pest and disease problems, regular foliage sprays at night to reduce spider mite attack, irrigation frequency, review changes in soil level, organic soil improvement, cultivating legume herbs and combating soil compaction by growing attractive annual flowers as an ornamental feature, under and around the crown spread of the tree. A scanned copy of Dr Glynn Percival's pests and diseases article on 'The browning of *Leylandii* hedges', published in *The ARB Magazine* issue 179

Winter 2017, sent to the Iranian staff by email may offer helpful information towards conserving the famous tourist tree, a nationally important Natural Monument of Iran.

In a busy year, we also met up with Barry Phillips, known for his conservation work in the 1980s for saving the endemic juniper tree in Bermuda, and an ex Merrist Wood College man Mike Nelhams, the Director of Tresco Abbey Garden, on the Isles of Scilly. We spent a day

botanising in their impressive collection of plants from all over the world in a garden which has a microclimate suitable for subtropical plants – it is often called Kew without glass. The star plant in flower was *Dendroseris litoralis* an unusual small pachycaul composite tree, which Brenda and I saw in the wild during our visit to Robinson Crusoe island (Jan Fernandez) in 1999. On the island far out in the Pacific Ocean, it was a surprise for us to see the yellow flowers of *Dendroseris* being pollinated by the very small endemic humming bird, the Jan Fernandez Island Firecrown (*Sephanoides fernandensis*).

Another highlight in 2017 was a new adventure to the End of the World. When the Earth was thought to be flat, the Canary Islands were the place furthest west known to Europeans where the small island of El Hierro, at that time, was thought to have the 'last trees in the world'. The survivors today are the fascinating orbicular windblown ancient specimens of Canary Island juniper trees.

## Obituaries

### Trevor Jack Cole

1934 - 2017

Trevor passed away peacefully aged 83 on New Years Eve with his wife Brenda by his side. He entered Kew in 1959 and there met Brenda. They left in 1960 and were married at St. Gile's Church, Scarthoe in Grimsby in October. Then a major step as in 1967 they moved to Ottawa, the capital of Canada.

He was Curator of the Dominion Arboretum, Ottawa there until his retirement in 1995. He was recognised internationally for his work in horticulture and garden writing. He was the author of the best-selling book *The Ontario Gardener* and edited many gardening books for publishers, including *Reader's Digest* and *Dorling Kindersley*. So, lots of skills but also an ability to communicate effectively.

He took up singing and was part of The Amprior Community Choir and led The Sounds of Music chorus at The Kanata Senior Centre. He was active in linking Kewites in USA and visited Kew periodically. Brian Pitcher, who was at Kew at the same time as Trevor visited Trevor and Brenda in Ottawa with his wife and we are thankful to him for the links to the Obituary in the Ottawa Citizen.

Much loved father of Gavin (Dominique) and Andrea (Trevor), grandfather of Michael (Claude) and brother of Malvary and Jaquie and dear husband of Brenda. We send our condolences to all.

### George Crowder

1926 - 2017

Father and horticultural inspiration George Crowder (1953) died in 2017 at the age of 91. He was himself the son of a gardener and after National Service and a period working in Southport Parks he took the Kew Diploma followed by the Diploma in Parks Administration at 'the Grotto'. He was technical assistant at Ealing for a few years before moving to Warrington where he spent the rest of his working life. First as Deputy, then Parks Superintendent and finally Deputy Chief Recreation Officer as the busy and extensive department was re-modeled and enlarged through time.

