

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD (CIO)



Founded in 1893

*The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present, and
those interested in furthering the purposes of the Guild*

Events of 2021

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**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

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The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

Trustees and Officers 2021-2022

Trustees:

Richard Barley
Robert Brett
Maxine Briggs
Harold (Graham) Heywood
Chris Kidd
Sylvia Phillips
David Simpson
Harvey Stephens
Brita Von Schoenaich

Officers:

President:	Chris Kidd
President Elect:	Harold (Graham) Heywood
Vice President:	Harvey Stephens
Immediate Past President:	David Simpson
Secretary:	Sara Arnold
Treasurer:	Tim Woodcock
Membership Secretary:	David Simpson
Editor (until 1 st January 2022):	Sparkle Ward
Editor (from 1 st January 2022):	Rosalind Whistance

Editorial

We guess that Kew Guild Journal Editors should endeavour to remain pretty neutral on matters that are the responsibility of Trustees; and thus we see our role as one of continuity, communication, encouraging members to send in articles and 'News' for publication, and to enrol friends, colleagues and contacts as members. Historically the Guild has offered contact between Kew staff for 128 years - uninterrupted since 1893. And thus upon the Editor's shoulders rests the burden and responsibility of annually pulling together all the strands of Guild news and activities, for posterity.

Many of the challenges of yesteryear are the same as today - membership numbers; volunteer vacancies; subscription costs, and arrears. The surprising thing for us is the lack of membership uptake by those who leave Kew – the reply from one leading ex-Kewite who we previously invited into membership was "I'm not a joiner!" These last two years have been extraordinarily difficult and challenging for most of us, but thanks to technology and foresight the Guild has forged ahead with unprecedented ambition and fervour. Newsletters, mailings and a part-revamped website have informed members of progress, and new initiatives and opportunities are now offered. There has been massive voluntary time and effort expended on your behalf by the Committee week on week, and the Guild is much better for it.

As ever, we thank several contributors for their annual input - particularly Secretary Sara Arnold; Graham Burgess for obituaries; Pamela Holt for assisting with News of Kewites; and Alex George in Perth, Australia, for botanical proof-reading.

Whilst we have produced this Events of 2021 Journal for publication in May 2022, we fully briefed your new Editor, Rosalind Whistance, last October and she commenced her new position on 1st January. We wish her luck.

Best wishes, keep safe.

For the record....

Richard joined the Guild as a Kew student 1961-3, elected to the Committee 1971, voluntary editor of the Journal 1976-99 & 2006. Daughter Alexandra was Editor 2007-14. Daughter Sparkle Editor 2015-21. We are now 'history!'

Sparkle Ward
Richard Ward

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Advisory Editor

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News of Kewites

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Chris Kidd
Sara Arnold
Tim Woodcock
David Simpson
Brian Phillips
Chris Kidd
Pamela Holt

Welcome, by Chris Kidd

Dear Guild Members,

Following our Affiliate initiative, 70 new members have now signed up as full members. I welcome you all.

Created in 1893, the Kew Guild is an association that acts as the Kew alumnus, bringing together past and present staff from Kew Gardens and Wakehurst and interested members of the public at large. As a member of the Guild, you belong to a network of horticulturists, botanists and mycologists with a wide range of professional experience, offering mentoring, advice and support.

For more than a century The Kew Guild has been the thread of continuity that binds present staff and students to those who have gone before. The Kew Guild has now grown further, its charitable work reaching throughout RBG Kew and the wider industry. By joining us you help to support this outreach and growth amongst a welcoming group of like-minded and dedicated 'Kewites'.

The Guild is more than an alumnus body; we are a charitable organisation with an expansive agenda supporting education at Kew and beyond. Our Awards Scheme supports applicants for personal development; we are currently funding the Introduction to Horticulture programme, and our outreach Discovery Days are aimed at hundreds of young people showing career potential in the fields of horticulture and plant related science. As well as fostering relationships, the Guild keeps members up-to-date with events, and allows free access to the Gardens. Our Journal, which you now hold, of the Kew Guild is posted annually to full members. It is an indispensable guide to community activities, exclusive horticultural features and event updates.

I invite you to involve yourself in the Guild. Once a year, you will receive the Kew Guild Journal, an indispensable guide to all our community activities including event updates. We are also embarking on an ambitious project to overhaul our website with improved navigation and functionality, which will make accessing the Guild community and events even easier. (Hopefully, the new website will be completed by the end of Summer and we will keep you updated on that).

The Guild looks forward to welcoming you and we hope you enjoy what promises to be an exciting year with us.



New Trustees

Maxine Briggs, Sylvia Phillips and Brita Von Schoenaich

Maxine Briggs



Maxine Briggs first visited Kew Gardens on a school trip at the age of 10 and was so inspired by the gardens that she announced that evening to her parents that when she grew up, she would work at Kew Gardens. The next day, she found herself in charge of the school's glasshouse and Maxine's passion for plants has been flourishing ever since. Maxine studied at Pershore College of Horticulture then went onto the Welsh College of Horticulture where she specialised in interior landscape design. She then worked as a tropical plant designer based in Gloucestershire, spending time in the

Netherlands sourcing specimens for projects including six metre Ficus trees for the newly built Bluewater Shopping Centre.

Maxine crossed over into horticultural journalism which led to a job at the BBC, working on garden programming including The Chelsea Flower Show coverage. From there Maxine broadened her remit into the world of glossy magazines covering food, travel, fashion and lifestyle, moving on to edit some of the biggest UK titles, reaching audiences of over eight million. Maxine worked as editorial director at the largest digital agency in Europe, devising communication strategies for some of the biggest global brands.

Maxine's prediction of working at Kew came true, two years ago, and she is now the associate director of content in the Foundation Directorate, overseeing content for member, legacy, and fundraiser audiences. Maxine is also the Secretary for The Kew Guild Awards Committee and has recently become a trustee of The Kew Guild with responsibility for the communication portfolio. Outside of Kew, Maxine sits on several charity committees as a media strategy consultant.

Sylvia M. Phillips

I joined the Kew herbarium in September 1966, after my bachelor's degree at Bristol University. I was placed in the South American section, where I remained for 18 months before promotion into the Grass section under Dr Derek Clayton. My task was to help write accounts of the grass family for the Flora of Tropical East Africa.

Whilst at university I had met Brian Phillips and we married in May 1968. Soon after this I joined the Kew Guild. In 1972 our first child, a boy, was born and in 1974 we were again lucky to have another baby, a girl. The rules in the herbarium in those days were only six weeks maternity leave, so I was obliged to resign my position. However, I continued working at home, travelling to the herbarium on Saturdays to continue writing grass accounts. In 1977 my husband received a job offer in Germany, so we decided to move to Freiburg, where we spent five years. Whilst there I was asked if I would like to write the Grass account for the Flora of Ethiopia. In due course we returned and I was able to work on Ethiopian grasses, culminating in the grass volume with about 650 species.

In the 1990s I started work on Eriocaulaceae (pipeworts), first for the Flora of Ceylon and then for the Kew African Floras. I also received a PhD from Bristol for my Flora and other work. I was then asked to lead the Grass volume for the Flora of China in collaboration with Prof. Chen Shouliang in Nanjing, a task which took me to retirement in 2006. I have continued working in the herbarium on a voluntary basis, and also began to take an interest again in the Kew Guild. I have previously served on the committee, and am pleased to take up a position as a Trustee going forward.

Chris Kidd
President 2021/2022

The global pandemic of Covid-19 has had a significant impact on our world; the full extent of this tragedy will no doubt not be fully weighed for years.

I feel we are at a crucial juncture with the Kew Guild. We are enabled by our history and constitution, by our finances and Fellowship, to apply the organisation to a wider charitable role. From feedback gathered from the membership in December 2020, we made a plan for the future. Insights from our past-Presidents alongside officers of the Guild and supporters, have guided our plans during 2021, and beyond, in developing our 5-year plan – agreed unanimously at the AGM in September 2021.

Trustees have begun work on the new plan with enthusiasm and vigour, and we have formalised our charitable work with a new Special Awards scheme. We are now permitted to give Awards beyond the existing Awards Scheme to charitable purpose.

It has been concerning for some years that our membership numbers have been decreasing, despite valiant efforts from Membership Secretaries. Our 5-year plan aims to stop this trend and we hope turn it around. By creating a new, free, Affiliate Membership category, we can use our resources to engage and hopefully gain new full members whilst they still work at Kew Gardens, and Wakehurst. By its very nature this means that it will be open to a very large number of people. The initial rollout commenced winter 2021. Going forward, Affiliate Membership will be offered, with a single Journal, as part of the Induction process for all new Kewites, ranging from Trustees to Volunteers.

As well as the new 5-year plan we have been expanding our educational initiatives, which included a “Discovery Day” (initially launched in 2018 to great success) led by Honorary Fellow Mike Fitt; Mike has now become an Advisor to the Kew Guild to further develop this. We have also committed to supporting the “Introduction to Horticulture” programme at Kew, where underrepresented minorities gain work and life experience within Kew. These are just two of what we hope are many Kew Guild funded educational programmes going forward, and we are taking further great strides to develop this side of our charitable work.

We look forward to returning to a regular programme of Events to enrich the social side of the Guild, particularly visits, meetings and of course the Annual Dinner. As our Editor, Sparkle Ward, departs we are grateful for an extraordinary near 40 years’ combined service from the Ward family, and we welcome our incoming Editor Rosalind Whistance.

In developing our blueprint 5-year plan we have designed this to follow Kew’s “Manifesto for Change” and its five Priorities with the Objectives of the Kew Guild and found several themes which link strongly. These have been settled into programme areas/objectives for the Kew Guild. This clearly demonstrates integration with Kew going forward. Our plan was consolidated by the working group which included President Chris Kidd, Graham

Heywood, David Simpson, Robert Brett and Richard Barley. Each contributed, edited and distilled a document adopted by the Trustee group.

We continue to invest in our programmes and will commit financially from our existing reserves during 2021/22. Growth is equally important and we should be seeking to expand significantly to recover financial outlays whilst growing in scale. We are looking into ideas such as annual joint Fundraising Dinners, investigating donations from industry and private beneficiaries.

I hope that members will see that we don't seek to discard any of our longstanding principles and facilities. For example, unlike many other awarding bodies, we remained open to applications and have, on more than one occasion, extended time windows for the award to be taken up. We granted Honorary Fellowship, awarded the George Brown Award and Kew Medal. We made further awards in the summer of 2020 to assist related organisations who were suffering financially during the pandemic. It is our charitable outreach that is increasingly important to our Kew Guild, and are enabled to work in this way from legacies through our constitution, and in future we hope from new funding streams too. We now have a clear direction and way forward and during the years to come will reap the benefits of our hard work. By encouraging new studentships at Kew, we can build our membership and should look to creating inclusivity across the whole of RBG Kew. We have firmed up our Alumnus role and renewed our relationship with Kew, thereby strengthening fellowship and addressing our declining membership.

I hope that, not long from now, we will have a Journal packed full of social events, plentiful award reports, news from Kewites at home and overseas. A much bigger Journal because of so much more we have been able to do. Reports from "our" students, "our" interns, that we have supported in their studies and placements, "our" members who have become so due to our supportive introductory terms.

I hope the picture is one you'd like to see, and help us make. Of course, I don't propose to make this from a presidential term, our aims are strategic but the basic direction is there.

I look forward to the coming years, there is much to achieve!

The Kew Guild 5 Year Plan

Adopted unopposed at the AGM on 6th September 2021

For more than a century The Kew Guild has been the thread of continuity that binds present staff and students to those who have gone before. Its transition to charity, and further to Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), gives mandate and opportunity to act further in charitable activities alongside traditional operation. Transition to a CIO sees the Kew Guild in an era of growth which must be directed and guided with a 5-year plan (KG5YP). This plan succinctly condenses the Objectives of the Kew Guild into 5 Programme Areas.*

KG5YP Programme areas

Five programme areas are proposed (with links to the relevant Kew Guild priorities indicated):

1. Education
2. Kew Guild Awards

3. Alumni and Fellowship

4. Communications and Promotion

5. Financial Capacity and Governance

1. Education

The Kew Guild has a rich tradition of supporting education at Kew and beyond. The plan focuses our support on a suite of education initiatives.

- “Introduction to Horticulture” 2021
- “Discovery Days” 2021
- Apprenticeship year TBC (to be confirmed)
- Kew Diploma year TBC
- MSc Studentship year TBC
- PhD Studentship year TBC

2. Kew Guild Awards

The Kew Guild Award Scheme has long been the vehicle to offer support to Kew Guild members, now open to all. The Special Awards Scheme enables the Trustees to act further with Awards outside of the rules of the original scheme.

- Expand existing Awards Scheme
- Expand Special Awards Scheme

3. Alumni and Fellowship

The original purpose of the Kew Guild; expanded to encompass all and encourage diversity.

- Extend membership, through a new ‘Affiliate’ category, to all staff, students, volunteers and Board of RBG Kew
- Regain lapsed members
- Drive to acquire new members
- Seek Honorary Fellows to expand and broaden cadre
- Create enhanced web presence and forum capability
- Build capacity for mentorship
- Increase diversity
- Sustain annual dinner, establish Fundraising Dinner
- Expand social calendar to include overseas hosting and tours (e.g. Ireland 2022).

4. Communications and Promotion

Marketing the Kew Guild, promotion of its activities, sharing knowledge and experience within the Kew Guild, its alumni and the wider world.

- Publish printed journal
- Create enhanced web presence
- Invigorate and extend e-newsletter to timetable
- Support p/t KG office and advocacy role within RBG Kew
- Create and use a single voice for the Kew Guild.

5. Financial Capacity and Governance

A distillation from traditional Kew Guild management and accountancy. To utilise the capabilities of the CIO for a corporate form of business, to grow and strengthen the financial position of the Kew Guild and enable increased charitable activity. To ensure our governance and data management/protection complies with best practice and all legal requirements.

- Create financial plan with growth model - for charitable use
- Increase unrestricted capital for charitable use
- Increase capital to surplus after commitments
- Introduce legacy programme and living wills
- Establish delivery partnerships with outside bodies, corporates, companies etc
- Establish and sustain profitable annual fundraising dinner
- Carry out annual/biennial/triennial reviews of governance and data protection procedures and practice.

*It is logical that the KG5YP shows direct linkage, and therefore support, to the 5 Priorities of RBG Kew.

Kew Priorities

1. Deliver science-based knowledge and solutions to protect biodiversity and use resources sustainably
2. Inspire people to protect the natural world
3. Train next generation of experts
4. Extend our reach
5. Influence national and international opinion and policy

Kew Guild Objectives

- a. The advancement of horticultural, mycological and botanical knowledge for the benefit of the public, particularly (without limitation) in connection with the work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.
- b. The encouragement and advancement of horticultural and botanical education for the benefit of public, in particular at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, including (without limitation) by provision of awards, prizes and grants to schools and students
- c. To promote the improvement, preservation and sound management for the benefit of the public of places of natural beauty, gardens and lands of ecological, horticultural, mycological or botanical importance or interest.

Graham (Harold) Heywood President Elect

Looking Forward - A message from President Elect Graham Heywood.

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Many of you will recognise the above opening lines of Charles Dickens's 'A Tale of Two Cities'. I feel they are so apt in these days we are living through considering the heartaches, anxieties, despair and eventually hope that so many people have experienced. Many people have lost loved ones, others have been spared and recovered. The pandemic has taken its toll of the human race. But as ever, there is hope. For many who have suffered, recovery has been like a new start.

A new start is also being experienced by the Kew Guild. For the past few years, the Kew Guild's Board of Trustees has struggled to encourage new people into membership whilst also trying to encourage previous members to re-join where previously held contact details have been available. I am not on my own in saying that there have been times when I have genuinely felt the days of the Guild were numbered.

There have been times when, heavily laden with concern for the future of the Guild, trustees and advisor members have debated the Guild's future in the face of not just a static membership but a dwindling one. I have not been alone with such thoughts and concerns. Then along comes a member with an equally genuine concern about 'our future'. I speak of course of our current President Chris Kidd, who like many of us has pondered the future of the Guild. Our online meetings over the past eighteen months or so have given the trustees the opportunity to express and debate our collective concerns.

These debates have now brought us to the point where having taken the lead our President has helped energise those of influence within Kew to listen to our genuine concerns and lend a supporting hand to our collective desires and actions to enhance our reputation and once more become the organisation we and all new members can be truly proud of. In this matter we thank most sincerely Richard Deverell, Director of Kew who has readily and enthusiastically come to our aid and also Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture and Learning and Guild Trustee. We have demonstrated our desire and commitment to change; we now have a five year plan to pursue and our 'offer' to new and existing members has been improved and there is a desire to further enhance the benefits of membership and commit to further change over time as required. As Winston Churchill said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

The weight of responsibility is a shared responsibility. Our five year plan now closely parallels that of the RBG's which we are all confident will enhance the Guild's reputation and which all future students and staff and others can be proud of. Each Trustee has readily accepted to lead on individual aspects of the plan.

All of which brings me to my upcoming Presidency due to commence in September 2022.

Yes, it has been said many times by Presidents who have gone before, but I genuinely could never have dreamt all those years ago, when as a student in the 1960s I felt so proud and privileged to be a part of Kew that one day many years in the future I would be President of the Guild (see also my article, “A Time Remembered” in this issue of the Journal).

I look forward to continuing and building on the excellent work of our President Chris Kidd and all the previous Presidents and will work hard to uphold the dignity and further enhance the reputation of the position. I am grateful to past Presidents for their support and wise counsel so freely and genuinely offered.

God bless you all and God bless those associated with the RBG's and the Kew Guild.



Graham Heywood conducting a guided tour of the gardens for members of the YMCA Horticulture Training Scheme (based in East Grinstead on a private Estate, the owners of which lived on the estate in a moated Tudor House). Dated Saturday 2nd July 1966. The person nearest the camera was at the time Graham's fiancé Eira, and since been his wife of 53 years.

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of The Kew Guild CIO held on Monday 6th September 2021 at 2pm at Cambridge Cottage, RBG Kew

There were 42 attendees at the meeting.

Attendance

Trustees:

Chris Kidd (President and Award Scheme Chairman)
David Simpson (Immediate Past President)
Graham Heywood (President Elect)**
Robert Brett

Jean Griffin*
Tony Overland*
Peter Styles*

* Trustees standing down at this meeting

** Trustee for re-election

Officers:

Jennifer Alsop
Sara Arnold (Secretary)
Sparkle Ward (Editor)

Cecily Eltringham (Student Rep)
Jennifer Wright (Student Rep)
Maxine Briggs (Award Scheme Secretary)

Members:

Nicholas Boyes
Graham Burgess
David Cutler
Mike Fitt
Gordon Fraser
Harvey Groffman

David Hardman
Allan Hart
Colin Jones
Penny Jones
Simon Owens
Graham Pattison

Alan Stuttard
David and Chantal Taber
Richard Ward
Mike Wilkinson
Brita von Schoenaich

Guests:

Mark Chase
Eira Heywood
Julian Heywood
Peter and Anne Holman

Barry and Yvonne Newman
Marilyn Owens
Linda Pattison
Di Stuttard

CIO 2021-22.001

Welcome by the President

The President welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild CIO. The meeting was opened at 2pm.

CIO 2021-22.015

Inauguration of continuing President Chris Kidd

At the request of Immediate Past President, David Simpson, this item was brought forward on the agenda. Formal inauguration of Chris had not taken place due to the coronavirus pandemic and the 2020 AGM being held on Zoom. David congratulated Chris and presented him with the President's ribbon. Members present gave a round of applause. Chris thanked members and briefly outlined the aims of the Guild and the work the Board has been doing since lockdown. A five-year plan has been produced, which fits well with the RBG Kew objectives. CK has had a productive meeting with the Director of Kew and there is much work to do in the coming years. The Director is very supportive of the way forward for both organisations to work together.

CIO 2021-22.002**Apologies for absence****Trustees:**

Richard Barley, Harvey Stephens.