He enjoyed a long and varied retirement back in Southport, having a keen eye and a lively, intelligent interest in many subjects. He had seemingly endless energy, re-engaging with the more practical aspects of horticulture during this time, and the cultivation of orchids



and alpines in particular. His time at Kew had a lasting influence on his life and he was a Guild member for over 60 years until his eyesight deteriorated to the extent that he could no longer read the *Journal*. He leaves three sons and four grandchildren, his son Chris in particular continuing that generation spanning horticultural journey. *Obituary kindly provided by Chris Crowder. - Ed.*

*My first encounter with George was at my interview for the post of Deputy Parks and Cemeteries Superintendent at Warrington Borough Council in 1972. Needless to say, I was somewhat nervous but settled into the interview with relative ease, thanks largely to my being put at ease by George's friendly, charming and very personable nature. Having secured the post my next task*

*was to work with George to ensure that my family's new home within Walton Hall Gardens was transformed to our liking. Soon after taking up my post my family and I were invited into George's home to meet his delightful wife Eileen and their three boys, one of whom (Chris) was eventually to become a student at Kew and then to the post of head Gardener at Levens Hall in Cumbria. Municipal Horticulture was on the verge of a revolution in both style and content. Just two years before the reorganisation of local government; the enormity of the task ahead was both challenging and exciting and at times not a little stressful. In Warrington there was an additional challenge. The New Town Development Corporation had developed vast areas of new housing and was also responsible for a locally important and well known area of heath-land with a wide variety of flora and fauna. The size of the department was soon to be doubled in terms of acreage of land to be maintained. George was not daunted but revelled in the challenge and he had the gift of enthusing all his staff with the same energy and excitement and 'can do' attitude. He was one of the most unflappable, kind and generous men I have ever known. Alas, space does not permit of any further reminiscence. Suffice to say, my time as Deputy to George Crowder was one of enlightenment, significant personal development and happiness, not only for me but also for my wife and two children. Heaven itself is surely richer for the passing of George Crowder. - Graham Heywood*

## Mary Gregory 1932 - 2017

Mary Gregory, botanist, editor and bibliographer and from 1980 Honorary Member of IAWA passed away unexpectedly on 20 August at the age of 85 at her home in Kew, England. Throughout her career Mary helped hundreds of plant anatomists with literature references on their subject of study, either in person through correspondence, or through the bibliographies she wrote, or the bibliographical international database maintained by the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, which she helped to establish.



Mary began her career at Kew in September 1961, when she started work in the original Jodrell Laboratory; a cottage-style building that was demolished in 1965 to make way for a modern laboratory. The first years she assisted C.R. Metcalfe with the editing and writing of the early volumes in the Anatomy of the Monocotyledons series and the second edition of the Anatomy of the Dicotyledons series. Later she assisted David Cutler as editor and the authors of later volumes in these series, and became an editor in her own right. She also co-authored a number of important anatomical research papers. Mary retired officially from Kew in November 1992, but remained working there as an Honorary Research Fellow. Her last day at Kew was only six days before she died.

Mary Gregory was one of the early UK female graduates; in 1955 she was awarded a degree in Natural Sciences (specialising in Botany) from Girton College, Cambridge. She was an Assistant Science Editor at Oxford University Press from 1955 to 1961, when she joined Kew. Mary was a pioneer in bibliographic databasing; she set up the innovative and influential Plant Micromorphology Bibliographic Database (PMBD) on index cards (over 70,000 of them in her neat handwriting) and subsequently organised its transfer to computer. Today, it forms part of Kew's Electronic Plant Information Centre (ePIC) and remains a unique online source for many references via Google Scholar. Before Mary started at Kew she had already co-authored a bestselling Oxford Book of Wildflowers, first published in 1960.

Mary was an extremely thorough editor, able to spot inconsistencies in text many pages apart. She wrote three indispensable bibliographies for wood anatomists and palaeobotanists: Wood Identification: An Annotated Bibliography (1980); Bibliography

of Systematic Wood Anatomy of Dicotyledons (1994), and Fossil Dicot Wood Names: an annotated list with full bibliography (with Imogen Poole & Elisabeth A. Wheeler; 2009), all published in the IAWA Journal or its predecessor the IAWA Bulletin. These bibliographies were and are especially appreciated by palaeobotanists, and in recognition of her contribution, a Cretaceous (Turonian) wood was named for her – *Gregoryoxylon*.