Committee:

None

Members:

Phyllida Barker

Maite Delmas

Tricia Fisher

Hugh Flower

Jennifer Grundy

Cyril Giles

Joan Hart

Judy Hancock

Pamela Holt

Antoine Hoog

Bryan Howard

Roy Jones

Tony Kirkham

Roy Lancaster

Dennis McGlade

Jim Mitchell

Brendon Mowforth

Sylvia Phillips

John Sales

Shirley Sherwood

Tim Stafford

Liz Tite

Tim Upson

John Whitehead

Tom (Albert) Woods

There were seven Trustees, six Officers (two non-voting) and 15 voting members present at the meeting. Please note Sara Arnold and Sparkle Ward are the non-voting members and therefore they both abstained from any voting.

CIO 2021-22.003**Notice of death of members**

I am very happy to say there are no deaths to report for this year (that we are aware of prior to the meeting). At the meeting we were informed of the passing of Bob Adams. The President asked members to observe a minute's silence to remember those who have passed, and those who have been affected by the Coronavirus pandemic.

CIO 2021-22.004**Secretary's report – Sara Arnold**

The Minutes of the Kew Guild AGM 2020 were approved by Trustees and have been distributed to the membership with the Notice for this AGM. SA asked if there were any amendments to these minutes. There were none.

The Kew Guild CIO met four times on Zoom since the late AGM in December 2020. All of the meetings were quorate in accordance with the CIO (three or one quarter of trustees). This will be the first face to face meeting since February 2020. Meeting dates for the Trustees and Officers for the next Presidential year are still to be decided and will continue via Zoom until further notice.

Proposal: to accept the Secretary's report. Proposed: Jean Griffin. Seconded: David Hardman. There were no objections. Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2021-22.005**Treasurer's report – Jennifer Alsop and Tim Woodcock**

Trustees report and annual accounts for the year-ended 31.12.2020

Summary information

In 2020 income totalled £56,309 (2019: £73,225) and expenditure totalled £49,750 (2019: £29,189). There were unrealised gains on the Guild's unrestricted and restricted investments of £37,951 (2019: £90,012). Overall, in 2020, the restricted funds increased by £7,839 (2019: £14,100) and the unrestricted funds increased by £36,671 (2019: £119,948). £122,584 in restricted funds, £478,334 in designated funds and £197,464 in the unrestricted general funds have been carried forward to 2021.

Detailed information

The Guild's capital is invested in CCLA's Charities Official Investment Funds (COIF). In 2020, these generated £18,483 (2019: £18,365). £4,781 (£4,687: 2019), designated as restricted donations, was received from the Kew Guild unincorporated charity (charity number 306064) – Note 1.

Subscription income of £9,734 (2019: £9,664) was received. We are grateful to the Philip and Granville Trust for their kind donation of £760.

<u>Awards, grants, and prizes</u>	<u>2020</u>		<u>2019</u>		<u>Comments</u>
	<u>No.</u>	<u>Value</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Value</u>	
Awards made by the Awards sub-committee	9	£7,000	11	£10,022	2020 ones deferred to 2021.
Grants to institutions	3	£8,500	1	£3,000	In 2020, to support the organisations during the Covid-19 pandemic.
Prizes					
Horticultural	6	£575	7	£600	
Science	2	£250	0	£0	New awards for 2020.

Grants

£4,777 (2019: £5,453) was spent on producing the Journal which was of an excellent standard. Other expenditure, including admin costs, was £4,775 (2019: £3,902).

Note 1 - The Kew Guild unincorporated charity (charity number 306064) holds the permanent endowment assets, these are invested in CCLA's COIF and generate dividend income that is paid over to the Kew Guild CIO as restricted donations. Within the Kew Guild CIO this income is spent on awards and prizes in line with their original restrictions. There were unrealised gains made on these investments. £164,473 in permanent endowment funds was carried forward to 2021.

A separate Trustees report and annual accounts are prepared for the unincorporated charity (306064) and the approval of these is planned to take place at their annual general meeting. It should be noted that for ease of reference "the accounts for the unincorporated charity (306064) and the Kew Guild CIO (1174033) have been combined together for the Journal on pages 598-599".

The Trustees report and annual accounts that solely show the relevant information for the Kew Guild CIO (1174033) should be considered at the Kew Guild CIO AGM. A full copy of the Kew Guild CIO Trustees report and annual accounts is attached as a pdf.

Proposal: to approve these accounts. Proposed: Graham Heywood. Seconded: Tony Overland. Decision: Approved.

Proposal: to approve the appointing of an Independent Examiner for the annual accounts of 2021. Proposed: Peter Styles. Seconded: David Simpson. Decision: Approved.

Proposal: to accept the Treasurer's report. Proposed: Colin Jones. Seconded: Jean Griffin. There were no objections. Decision: Report approved.

Jean Griffin thanked Jennifer Alsop for all her help and members gave a round of applause.

CIO 2021-22.006 Membership Secretary's report – Dave Simpson

1. Membership as at 11/8/2021 (2020 figures in brackets)

	Current	Expired 31/12/20 and not yet renewed
Standard	280 (282)	11
Standard (student)	15 (20)	5
Honorary Fellow	18 (17)	
Honorary	9 (2)	
Patron	1 (1)	
Totals	323 (323)	16

Over the past year, overall member numbers remained stable although there was a slight reduction in the number of paying members (standard and standard (student) categories). 7 new members joined (5 standard, 2 student) and 4 former members re-joined with 3 further expressions of interest to re-join. 1 new Honorary Fellow was appointed and 7 associate members under the old Guild membership structure were re-designated as honorary members under the CIO structure.

Expired and Cancelled memberships

Emails were sent in April 2021 to members who had not renewed by the end of the 'grace' period (31/3/2021). Of these, 16 have still not renewed and 3 have cancelled.

We continue to receive subscription payments for 82 former members whose standing orders were not cancelled. Attempts to contact these people have met with little success because we do not have up to date contact details for many of them.

Problems with names going into the Journal

There were problems with Dave Simpson being able to see payments coming in, so therefore 24 names were omitted from the Journal. Produce updated members list to send out with a newsletter.

Payment methods

121 members have signed up to pay by direct debit, the remainder paying by standing order, PayPal or cheque. Members with UK bank accounts are strongly encouraged to pay by direct debit as it helps us to simplify our administration. If you haven't yet signed up please consider doing so.

Many thanks to Jen Alsop who has greatly helped with sorting out the 'grace to expired' payments and Andy Clark for providing excellent technical support for the 'Civi' membership database.

Proposal: to accept the Membership Secretary's report. Proposed: Robert Brett. Seconded: David Simpson. There were no objections. Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2021-22.007 Editor's report – Sparkle Ward

The Events of 2020 Journal was produced on time (mailed end of May) and on budget, despite Covid-19. Printing of 500 Journals cost £2,285 (last year also £2,285) (although please note this year a larger print run of 2500 Journals was ordered, with the total cost for all being £5,244), with Editor's 'fee' of £2,200 plus envelopes and postage. Whilst there was no Student prize-giving, Award Scheme write-ups, outside visits or Annual

Dinner we were able to encourage extra replacement features. I gave notice to the Trustees in June that the Events of 2021 Journal will be my last as Editor, after 7 years. As Editor and on behalf of the Guild I particularly thank Guild Secretary Sara Arnold; Pamela Holt for heading up News of Kewites; Graham Burgess for compiling Obituaries; and Alex George for past indexing and botanical proofreading.

I urge all members to send me their articles and news during 2021 for the next Journal. Thank you.

Note: Whilst the Events of 2021 Journal will be published in May 2022 it is expected that a new Editor will be in place by January 2022 at the start of the calendar year.

Sparkle told members of her resignation as Editor. The President responded with a vote of thanks, which would include the whole of the Ward family for their contribution to the Guild over many years. There was a rousing round of applause.

Richard Ward: Much has changed for Guild Editors since I took over as Editor in 1976 (having been on the Committee since 1971). In those days members mailed their typed or handwritten 'copy' to me by the deadline date, and after editing etc. I would drive to our Printers in Dorking who would spend up to three weeks type-setting it all. We only had around 20 black and white photos too. Today the Editor receives almost everything electronically of course, including colour photos, and produces the paged and complete Journal electronically to our Printers in pdf form at the click of a computer key.

Two generations of my family will have edited 39 Kew Guild Journals since 1976. Above all we have remained aware of the responsibility of encouraging historical articles, and mentioning names. We have striven to publish what you members have submitted; and have pro-actively encouraged you to send us your copy. For posterity. And we have always been mindful that the bedrock of membership of the Guild is professional fellowship of like-minded people. The Kew Guild Journal is as good as its members!

Proposal: to accept the Editor's report. Proposed: Graham Heywood. Seconded: David Simpson. There were no objections. Decision: Approved.

CIO 2021-22.008 Award Scheme report – Chris Kidd

Chris commented that the Award Scheme is the best job in the Kew Guild as he gets to give away money! Trustees made an extension to the September 2021 deadline for Awards, but this has not moved forward so it is proposed to extend the deadline again until September 2022.

The scheduled meeting for March 2021 did not proceed as normal, due to restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a single application had been made alongside a nomination for the George Brown Memorial Award. These were considered between the members of the Committee by email and 'phone. The KGAS then met fully on Thursday 9th July 2021 at 4pm to consider applications for awards and nominations for the Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild. Committee members contacted to consider the award application and nomination in March 2021 were Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Linda Baharier (Treasurer) Marcella Corcoran, Allan Hart, Gillian Leese, Silke Strickrodt (student), Sal Demain, Richard Wilford, Susyn Andrews, David Hardman, and David Simpson.

Members present in July 2021: Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Marcella Corcoran, Allan Hart, and Richard Wilford. Apologies received from Susyn

Andrews, David Hardman and Dave Simpson (each gave verbal or written consideration), Jen Alsop (acting Treasurer) and Rebecca Lane.

Awards

A total of £13,712 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available in 2021 to be made as awards. Five applications had been made; all were successful after individual discussion.

The July meeting was the first since March 2020, when the impact of Covid-19 was beginning to register. Successful awardees from March 2020 were granted an extension period in which to take up their Awards until September 2021. As the pandemic remains active, and travel opportunity is varied and uncertain, the recommendation is that all Awards made since 2020 be given until September 2022 (to be reviewed) to complete. This extension should be conditional, that any significant other change to the proposal must be notified to the Awards Scheme through the Chair or Secretary.

Annette Dalton, Study course on sustainable floristry, Awarded £2000 from General Funds

Lucia Hudson, Study Masters in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Awarded £1500 total, £185 from Turner Fund £1315 from General Funds

Stephanie Bridges, Study tour in Japan, Awarded £2000 from Dallimore Fund

Alison Scott-Brown, Study tour in Australia, Awarded £2000 from Redman Fund

Paul Sadler, Equipment for moth trapping, Awarded £350 from Turner Fund
Of a total fund availability of £13,712 for 2021, £7,850 was awarded. Note, this £7850 was the maximum possible using a combination of restricted and unrestricted funds.

George Brown Memorial Award

A nomination for the George Brown Memorial Award was received, made by Colin Hindmarch, for Anthony Ross. After consideration the proposal was agreed. Protocol has been followed for the President to write to Anthony Ross making the Award. At a subsequent Trustees meeting it was agreed that the Award be made at the AGM in 2021, however the poor health of Mr Ross makes this unlikely, and the Award will be made in absentia.

Fellowship of the Kew Guild

Two Honorary Fellow nominations were received, one made by Colin Hindmarch and one by Allan Hart. After discussion the committee decided to send the proposals to Trustees. Colin Hindmarch subsequently withdrew his nomination, the Hart nomination goes forward.

Agenda

It was agreed that the next meetings of the Awards Committee will take place:

Thursday 10th March 2022 – 4pm in Bennett Room, Jodrell Lab

Thursday 7th July 2022 – 4pm in Bennett Room, Jodrell Lab

Chris extended his thanks to Allan Hart who is stepping down as an adviser to the Guild. CK and AH to liaise regarding any paperwork. The Guild will be very sorry to see him leave as he has contributed much over the many years of involvement. Members gave a round of applause in thanks. Trustees need to think about finding a successor for Alan. SA to put this on the agenda for the first meeting of the Board in October.

Proposal: That all Awards made since 2020 be given until September 2022 to complete. This extension to be reviewed by Trustees, no later than June 2022, to extend, limit or

withdraw these Awards. Proposed: Chris Kidd. Seconded: Robert Brett.

Proposal: to accept the Award Scheme Report Proposed: Richard Ward. Seconded: Harvey Groffman. There were no objections. Decision: Award Scheme report approved.

CIO 2021-22.009 President's report – Chris Kidd

The global pandemic of Covid-19 has had a profound impact on our world; the full extent of this tragedy will not be fully weighed for years. Since our last AGM the government published a roadmap outlining the progressive steps towards achieving the complete removal of Covid restrictions in the UK, we find ourselves in a period of comparative openness, perhaps beginning again in a world whose social landscape is forever changed. I feel we are at a crucial juncture with the Kew Guild. We are enabled by our history and constitution, by our finances and fellowship, to apply the organisation to a wider charitable role. The Kew Guild is, in crucial ways, a different organisation to that which began over a century ago, but with attributes developed over time that we value and define the core of the organisation. In December 2020 we sought feedback from the membership on their considered thoughts on the Kew Guild, what we do and what we could do in future. This feedback, combined with insights from each living President, from officers of the Kew Guild, our grantees and supporters, has guided planning in our attached 5 Year plan, proposed for acceptance at the AGM.

It has been sensible for Trustees to begin work immediately within the outline of the new plan as many parts are familiar to us already. We have formalised our charitable work with guidance laid out in a Special Awards scheme. Mandated by constitution, we may now make Awards beyond our existing Award Scheme to charitable end.

Of concern for many years has been the downward trend in our membership numbers, despite the great efforts from successive Membership Secretaries. Clearly this is an existential risk to the Kew Guild at a time when we are growing our activity. Trustees propose to arrest this trend by creating a new, free, Affiliate Membership category, which will allow us to use our resources to engage with potential full members whilst they still work at Kew. It will be open to this very large number of people, accompanied with an initial journal by way of introduction to our work and as part of the induction process for all new Kewites, from Trustees to volunteers.

In November 2018 Trustees agreed to support an initiative from Honorary Fellow Mike Fitt, a “Discovery Day” at RBG Kew which offered a taster to 200 young people of what a career in our industry could achieve. From this initial group we know of at least one participant who went on to join the Kew Diploma course. We see the Kew Guild has the ability to continue to support what will become a regular programme of Discovery Days, the first step on the educational ladder. We propose Mike become an Advisor to the Kew Guild to further develop this. In 2021 we have committed to support the “Introduction to Horticulture” programme at Kew, whereby underrepresented minorities gain work and life experience within Kew. This is the second step in a proposed suite of Kew Guild funded educational programmes.

Our regular activities have been impacted over the last year, the social programme particularly, we look forward to a return to normal with visits, meetings and of course the Annual Dinner. Our Journal has been another triumph despite the anticipated lack of reportage. As our Editor, Sparkle Ward departs, we are grateful for nearly 40 years' service from the Ward family, and welcome our incoming Editor Ros Whistance who has been unanimously approved by Trustees.

In making our blueprint 5 Year Plan we have compared the Kew “Manifesto for Change” and its five Priorities with the Objects of the Kew Guild and found several themes which link strongly. These have been settled into programme areas/objectives for the Kew Guild. By creating our 5 year plan in this way, we may clearly demonstrate integration with the plan governing the next 10 years of RBG Kew.

Since April the working group of President, Graham Heywood, David Simpson, Robert Brett and Richard Barley have contributed, edited and distilled to a document proposed for adoption by the Trustee group. An important programme area within the plan is income generation. The Kew Guild has made some impressive financial commitments so far in 2021. These should continue within the themes we have begun, but growth is of equal importance. Our commitments thus far have come from existing reserves, we should now be seeking to expand significantly to recover financial outlays but also increase in scale. We are investigating a joint Fundraising Dinner with partners each calendar year, seeking donations and support from industry and private benefactors. Trustee Harvey Stephens has agreed to lead on this item and will report at each Trustee meeting. It is proposed that the Board move to a cabinet style, with trustees accountable for a specified programme area within the five year plan. This will ensure, from the outset, that the plan is followed and built upon in the future and the work of the Guild is shared.

I hope you may see that with the 5 Year Plan we don’t want to discard any of our longstanding principles and facilities. For example, the Awards Scheme was able, just, to make the first round of its awards in March 2020. As the global pandemic grew, it was clear the majority of awards would not be viable, so we extended the deadline for the awards to be taken up. We have since extended once again, and we propose to extend to September 2022 the window for taking up Awards. Unlike other awarding bodies, ours remained open to applications. We made Honorary Fellows, made the George Brown Award and the Kew Medal Award in 2021.

Faced with the global crisis, and mandated by our constitution, it made very good sense to make further awards in the summer of 2020 to assist related organisations, including Kew, whose finances have suffered. It is this charitable outreach that will be increasingly potent to our Kew Guild. We are enabled to work in this way from legacies through our constitution, we simply have to give direction and reap the benefits in the form of works that we can all be proud of. By enabling, perhaps, new studentships at Kew we can grow our membership. We should look to creating inclusivity across the whole of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. We should look to extend our alumni, thereby redressing a shrinking membership and strengthening our fellowship.

Picture a Journal, not long from now, reporting a full calendar of social events, our annual dinner, reports of awards made from our scheme. News from Kewites at home and overseas. Imagine a Journal that needs to be bigger, because of so much more that we have been able to do. Reports from “our own” students that we have supported into the studies, “our” interns that we supported into placements at Kew, “our” members who have become new to Kew in introductory terms we supported. Reports on outreach programmes, such as those we already supported organised by Mike Fitt at Kew in 2019, but now annual. Reports on our new funding streams making us ever buoyant and able to do even more.

I hope the picture is one you’d like to see and help us make. Of course, I don’t propose to make it in a single presidential term, such aims are strategic, but the basic direction is there to be steered. As with all things in life, the hardest part is getting started. I look forward to the coming year, there is much to achieve. Let’s make it work.

Progress

Chris attended the Student Prize Day but the Kew Guild wasn't mentioned once. This needs to change. The proposal is to offer affiliate membership for a single year to everyone at Kew. This gives us a year to prove to them that the Guild is a worthwhile thing to join. This is already on the list of items for new staff/volunteer on their induction days, so this is an important step forward. We are looking to gain free entry to Kew for all Guild members, with the same benefits of Foundation members and are working closely with an Officer in Kew to move closer to this. The Director of Kew has accepted our invitation to come to the Annual Dinner in May 2022.

Five year plan

Proposal: to accept the five year plan. Proposed: Chris Kidd. Seconded: Graham Heywood.

Constitution and Byelaw updates – please see attached document.

Proposal: to accept the Constitution and Byelaw updates. Proposed: Chris Kidd. Seconded: Graham Heywood.

Handbook updates

Proposal: to approve David Hardman to work with the Secretary on the Handbook. Proposed: Jean Griffin. Seconded: Colin Jones. There were no objections. Decision: to accept the five year plan, changes to the Constitution and Byelaws and updates to the handbook.

CIO 2021-22.010 Annual subscription rates

Subscription rates will remain at £27 for Ordinary Members and £15 for Students. The subscription will increase, but not this year. Members agreed that subscription rates should not be used to support the five year plan and is levied to cover the cost of printing the Journal. The new incoming treasurer, Tim Woodcock, is to look into gift aid on subscriptions.

Proposal: to accept the subscription rates remain as above. Proposed: Martin Staniforth. Seconded: Harvey Groffman. There were no objections. Decision: Subscription rates for 2021-22 approved.

CIO 2021-22.011 Retiring Trustees

Graham Heywood, Jean Griffin, Tony Overland, Peter Styles.

Remaining trustees – Richard Barley, Robert Brett, Chris Kidd, Dave Simpson, Harvey Stephens.

CIO 2021-22.012 Nomination of Trustees

Maxine Briggs – proposed by Chris Kidd, Seconded by Richard Barley.

Brita von Schoenaich – proposed by Peter Styles, Seconded by Jean Griffin.

Sylvia Phillips – proposed by Tony Overland, Seconded by Dave Simpson.

These three nominations were approved by Trustees and SA is carrying out Fit and Proper Persons Checks to ensure they are all eligible to stand as Trustees.

The proposal to extend Graham Heywood's term as a Trustee to 2023 was approved by all trustees at the meeting of the Board on 10th June 2021. This will cover his term as President and Immediate Past President.

Proposal: to accept the new trustees and extend trusteeship of GH. Proposed: Chris Kidd. Seconded: Peter Styles. The nominations were approved unanimously.