Since her official retirement, Mary dedicated herself to databasing Kew's internationally important microscope slide collection. In 2009, she was awarded Kew's Aiton Medal for her work in organising and training volunteers, a testimony to how much she was valued by her many friends and colleagues at Kew. We will remember Mary for her kindness and modesty, and her fine sense of humour. She was a wonderful and faithful friend who will be greatly missed. Through her work she made us all look better scholars than we actually were. Our Association loses a very worthy Honorary Member, but her legacy will continue to be of great assistance to all of us, for many years to come.

*This obituary is being used by kind permission of the IAWA (International Association of Wood Anatomists). Three of the authors are Kew Staff (Peter Gasson, Paula Rudall and David Cutler), other contributors being biologists who worked closely with Mary, including Pieter Baas. Obituary first published in IAWA Journal 38(4), pp i + ii in 2017.*

## John Halhead

1929 - 18th September 2017

Pam Halhead contacted the Guild on the 25th of November to say her husband John Halhead passed away peacefully in hospital on September 18th 2017, aged 88 years. Much loved husband, and dad of Paul and Julie, grandad of Ryan, Rob, Mel, Ben and Sarah, great-grandad of Joe. The funeral service was held at Colney Woodland Burial Park, Norwich, NR4 7TY on Thursday, October 12th, 2017, at 1pm. It was followed by committal at the City of Norwich (Earlham) Crematorium. John entered Kew in 1952 from The Royal Gardens at Sandringham and this was a year when Kew had its worst ever fog December 5th - 9th. Kew had 1,188,925 visitors that year and the students enjoyed carol singing and a gramophone society. Another Royal connection that year was the removal of an old Horse Chestnut tree opposite Cambridge Cottage, that Queen Anne used to sit under having tea as a child many years before.



STAFF PHOTOGRAPH, 1954.

Front Row (reading left to right): P. G. Shutler, G. E. Nicholson, M. A. Wells, W. H. Bridle, J. E. S. Souster, G. H. Preston, S. A. Pearce, W. M. Campbell (*Curator*), L. Stenning, S. W. Rawlings, G. C. W. Gardner, F. A. Larkbey, R. J. Chuter, E. W. Curtis, A. G. Cook.  
 Second Row: A. L. Read, A. Tullett, B. Elliott, U. M. P. Dahampath, D. T. Ekanayaka, D. C. Attenburrow, T. Heitz, B. Till, J. S. Tye, A. F. Goodwin, J. Jordan, J. Kerr, G. C. Stringer.  
 Third Row: J. P. Tregear, P. Wheatcroft, F. Vickers, P. G. Godley, D. Togni, T. Seager, J. B. Comber, S. D. Hitt, A. S. Jones, A. Massey, P. Tucker, A. I. Wilkinson, I. A. Butcher, J. B. Boulton, J. A. Lucas, G. E. Collins.  
 Back Row: G. Watson, M. S. F. Roberts, A. E. R. Goodale, C. Powell, P. J. Jew, J. Halhead, J. Heyworth, E. H. Smalley, D. V. Clark, J. Dalgleish, G. Crowder, D. J. Pringle, C. L. Baylis, D. D. Riach, M. H. T. Bullett.

He left Kew and married Pam in 1954 and took up a job as Foreman at Colchester Parks Department. In the four years he was there he lived at three different addresses. Ever 'a man on the move'. In 1959 he moved to Redcar in Yorkshire as Nursery manager for Redcar Parks Department where he was responsible

for the construction on a 44-acre site, of various glasshouses and potting sheds. The Royal connection went away and he participated in a special day in 1959 when Queen Elizabeth came to Kew.

In 1961 he took on the role of a Technical Assistant at Southend Parks Department. Another move in 1963 led him to take up the post of Deputy Parks Superintendent for the Borough of Uxbridge.