Chris asked members to cast a vote for Mike Fitt as an Honorary Advisor. Proposed: Chris Kidd. Seconded: Robert Brett. There were no abstentions. Appointment approved.

CIO 2021-22.013 Election of Officers

With our new CIO Byelaws we do not require President/Vice President nominations to be agreed by the membership at the AGM, it is a matter for the Trustees.

The Committee for 2021-22 is as follows:

President	Chris Kidd (continuing from 2020)
Vice President	Harvey Stephens
President Elect	Graham Heywood
Immediate Past President	Dave Simpson
Treasurer	Tim Woodcock
Secretary	Sara Arnold
Editor	Sparkle Ward (until May 2022)
Editor	Ros Whistance (from January 2022)
Membership Secretary	Dave Simpson
Archives Officer	Christina McCulloch
Kew Gardens Representative	Richard Barley

Proposal: to ratify officers as above. Proposed: Colin Jones. Seconded: Jean Griffin. There were no objections. Decision: Approved.

The Secretary asked Trustees and Officers to declare any conflict of interest. There were none noted at the meeting. SA to follow up with the annual form to complete. The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their input to the Kew Guild during the year.

CIO 2021-22.014 Awards

Presentation of awards:

2020 Kew Guild Medal to Peter Holman

2021 Kew Guild Medal to Mark Chase

2022 Kew Guild Medal to Barry Newman

Honorary Fellow to Steven Sillett

Peter, Mark and Barry came to the front of the room individually to accept their medals. All thanked the Trustees and Officers and members gave a round of applause.

The George Brown Award for 2021 has been awarded to Anthony Ross for his contribution to the Kew Guild and the design of the Kew Guild Medal. Unfortunately Anthony cannot be with us at the AGM. We'll make sure he gets his award.

CIO 2021-22.015 Inauguration of continuing President Chris Kidd

This item moved to the beginning of the meeting.

CIO 2021-22.016 Date of next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 3rd September 2022, venue TBC.

Confirmation of the Kew Guild Annual Dinner: 26th May 2022 in Cambridge Cottage. Martin Staniforth notified the Secretary that the Notice of the Meeting did not get through to him. SA to investigate.

The meeting was closed at 3.02pm.



Top: Dave Simpson (R) finally presenting the President's Ribbon to President Chris Kidd (2020-2022) in person!

Middle left: Chris Kidd (L) presenting the 2022 Kew Guild Medal to Barry Newman

Middle right: The President and Peter Holman (R), Kew Guild Medal Awardee 2020

Bottom left: Professor Mark Chase (R), Kew Guild Medal Awardee 2021

School of Horticulture Kew Diploma and Prizes Course 56

Tim Hughes, Head of the School of Horticulture, welcomed those present to the presentation of Kew Diplomas, Kew Apprenticeships and a whole assortment of Prizes for 2021.

He invited the Director **Richard Deverell**, to give his welcoming address.

Tim then called on **Richard Barley**, Director of Horticulture, Learning and Operations to give an introduction. During his speech, Richard acknowledged the 2020 graduates who were not able to have a graduation ceremony due to restrictions. The 2020 graduates who were able to attend this year's ceremony as audience members were asked by Richard to stand up to receive a round of applause.

Tim Hughes began the presentation ceremony by saying:

“Graduation day is very much about a celebration of the students’ and apprentices’ achievements. It is an acknowledgement of their hard work in obtaining either the Kew Diploma, or a Kew Apprenticeship. For those graduating students and apprentices, this day marks the end of one chapter in your horticultural career but also the start of something new. We wish you well in your future careers, 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 - thank you. 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 Speaker, **Paul Rees**, 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

A Kew Diploma is awarded to: **Michael Antonetti**

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Owen Griffiths**

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Mikey Leach**

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

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

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners’ Prize for 3rd year student achieving top overall academic and practical marks.

Along with the Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Luigi Leoni**

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

Along with the Kew Diploma with Credit is awarded to: **Francisco Lopez**

The Freda Howson Award for excellence in Ecology and Conservation.

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Fionnuala McDermott**

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the student undertaking the best Herbarium naming project

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Amy Newsome**

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

The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize for the student 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 Squire's Garden Centre Prize for the best overall performance in landscape studies.

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Mira-Marie Nubold**

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

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

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

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Charles Shi**

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Ignacio Silva de la Iglesia**

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Timothy Stafford**

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: **Silke Strickrodt**

Kew Apprenticeship Prizes & Awards

A Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Ben Brophy**

The apprentice with the best Weed Project Prize.

Along with a Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Jessy Challenger**

A Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Ben Crabtree** (unable to attend)

A Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Jenny Crabb**

Best practical apprentice prize at Wakehurst.

Along with a Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Gemma Greener**

Best Plant Ident prize at Wakehurst.

Along with a Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Jodie Hilton**

The best practical apprentice prize and the Apprentice who has made the most progress throughout the course

Along with a Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Nick Irwin**

The Kew apprentice with the highest test results in plant identification, The Kew apprentice with the best journals and plant profiles.

Along with a Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Ellie Machell**

A Kew Apprenticeship is awarded to: **Elisa Nader**

A Kew Apprenticeship in Arboriculture is awarded to: **Cecily Withall**

Tim Hughes then invited **Paul Rees** to say a few words.

Dame Amelia Fawcett, Chair of the Board of Trustees, gave a Vote of Thanks.

Silke Strickrodt, of Course 56, gave the Student Vote of Thanks.

Tim Hughes then said in closing: “I would once again like to thank Paul Rees 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, Dawn and Martin, the staff of the School of Horticulture – so a big thank you to you and a thank-you to the Tropical Nursery team for today’s wonderful floral displays. If I can ask the audience to please remain seated while the Platform Party, Diploma graduates, and Apprentice graduates and prize winners follow Kate to the Grass Garden for photographs. 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.” © *Tim Hughes*





Sara Barnes



Alistair Coffey



Frances Fay Davies



Nick Irwin



Tom Lawson



Anna Lim



Chris Moore



Jason Saul



Selina Tan



Jennifer Warner



Henry Welch

Student Report

Regrettably, there was no report forthcoming.

Kew Guild Events in 2021

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest Visit

15th September 2021

by David Taber

It took a brave person to try and organise a Kew Guild visit during the Covid Crisis. However not deterred Pamela Holt rose to the challenge and with the help of one of her old students Daniel Luscombe, the curator of the Living Collection at Bedgebury, circulated members who were up for the challenge. The window of opportunity was however only accepted by one of our oldest members Leo Pemberton assisted by his friend John Isaac and myself. Not perturbed Pamela continued with the arrangement hoping that more would join on the day, little did she know that on the day it was not the Covid restrictions but 'Insulate Britain' Environmental Campaigners' who would set the challenge to those wishing to attend by blocking the M25 that morning.

Only Leo with his friend arrived on time, I followed an hour later having navigated the back roads of Kent to avoid the disruption. With Pam still stuck in the traffic jam we proceeded to have a personal tour with Daniel. Pam joined us just before midday. Tribute to her tenacity in a crisis. The environmental activists, not only being content to disrupt our visit also removed most of the plastic labels on the plants. Daniel, not a man to be defeated is installing name smart chips on all the collection which can be read on your phone. Much of the tour was taken up by Daniel explaining how he is having to adapt to survive by the use of more volunteers, fundraising events, and compensating the loss of the supporting charity. Alongside this the introduction of mixed planting to help with the control of pests and diseases and at the same time making the gardens more attractive to

family visitors. Foremost being the new visitor centre with excellent catering and children's play area in line with the current approach both at Kew and Wakehurst and cycle hiring and forest tracks.



All of these initiatives are a long way from the initial conception but are warmly appreciated by the growing number of visitors particularly the younger generation with families, finance being the biggest challenge due to right of way through the forest making entrance fees not

possible, car parking fees on the extended carparks are now the main source of revenue. Daniel is to be congratulated by ensuring the collection continues to grow and the forest that once resounded to sounds of iron manufacture, continues not only as a working forest but serves the recreation and educational needs of the current time. Not put off by our understandable low attendance Daniel has extended to the Guild a standing invitation to make another visit which I hope we are able to take up and support in the near future.

Kew Guild Awards Scheme 2021

by Chris Kidd (Awards Chair)

The scheduled meeting for March 2021 did not proceed as normal, due to restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a single application had been made alongside a nomination for the George Brown Memorial Award. These were considered between the members of the Committee by email and phone. The KGAS then met fully on Thursday 9th July 2021 at 4pm to consider applications for awards and nominations for the Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild.

Committee members contacted to consider the award application and nomination in March 2021 were Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Linda Baharier (Treasurer) Marcella Corcoran, Allan Hart, Gillian Leese, Silke Strickrodt (student), Sal Demain, Richard Wilford, Susyn Andrews, David Hardman, and David Simpson.

Members present in July 2021: Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Marcella Corcoran, Allan Hart, and Richard Wilford. Apologies received from Susyn Andrews, David Hardman and Dave Simpson (each gave verbal or written consideration), Jen Alsop (acting Treasurer) and Rebecca Lane.

It has been agreed that Awards made since 2020 be given until 2022 to complete as many have been curtailed by restrictions from the pandemic.

It is with sadness that we report that Allan Hart has retired from the Awards Scheme. Allan's contribution to the scheme has been from the very beginning, indeed the scheme arose from Allan's asking Kew students how better the Kew Guild could help their studies, their suggestion for finances to enable travel being the answer. Initially Allan and his wife Joan would host gatherings at their home, usually following Guild events, and ask for donations from their guests. As momentum grew, extra funds and donations enabled the scheme to gain its regular footing. In reading this, please reflect both on the extraordinary commitment from such an honourable couple and how the money that allows the scheme to run was made. We hope to make awards easily, but making the funds in the first instance was anything but.

Awards

A total of £13,712 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available in 2021 to be made as awards. Five applications had been made; all were successful after individual discussion. The July meeting was the first since March 2020, when the impact of Covid-19 was beginning to register. Successful awardees from March 2020 were granted an extension period in which to take up their Awards until September 2021. As the pandemic remains active, and travel opportunity is varied and uncertain, the recommendation was made that all Awards made since 2020 be given until September 2022 (to be reviewed) to complete. This extension is conditional, that any significant other change to the proposal must be notified to the Awards Scheme through the Chair or Secretary.

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Awarded £2000 from General Funds

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Awarded £1500 total, £185 from Turner Fund £1315 from General Funds

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Awarded £2000 from Dallimore Fund

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Awarded £350 from Turner Fund

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Fellowship of the Kew Guild

Two Honorary Fellow's Nominations were received, one made by Colin Hindmarch and one by Allan Hart. After discussion the committee decided to send the proposals to Trustees. Colin Hindmarch subsequently withdrew his nomination, the Hart nomination for Steven Sillett was agreed by Trustees at their next meeting.

Agenda

It was agreed that the next meetings of the Awards Committee will take place:

Thursday 10th March 2022 – 4pm in Bennett Room, Jodrell Lab

Thursday 7th July 2022 – 4pm in Bennett Room, Jodrell Lab

Awards Scheme Reports

Career-Change Course in Sustainable Floristry

by Annette Dalton

I attended a 2-week Career-Change Course in Sustainable Floristry at Tallulah Rose Flower School based at Levens Hall in Cumbria, in August 2021. I hoped to gain technical skills and inspiration to help me in the next adventure of my horticultural career – growing cut flowers and using them in sustainable floristry.

Week 1: This week was roughly half theory and half practical floristry. We learned about the contemporary floristry industry, and changes that are happening in response to its considerable carbon footprint and the polluting nature of ubiquitous materials. A new movement in sustainable floristry sees more florists moving away from single-use plastics, and floral foam. Floral foam is a petrochemical derived plastic product, is non-biodegradable, and breaks down into micro-plastic fragments which have been found in aquatic organisms. We discussed the movement towards British grown flowers, resulting in roughly 15% of all flowers bought in the UK now being grown here. Although an improvement, there is a long way to go and most flowers sold here come via the Dutch auction houses, with many flown to auctions from Africa or South America and transported here by refrigerated lorry. Further theory classes included photography, social media for marketing, and costing individual pieces.



Close-up of my flower bowl, created using no floral foam



My funeral flowers - a coffin spray using no plastic or floral foam

Our practical hands-on floristry lessons included creating Kokedama, meadow boxes, bowl arrangements, hand-tied gift bouquets, and funeral flowers (casket topper), all using sustainable materials and techniques. On Friday we talked about our business vision and structure, our customers and how to market and sell to them. We created a mood board and learned practical steps to take to build our business plan.

Week 2: We began week two with a second day focussed on our own business and went into more detail on elements of planning a business including legal structure and finance, supply chains, logistics and brand identity.

Next, we zoomed in on wedding flowers, including consultations and creation of an initial fee proposal. We made a bridal bouquet, learned wiring techniques, and used these to create buttonholes and flower crowns. We had a day of learning garland making, and applied this to making a low tablescap. On the last day we dressed the pillars in front of Levens Hall using the techniques for creating a floral arch. Again, this was done using sustainable materials and no floral foam. Lastly, we also received permanent access to a 30-minute online class with Rachel demonstrating how to make a floral cloud.



Levens Hall gateposts dressed by my classmates and I

Outcome: I learned a huge amount in this two-week course. My big takeaways are 1) the strengthening of my commitment to local flowers and no foam, and 2) a marked increase in my self-confidence both for creating beautiful floral designs, and for running a business. I am committed to the next step of my career being in sustainable floristry and cut flower growing. Even though I know it will make a small difference in the context of the entire industry, I will start another ripple in the pond.

Special Awards Scheme Reports (awarded by the Guild Trustees)

Adrow Ltd - Trailblazer Project

The Kew Guild contributed to the horticulture and landscape strand of the arboriculture, forestry, horticulture and landscape trailblazer group during the 2020-21 financial year. The contribution has been crucial to our resourcing in this year and has enabled us to continue when some other funders have been unable to contribute as a result of Covid-19 losses. The partnership has 160 people involved including employers, trade associations, colleges and awarding organisations. They are volunteers who may, or may not, have



Apprentice Jacob Holt, Woodland Garden weeding
©RBG Kew

support from their employer. Funds are allocated by the management group and in this year have mainly been spent on coordination, facilitation and meeting costs. Project leaders continue to feel that the trailblazer group is the most effective way to develop inclusive apprenticeships in our industries to meet the needs of a wide range of employers.

Developing apprenticeships is a long-term commitment and approval of content is not the end of the process.

The trailblazer group works with training and assessment providers towards making our apprenticeships available in the industry, minimising the lag between approval and delivery. Uptake, completions, availability and teething problems are monitored; action is taken if required.

The latest Government education white paper puts employer led standards and the occupational map (both based on apprenticeships) at the heart of the vocational education system for both content and funding in England. The new T level qualifications for 16-18 year olds are based on apprenticeships (the agriculture, land management and production T Level, including horticulture, will be available in 2023). This model will be expanded into other vocational qualifications at different levels, making the work of the trailblazer group increasingly important for vocational as well as work-based learning. Apprenticeships put the horticultural industry on the map in relation to technical education and skills needs. Our industries are well on the way to having established and refined work-based apprenticeship progression opportunities and we need to finish this work.

What we do

- Develop apprenticeships that meet the needs of employers.



Dominic Grech (Cape Manor College) and Emma Greenwood (Apprentice), Rose pruning ©RBG Kew

- Monitor our approved apprenticeships to make sure they are available and working well.
- Facilitate collaboration on apprenticeships between employers, industry sub sectors, stakeholders and educational professionals.
- Support and engage with skills reforms such as T Levels to make sure they work alongside our apprenticeships and meet the needs of our industries.

Our Achievements 2020/21(horticulture and landscape)

Your contribution helped enable the following activities:

Horticulture and Landscaping Technical Manager (Level 5)

Writing apprenticeship standards (the occupation) and assessment plans (the end tests) takes hours of work with input from training providers, assessment organisations and employers. The needs of these different groups must be met in addition to balancing the requirements of different industry sub sectors to develop an apprenticeship that is useful to a broad section of the industry.

The standard, including the duties, skills, knowledge and behaviours, has been completed for horticulture and landscaping technical manager. The trailblazer ran a consultation with 39 responses. These were analysed and incorporated into the apprenticeship developments. The end point assessment plan, including the end tests and the grade descriptors, developed. Both the standard and the assessment plan were subject to multiple rounds of informal feedback with IFATE with industry input from employers at key points.

Horticulture and Landscaping Technical Manager (Level 5) completed the informal IFATE review and was submitted on 10th March into the formal application process with all required supplementary information. Formal approval (pending changes) was granted and a suitable funding band has been allocated to the apprenticeship (£17,000 per apprentice maximum for eligible training and assessment over the programme). It is expected that this apprenticeship will be fully approved soon. There will then be a lag while training and assessment providers undertake their decision making and development processes, but we hope that it will be available as soon as possible.

Horticulture or landscape operative and landscape or horticulture supervisor

The trailblazer has:

- Supported the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) review of these apprenticeships including promotion of consultations and associated events. Several meetings have been held with IFATE to contextualise their findings, which now have been formally published. IFATE have tasked the industry, through the trailblazer group, with responding to the findings, ideally within the next 12 months.
- In March 2021, a consultation was launched with over 100 responses on the two horticulture standards. The review process is being planned based on the consultation results to improve the apprenticeships and also respond to the IFATE route review recommendations.
- Clarifications issued to Ofqual on Emergency First Aid at Work and traffic management.
- Flexibilities in response to Covid-19 were agreed with IFATE, Ofqual and Lantra for our approved apprenticeships.

Government educational reforms

- Response to Government consultation on level 2 and 3 funding of qualifications
- Inclusion of all our approved apprenticeships in T Levels as per the published outline content.
- Group members taking an active role in IFATE initiatives and feeding into committees such as those looking at 'green' apprenticeships.

Work scheduled for 2021/22

- Continued liaison with IFATE to secure full approval of the horticulture and landscaping technical manager apprenticeship.
- Work with training providers and assessment organisations to ensure that this apprenticeship is available as swiftly as possible on approval.
- Work with partners to promote apprenticeships and our apprenticeship specifically.
- Redevelopment/review of horticulture or landscape operative and landscape or horticulture supervisor to meet IFATE recommendations.

The Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship

Introduction

by Allan Hart

It is now sixteen years since I initiated the new class of membership aimed at the Guild recognising those who are particularly distinguished in their chosen careers, be it horticulture, botanical sciences, and relevant fields of activity. The award is not available to anyone who would normally be eligible to join the Guild. The Fellowship is normally restricted to 25 at any one time (NB: this may be increased if determined by the Trustees).

The Awards Scheme, which promotes and administers the Fellowship carries out a considerable amount of research into the suitability of the nominees. It is anticipated that this seeking of excellence will be maintained by future members of the Committee, who will resist the temptations to appoint candidates for financial gain to the Awards Scheme. This is the last time that I will be reporting on the Honorary Fellowship due to domestic circumstances. It has been a great privilege to serve the Guild and I wish my successor my best wishes.

The awardee for 2021 is **Steven Sillett**, a most remarkable man, who with little formal training in the botanical sciences has established a new discipline, the study of the ecology of the canopy of the giant Sequoias in coastal California. Imagine a totally undiscovered, totally new to science a wonderland of plants, ferns mosses, and invertebrates; all at 100+ metres above the ground. This ground breaking exploration is detailed in 'The Wild Trees' by Richard Preston.

Current Honorary Fellows are:

Elected	2006	Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit, Ed Wolf
	2007	Dennis McGlade, Anna Pavord
	2009	Richard Bisgrove, Niall Kirkwood
	2010	Shirley Sherwood
	2011	Adil Güner
	2012	John Massey, Graham Ross
	2013	Piet Oudolf
	2014	Peter Thoday
	2015	Raymond Evison
	2016	No appointment
	2017	James Hitchmough, Nigel Dunnett
	2018	Michael Fitt
	2019	Tim O'Hare
	2020	Marcus Agius
	2021	Steven Sillett

News of Honorary Fellows

Tim Smit

You may know that comedian's quip: When humans plan their future, God laughs. I consider this more of a warning than a joke. Never more so than the year just gone. Shortly before Christmas 2020, a sudden flood and landslips shut Eden down. Then came the long, long lockdown. Whatever next – a plague of locusts? But we are a relentlessly positive gang and set about planning to turn one of the cliff falls into a magnificent waterfall. Watch this space.