He always kept in touch with the Kew Guild and this is a copy of an email, modern communications, sent in 2005. "In May of this year my wife and I spent a holiday by Lake Massione, Italy. The nearby Villa Taranto jogged a distinctive memory of a holiday haven of the late W. M. Campbell. The villa and extensive gardens founded and developed by Capt. Neil Mc Eachern and bequeathed by him to the Italian Government are in immaculate condition. The presence of *Victoria amazonica* water lilies again reminded me of Kew". He spoke of various Kewites who had enriched his life and career. Phil Heywood; Charles Collins; Stewart Brown; Ken Mc Cready; Hector Willis; Edwin Cherry and Alan Dixon. So, an excellent communicator and implementer of a wide range of valuable assets. We know he enriched the lives of so many and send condolences to his family.

### **Pauline Himson** - 17th July 2017

A life member of Kew Gardens Pauline Dorothy Himson (nee Western) died in Hobart Tasmania on the 17th of July 2017.

Pauline met and married Arnold Himson (1948) (an Austrian immigrant from WW2 who fought with a Welsh regiment) whilst they were both studying Horticulture at Kew, post the War. Pauline worked in the rose garden and decorative pits. They married in 1956.



Arnold and Pauline moved to Papua New Guinea in the mid-fifties to manage rice and rubber plantations. Whilst Arnold loved the tropics and his sojourns into the highlands looking for rare plants Pauline did not take to the heat as Arnold did. They then moved to the temperate climes of Tasmania where they purchased and operated an apple orchard for six years before purchasing a post office on the East Coast of the state.

During the seventies Arnold and his family collected for the Aerial Press publication of The Endemic Flora of Tasmania, which was sponsored by Lord Talbot De Malahide and illustrated by Margaret Stones at Kew Gardens. Her husband Arnold became the first and to date

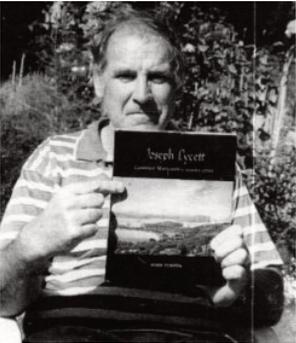
only person to fly a balloon across the Bass Strait – a perilous journey of over 200 kilometres. They both enjoyed flowers, plant and gardening until the end of their days.

Pauline and Arnold had two children: Jane Elsie Himson born 14/9/62 and Simon Ross Himson born 30/6/60.

Pauline gave her body to the local medical school. The family will receive the ashes in another two to three years. She continues to live. A wonderful example of a couple joined in the love of Nature.

A key factor in the lives for many ex-Kewites are the mentors who influenced their lives.

Mike grew up in a family linked to Nature and Commerce. His father was an architect who designed buildings for The Ministry of Agriculture and his mother's family were mill owners. The year Mike left school, his father was promoted and transferred from Cambridge to Nottingham. Mike ended up with a job at Wicks Nursery at nearby Lambley, one of the biggest in Britain.



He was introduced to some species diversity. His first job was planting Freesias in old mushroom compost in fish baskets; no plastic seed trays then. There were acres of roses and Chrysanthemums and the arrival of 100,000 azaleas presented a real commercial challenge. Large glasshouses covering acres produced tomatoes. Mechanisation as we now know it had not evolved so they used three-hand trolleys. One horse and cart, one lorry with a canvas top, an electrically driven shredder for soil and an open five ton Bedford Truck.

After 15 months Mike secured an apprenticeship and worked at Arboretum University Park, the Victoria Embankment and Woodthorpe Grange (Nottingham). In 1958, he was accepted as a student at Kew to study Horticultural Science. Massive renovations were taking place during this time and he was very much influenced by mentors such as George Preston and Stanley Rawlings.

Mike embraced the freedom that student life in London offered and enjoyed some Kew 'high jinks' including fancy dress parties and participating in the Kew Gardens Running Team, pounding the surrounding streets with Bob Adams.

After completing his studies at Kew, Mike began the RSP course at Worcester College of Education. He graduated after a year and moved to Wiltshire to take up a trainee teaching position. Mike had always wanted to travel and having spent so long in continuous study, decided to look for a job overseas. Mike was offered two posts, in Canada and Northern Rhodesia. He took the latter and spent five years on the Angola border implementing rural studies at a school started by missionaries. His previous work experience was put to good use in the development of land plots and crops that thrived in a tropical rather than temperate environment.