May saw us reopen and a landmark visit from Alok Sharma MP to mark the start of drilling at our pioneering Eden Geothermal Project. We've since reached the end of the first phase, drilling nearly five kilometres into the Earth's crust. Brunel would be dancing a jig! In June...arguably the biggest moment in Eden's history when we hosted a Royal Reception and the G7 leaders on a sunny evening none will forget. Not least because The Queen cut a giant cake with a long sword. COP26 in autumn was a chance for us to strut our stuff on the most important of stages. The Eden Project Pavilion proved to be the biggest magnet for some of the most powerful people in the world.

Late in the year we reached a major milestone with the completion of the main arch of the soon-to-be-stunning Eden Project in Qingdao in China. So a landmark year to remember as we look forward most optimistically to our coming of age – Eden's 21st birthday on March 17, 2022.

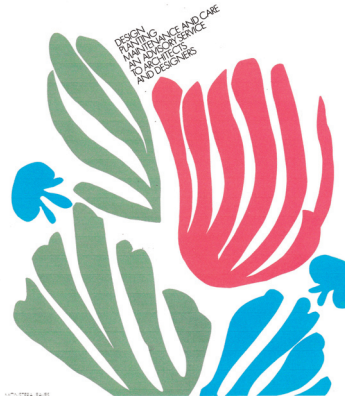


The Eden Pavilion at COP26

Ed Wolf

All good things come to an end I read somewhere. 45 years ago, I started a company called Indoor Garden Design with a moped and two watering cans, it was targeting designers and architects who were building or refurbishing offices in the City and West End. Over the years it grew into the biggest tropical plant firm supplying tropical plants to offices in the City of London and The West End with 55 staff. We also worked for many years with the landscape architect Allan Hart. Ten years ago, I sold the company to the three directors who, four months ago, sold it to Nurture Landscape. To attract architects and designers I used the Matisse painting with permission of The Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam to

INDOOR GARDEN DESIGN HYDROCULTURE



Business card with design related to Matisse painting

show I was not just a gardener, (I was trained in Aalsmeer at the Horticultural College). Two leaves from the painting became my logo, and as I was starting with Hydro culture, the wavy water. I told everyone that the painting was about Monstera leaves; 40 years later I discovered that Matisse painted seaweeds. Nobody ever challenged me!

Dennis McGlade

The pandemic put brakes on some travel and extracurricular activity for me during the past year. But in spite of that I did manage to get out a bit and explore. In May I went on an all day excursion to the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) to see the exhibition “Kusama: Cosmic Nature”. The garden contained art works and installations by the very popular contemporary Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama.

A month later in mid June, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society held their first out of doors flower show in a large park in south Philadelphia. Normally this show runs for one week in March. It is one of the world’s largest indoor flower shows. This year the pandemic pushed it outdoors for the first time in its almost 100 years of operation. I was a judge on the opening day for a selection of garden installations. Because the show was held three months later, the gardens seemed more interesting because they incorporated more late spring and early summer plants. The weather did not cooperate, however. It was steaming hot; the humidity was high; and it rained almost every day. I continued my volunteer gardening in Washington Square during the year. I designed and had installed the first phase of a native plant pollinator garden for the rear courtyard of my condominium. By the end of the summer, we attracted many bees and flies but no butterflies. It may take a while for other pollinator critters to find us. I continue to post on Instagram and Facebook about plants and plantings I stumble across in my perambulations around Philadelphia.



Raymond Evison

2021 proved to be a challenging but highly successful year. The RHS May 2021 Chelsea Flower Show was delayed until the end of September, that brought lots of challenges, as how to delay the flowering of 2,500 clematis plants! By hard pruning and placing plants into cold storage, to give them an enforced winter, during May, we were able to display over 40 cultivars that normally would have flowered in May/June, to flower profusely in September. The exhibit gained me my 31st Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal and The President's Award for the exhibit that the President felt the most noteworthy in the whole Show.



Having attended a lecture here in Guernsey by Helen Litchfield in October 2020, I discovered that the Bailiwick of Guernsey has an incredibly rich list of native plant species. Guernsey has 167 plant species that are considered rare in the British Isles, 34 of these are known to grow in less than 25 locations, 74 in less than 100 sites in the UK. In part this is because of Guernsey's Southernmost location.

Some of these rarities are found in just a few sites locally, and some others seem to be on the decline. With the help of Helen Litchfield's botanical knowledge, and the valuable assistance of a brilliant plant propagator Chris Chatfield, we have started a tiny Native Plant Nursery to propagate and build up numbers of not just the rarer species, but also the more common ones. This project also involves Grow Ltd. – a charity that helps young people with learning difficulties and Guernsey

Prison with its CLIP (Creative Learning in Prison) scheme.

The George Brown Memorial Award

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

William Bessler (1967)

Inspired by the landscape design lectures during the Kew Diploma course, Bill decided to pursue a career in Landscape Architecture. Following Kew, he completed a post-graduate course in Landscape Design at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. His career thereafter included posts with Brian Clouston & Partners in London, the GLC, and also a firm of architects. He then accepted a job in Iran to prepare a master plan for the new botanical garden near Tehran. On several occasions Bill was able to accompany botanists Dr Per Wendelbo and Professor Hans Runemark on plant collecting field trips for both the herbarium and the living collections, and to host a plant collecting trip to the Caspian Forest with John Simmons and Hans Fliegner in 1977. Unfortunately, all of this came to an abrupt end at the time of the revolution.

In 1980, Bill's next assignment took him to Saudi Arabia to prepare landscape designs for the new airport being built in Jeddah. This was a two-year contract which lasted 17 years! Bill now lives in southern Spain, on land with ancient olive trees, some of which are over 1,500 years old!

This report was precied from Bill's contribution in the Events of 2012 Journal.

Anthony Ross by Colin Hindmarch

Anthony Ross might have drafted this report himself were it not for his incorrigibly self-effacing nature. As it is, it falls to me, Colin Hindmarch, a grateful Past President, to set out this belated but much deserved paean for his contribution to the work of the Guild.

As a student, I worked on an illustration for one of George Brown's articles and learned through several iterations of the product just how important he regarded graphic skills as means of communicating ideas and opening diplomatic channels. My regret is that these potentially transformational skills are rarely given the prominence they deserve, it is therefore fitting that the 2021 recipient of the George Brown award is Anthony Ross (1971-1973).

I should explain that Anthony is both an accomplished horticulturist and a talented graphic artist whose skills and commitment have supported the work of the Guild over many years. Notable efforts have included such things as the design of the 2004 Journal cover and the auctioning of the associated artwork for the Awards Scheme. But Anthony's enduring contribution to the mission of the Guild to date has been the design and production of the prestigious Kew Guild Medal.

It's important to understand that although the idea of a medal was initiated during my busy presidency (2004-2005), its development



relied entirely on the Guild network to sift ideas and deliver results. David Cutler took the lead and duly asked Anthony to prepare a suite of designs for consideration by the committee. Anthony responded to the challenge by applying his considerable skills and dedication to the task, and in due course created an exquisite medal embodying a timeless quality capable of projecting the Guild's support of botanical and horticultural excellence into the future.

With some difficulty, Anthony was persuaded to publish a matter-of-fact account of the medal's design and manufacture in the 2006 Journal, but in line with his unassuming nature, the narrative hardly hinted at the energy, commitment, and creative endeavour he poured into the project. My hope that the 2021 George Brown award will remedy this situation and go some way towards shining a light on Anthony's considerable contribution to communication and diplomacy and the ongoing work of the Guild.

Kew News: 2021

The Guild is fortunate to receive agreement from Kew and You Editor Amanda le Poer Trench to reproduce excerpts in the Kew Guild Journal. This Kew and Wakehurst volunteers and staff newsletter comes out every week, and thus at the end of each year we are privileged to be able to read every one right through, and have the envious job of picking out the news and stories that we think will be of most interest to Guild members - many of them no longer employed by Kew. A time-consuming job taking 15 + hours!

Inevitably this year much news has centred on Covid-19, but we have generally avoided reproducing this. Kew and You newsletters also record much info about Trustee meetings, forward planning strategies, policies and initiatives promoted by Director Richard Deverell and his senior staff. We endeavour to precis their successes; for your interest and posterity. We sincerely thank Amanda, and many others who have contributed to Kew and You and enriched our lives.

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January

Congratulations to Marcus Agius, who served as our chairman for 10 years until 2019, who has been appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the New Year's honours list, for services to botany and to conservation. As well as serving as chair, Marcus was an incredible source of support for the work we carry out in both our gardens, and around the world. An example of this support can be seen in our wonderful Agius Evolution Garden, which marries horticulture with science and beauty – an amazing resource that leads visitors through the story of plant evolution.

Saving the Sweet Potato's name. 40 scientists who specialise in sweet potato, including Kew's Ana Rita Simões, have united to save the Latin plant name of the sweet potato, *Ipomoea batatas*. A rename would have cost the food industry and agriculture sector millions and caused massive disruption. Preserving the current name will help secure the crop for the future and conserve its wild relatives. The sweet potato is part of a large group of 900 species in the genus *Ipomoea*, which also includes the ornamental and weedy morning glory flowers. These related species, which constitute the crop's wild cousins, are crucial for understanding important survival traits of sweet potato and for identifying potential new crops that could be more suited to a changing climate. Since the 1970s, the species that is used to define the genus *Ipomoea* (called the 'type species') has been one very distantly related to the sweet potato. When new DNA-based advances in plant classification threatened to split the genus into several groups and rename the sweet potato, serious concerns were raised for the agricultural sector, which relies on hundreds of thousands of sweet potato and morning glory samples worldwide for crop breeding and improvement. A change in the scientific name of sweet potato would result in numerous updates in legislation and health and safety guidelines as well as administrative, packaging and marketing updates for companies that directly commercialize these species, or any of its by-products. All of this would cost a huge amount of money and cause disruption to the food industry.

An example of such negative impact is the change in the scientific name of tomato which recently caused frustration in crop science and industry, who had to meet unexpected costs and bureaucratic requirements to make the change. Nine species of *Ipomoea* related to

cultivated sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*), including *Ipomoea triloba* from Brazil, were targeted for seed collection as part of our recently concluded Crop Wild Relatives project. Mostly cultivated in the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and East and Southeast Asia, sweet potato is the world's seventh most important food crop so is crucial for global food security. Crop breeders are seeking to exploit the genetic diversity of sweet potato wild relatives to make the crop more drought tolerant and resistant to diseases.