Mike eventually returned to colder climes, via a six week 'Round the World' ticket that included stop offs in America and Australia, to take up the post of Science teacher at Fairfax Boys School in Essex. Shortly after arriving home, he met his future wife Joan, who attended one of his popular 'travel' slide shows. Mike's years spent overseas were some of the happiest times of his life. His time in Africa saw him work with people from all over the world in culturally diverse communities, during a time of political instability and deep racial division within the country. In an earlier journal article he said that



the odyssey of his life had taken him from a nursery to parks and then to adult education, travelling through environmental work to human biology via evening classes and the National Curriculum. He leaves a wife Joan, a daughter Emma and son Ralph, and we send them our deepest condolences.

### **Charles Richard Parsons**

1922 - 26th July 2013

Charles Richard Parsons passed away on Friday 26th July 2013 at St. Richard's Hospital aged 91 years.

Charles entered Kew on 16th October 1948 from Scale Hayne College, Newton Abbot as a Student Gardener and left in August 1949. He then worked for a short period as a specialist officer for the Nigerian Federal Government as a soil chemist and then he returned home and built a glasshouse nursery, which he ran for ten years. Then, drawn back to teaching, he was head of horticulture for 20 years at a local Secondary School and also taught at evening adult education to O-level standard.

At the same time he was on the Oxford University Committee designing the new GCSE in Horticulture. He was also a key member of the Horticultural Education Authority. He became Honorary Member of two local horticultural societies, having been Chairman and Vice President of one of them. He was a Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman of the Planning Committee. So, a rich history of getting benefits from Mother Earth's soil. He was also into wet things being a qualified swimming and diving instructor and Life Saver.

He was a life member of The Guild and for many years lived at Shripney, near Bognor Regis. Donations in memory of Charles were donated to People's Dispensary for Sick Animals PDSA and Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

### **Ron Rule**

21 September 1933 - 2017

Ron, a Kentish man, started his horticultural career with a three year Apprenticeship with Beckenham Parks Department. Afterwards he did military service with the Royal Army Service Corps and spent 17 months in Malaya. After returning he spent a one-year residential course at Swanley Institute of Horticulture, followed by a two year studentship at Kew. He then was self-employed for a year before re-joining the staff at Kew in 1959, in The Orchid Department.

In 1961 he won the Bowles Memorial Scholarship and spent four and a half months in Tenasserim, Lower Burma, plant collecting. He collected over a hundred orchids and other indigenous species. On his return he went to Edinburgh to help prepare the plants for the opening of The Botanical Gardens. In 1965 he was promoted to Supervisor of The Palm House. Harold Heywood remembered working with him re-furbishing the banana bed. Then in 1970 transferred to Supervisor of the Tree Gang. In 1972 he moved on to be Supervisor of Arboretum South and then in 1974 moved to be Supervisor in The Temperate House. A very varied career from which Kew benefitted and The Kew Guild was blessed with his meticulous and painstaking work as Treasurer of The Kew Guild. In 1980 he took early retirement to look after his first wife Anne as she had cancer. She passed away in 1986.

Ron moved to Herne Bay to live with his parents and then he found a bungalow on Studd Hill, Herne Bay. There romance blossomed over the garden fence, as he met Yvonne, who had been widowed for four years. They married on 9th July 1988 and shared a garden

almost an acre in area where they shared a love of gardening and each other. Ron and Yvonne attended many Kew outings including a trip to Oakover Nurseries in 2005.

From 2001 until 2015 Ron and Yvonne travelled to Canada, America and different places in Europe and then Ron was too ill to travel. Ron has two children Karen, 53 years old and Philip, 50. There are four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



He was a kind, loving man and according to the nurses at The Pilgrim Hospital in Canterbury, a real gentleman. Our deepest condolences to his wife Yvonne and family.

*Philip Rule - Ronald Rule's 47 yr old cacti. He looked after these for 47 years, they have never flowered in all that time and we are looking for a home for them, as his wife is unable to continue to look after them. The cacti are located in Herne Bay, Kent. They are both approx 4ft tall and are free to anyone who wishes to collect them. We just hope that someone can take these on and that they continue to grow and maybe flower.*



### **Alison Jane Tibbotts 1968-2017**

Alison Jane Tibbotts passed away, on 28th December 2017, aged 49. She was a student at Kew from 1989-1991 when there were 23 students on Course 26, mostly male. In 1990 she gave a very good presentation as The Kew Guild Student Representative when she toasted Absent Friends at The Kew Guild Dinner at Imperial College, South Kensington. She qualified in 1991 from Kew. Her name was Runicles on the degree certificate, but she reverted back to her birth name Tibbotts soon after.

Jane had a small but successful gardening business in the South London area during the 1990s, and then moved for a time into Environmental Surveying, working in the Northwest. She later settled in Bradford-Upon Avon, where she returned to gardening, and then finally lived in Bristol.

Jane sadly had a two-year battle with cancer. She managed to visit Kew on a number of occasions during her illness, and would use a mobility scooter to take her around the grounds, showing her partner David Costello her best loved areas of the Gardens.

Jane had a passion for life, and a great passion for trees. She would spend as much time in the outdoors during her final months, studying and drawing her favourite plants and flowers, and rekindling her botanical illustration skills. Our condolences to David, Jane's family and others who will miss her.



## THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2017	TOTAL 2016
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>						
<b>Incoming resources from generated funds</b>						
Donations and legacies	2	1,435			1,435	1,461
<b>Income from Investments</b>						
Investment income and deposit interest	3	14,500	7,437		21,937	21,613
<b>Income from charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Membership subscriptions		9,567			9,567	9,993
Annual Dinner		3,729	-		3,729	3,875
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-
Other events and income		213	-		213	809
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	10,000		10,000	-
<b>Total income and endowments</b>		29,444	17,437	-	46,881	37,751
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>						
<b>Expenditure on Charitable activities</b>						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		1,169	-		1,169	2,501
Journal of The Kew Guild		4,842	-		4,842	7,566
Annual Dinner		3,709	-		3,709	4,012
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-
Newsletter		172	-		172	16
Presidents' name bars		98	-		98	-
Presidents' medals		38	-		38	50
Archivist		501	-		501	-
Other events and membership activities		179	-		179	562
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	846	9,828		10,674	4,616
Prizes	5	605	25		630	630
Student fellowship		180	-		180	150
Kew Guild Medal		384	-		384	359
<b>Other Expenditure</b>						
Membership database		1,496	-		1,496	(394)
Administrative costs		7,789	-		7,789	3,097
Other expenditure		25	-		25	309
<b>Total expenditure</b>	6	22,033	9,853	-	31,886	23,474
Net gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	34,297	7,005	10,760	52,062	55,495
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		41,708	14,589	10,760	67,057	69,772
<b>Net movement in funds for the year</b>						
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>		41,708	14,589	10,760	67,057	69,772
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	483,112	89,653	124,104	696,869	627,097
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	12	524,820	104,242	134,864	763,926	696,869

**THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017**

	Note	2017		2016	
		£	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	8		652,556		600,494
<b>Current assets</b>					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		718		1,077	
Debtors	9	8,173		4,894	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	115,759		95,834	
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>124,650</u>		<u>101,805</u>	
<b>Liabilities</b>					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(13,280)		(5,430)	
<b>Net current assets or liabilities</b>			<u>111,370</u>		<u>96,375</u>
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>			<u><u>763,926</u></u>		<u><u>696,869</u></u>
<b>The Funds of the Charity:</b>					
Endowment funds	12		134,864		124,104
Restricted funds	12		104,242		89,653
Unrestricted general fund	12	116,186		100,642	
Unrestricted designated funds	12	<u>408,634</u>		<u>382,470</u>	
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>			524,820		483,112
<b>Total Charity funds</b>			<u><u>763,926</u></u>		<u><u>696,869</u></u>

The financial statements will be approved by The Committee on 14 June 2018 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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