In the recently published study, Dr Lauren Eserman of the Atlanta Botanical Garden and Dr Ana Rita Simões brought together a network of sweet potato experts to find a solution. They propose to conserve a different 'type species' for *Ipomoea*, selecting a close relative of sweet potato which would secure the crop's name while allowing possible renaming of some groups of species that are not as closely related. Ana said: 'It is difficult to communicate to governmental authorities, and the wide public, that a species called *Ipomoea* is not a cultivated or introduced plant. For this reason, these are often overlooked in conservation assessments and this could explain why, of the 900 species currently named *Ipomoea*, only 36 are on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. We hope this fight to save the crops' name will bring attention to the threats on sweet potato's most distant wild relatives, which currently suffer from being associated with the crop, and are seen as of less priority for conservation. The possibility to change their names will make a huge difference for environmentalists on the ground who are putting forward these conservation efforts, especially in tropical countries which are under severe development pressure.'

February

Right tree, right place. Kew scientists and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) have set out ten 'golden rules' for reforestation, published in the leading journal *Global Change Biology*. Drawn up in response to the damage some large-scale tree planting schemes are seen to be inflicting on the environment, the rules provide nature-based solutions to protect and restore global forests. The list highlights how forests can be restored along with the benefits of maximising carbon capture to mitigate global warming, recovering ecosystems, and helping people's livelihoods. The report generated extensive media coverage with lead author Kate Hardwick in particular having a busy day of interviews. There are many ambitious tree-planting initiatives across the globe, all of which aim to capture enormous quantities of carbon to compensate for the huge CO₂ emissions that are a major cause of rising global temperatures. Research for the report found that in some cases planned tree planting does not actually increase carbon capture and can have long-term negative impacts on biodiversity, landscapes and livelihoods. One such example is in South Africa, when the non-native Australian acacias were introduced for dune stabilisation and timber during the 19th and 20th centuries. The acacias became invasive, spreading widely across vast areas of land, taking over the natural heathlands and grasslands and lowering the water table. It now costs the country the equivalent of millions of pounds to clear them every year.

Tony Kirkham to leave Kew after 43 years' service by Richard Barley, Director of Horticulture. Kew's Head of Arboretum and Horticulture Services Tony Kirkham has decided to retire in late July this year, bringing to a close a career at Kew spanning 43 years. Tony joined Kew through the Kew Diploma course in 1978 and was recruited onto the staff on graduation. Through the four decades since then he has had responsibility for various aspects of Kew's outdoor operations, with his main focus being his special area of knowledge and interest, developing the tree collections in the Arboretum. He was actively involved in various collecting trips to rebuild Kew's tree collections following the storms of 1987 and 1990 and has continued to guide the further development of our diverse collections since that time.

In addition to this living legacy, Tony has been central to the development of the new Arboretum Nursery, and the soon to be completed Arboretum HQ building in the Stable Yard. Our Arboretum team will appreciate these state-of-the-art facilities for many years into the future. Anyone who knows Tony will be well aware of his passion for Kew. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to Kew, Tony was awarded the William Aiton Medal in 2016.

Tony's contributions to the arboriculture and horticulture professions more widely throughout his career have also been recognised through various prestigious awards, including the Arboricultural Association's Honorary Lifetime Fellowship (2015), the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour (2019), and in the same year Tony was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours list. Tony has also been a long-serving member of the RHS's Woody Plant Committee and the Yorkshire Arboretum Trust, and is Chairman of the Chelsea Physic Garden Advisory Committee, among other appointments. Tony will bring his substantial Kew innings to close at the end of July this year, so there will be plenty of opportunities for all of his friends and colleagues to catch up, share a memory and wish him well for the future in the coming months.

March

Women who transformed the world of plants and fungi, by Grace Brewer. Kew's women gardeners, November 1916, during World War I. During the war women's roles at Kew continued to grow. They worked in the Herbarium as assistants alongside men, while in the gardens, three women held posts as foremen. In honour of International Women's Day yesterday, read about leading female plant and fungal scientists and illustrators associated with RBG Kew and our first trailblazing female horticulturists, in this article by Grace Brewer adapted from her blog on kew.org.

Beatrix Potter (1866–1943). Beatrix Potter was a remarkable woman. Widely recognised as an excellent writer and illustrator of some of the most beloved children's books, such as *The Tales of Peter Rabbit*, many of us may not appreciate that she was also a scientist fascinated by fungi. Beatrix studied and conducted experiments on fungi reproduction and development. She also used a microscope to draw hundreds of highly detailed illustrations of fungi, a couple of which we house in our Library, Art and Archives collection. The very first illustration in Britain of the fungus *Tremella simplex* was created by Beatrix Potter.

Elsie Wakefield (1886–1972). The entire works of Elsie Wakefield, fungus scientist (mycologist) and illustrator, can also be found in our Library, Art and Archives collection. Elsie was Head of Kew Mycology in 1915 and Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium from 1945 to 1951. She published around 100 papers on fungi and plants and wrote two field guides on British fungi. Elsie also named and described many new species of fungi and produced beautiful watercolour illustrations of the species she identified.

Elizabeth Blackwell (1707–1758). Scientists at Kew used the International Plant Names Index's author database to research the contributions women have made to naming and describing plants. This research revealed that Elizabeth Blackwell was the first woman to publish a plant name under the binomial naming system in 1757. This naming system, which is still used to this day, was devised by Carl Linnaeus in 1753 and means that scientific names comprise of two parts: genus and species.

Marianne North (1830–1890). Many botanical artists have had a huge impact on our current understanding of plants. Marianne North was a remarkable plant hunter and botanical painter. She created over 800 paintings of more than 900 species of plants during

her solo travels across the world in the late 1800s. These masterpieces now line the walls of the Marianne North gallery.

Horticulturists during the First World War. When the First World War broke out in 1914, Kew employed female horticulturists to replace the men who had left to join the war effort. The women were first appointed to the Herbaceous grounds, Rock Gardens and Flower Gardens, and later went on to work in the glasshouses as more men left Kew. Over 30 women gardeners worked at Kew until 1918; they were instrumental to maintaining the Gardens during the war. During their time at Kew, the women gardeners also attempted to improve working conditions by petitioning on issues such as hours of work and rates of pay on behalf of both women and men. Read the full text of Grace's blog here: <https://www.kew.org/read-and-watch/celebrating-women-international-womens-day>

Dirt on our hands: overcoming botany's hidden legacy of inequality. The first series of RBG Kew's critically-acclaimed podcast, 'Unearthed: Mysteries from an Unseen World', concluded with a special episode which sees the landscape of the garden examined in relation to diversity, inclusivity, and decolonisation and shines a light on the significant role botanic gardens have played in history, and the barriers to horticulture that exist today.

Hosted by Kew ambassador James Wong, the episode features Advolly Richmond, Gardener's World presenter, Richard Choksey, former Kew diploma student, now studying for a Masters in global history, Kew Science's Sophie Richards in conversation with Richard Deverell, Renee Cawthorne, manager of First Nations Education and Engagement at RBG Sydney, and Tayshan Hayden-Smith, who turned to gardening in the wake of Grenfell, encouraging his north Kensington community to find solace through growing. This range of voices, from within and outside RBG Kew, share individual knowledge of the role of economic botany during empire, and experience of the barriers preventing people from accessing green spaces and horticultural and botanical careers. This hour-long episode looks at how Kew's legacy should be used in the 21st century. Is it by re-telling our story, unveiling the cultures that contributed to the evolution of the Gardens, thereby reframing who Kew 'belongs to' and making the Gardens a more comfortable space for diverse audiences? Or is it by striving for stronger representation across senior staff, demonstrating that a career in, or passion for, horticulture and plant science is for everyone? The podcast is now available on [kew.org](https://www.kew.org) along with the six previous episodes: <https://www.kew.org/about-us/virtual-kew-wakehurst/unearthed-kew-podcast>

Five new Trustees for RBG Kew. Defra ministers have appointed Professor Christopher Gilligan, Sir Paul Nurse, David Richardson, Judith Batchelar and Professor Ian Graham as members of the Board of Trustees for terms of three years. Christopher, Sir Paul and David officially started on 8 March, while Judith starts on 1 April, and Ian on 1 November.

The new Trustees join current board members Dame Amelia Fawcett, Nick Baird, Catherine Dugmore, Professor Liam Dolan, Sarah Flannigan, Professor Sue Hartley, Krishnan Guru-Murthy and Jantien Klein Roseboom. Dame Amelia, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said: 'I am delighted to welcome these talented individuals to the Board of Trustees. Each one brings significant expertise and experience that will add a great deal to an already strong Board. This is an important time for Kew, as we launch our 10-year strategy, and each of these new Trustees will have an important role to play in our mission to end the extinction crisis and to help create a world where nature is protected and managed sustainably, for the benefit of humanity and our planet.'

Departing Trustees. Val Gooding's term ends on 31 March while Ian Karet, Michael Lear and Sir Derek Myers have already completed their terms as Trustees: thank you to all for

their outstanding service and commitment.

Introducing our new membership for young people. RBG Kew will be offering a dedicated young person's membership for those aged 16 to 24. This is an exciting opportunity to bring membership to a whole new audience, so they can enjoy our two beautiful gardens as often as they wish.

Why are we introducing a young person membership? Our manifesto for change commits us to train and equip the next generation to meet the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change, and to welcome new audiences to Kew. Young person membership will help us achieve both these aims, whilst generating key income. Young people are already a significant group of visitors to Kew. Since June last year, nearly 20% of day paying visitors to the Gardens have bought a young person or student ticket. Our research suggests, however that young people are only a small part of our membership base. Many similar organisations already have a membership specifically for young adults: for example, the British Museum, National Trust and English Heritage all offer memberships for individuals within a similar age bracket to our young person membership. So, we know that young adults enjoy visiting Kew and that peer organisations have successfully launched membership products for young adults.

How much will it cost? Our new membership will cost £42 when paid for in cash or by credit or debit card and £32 when paid by direct debit – around half the cost of an adult membership.

What are the benefits? Like other members, young person members will benefit from unlimited visits to Kew and Wakehurst, get a 10% discount in our online and onsite shops, access to exclusive events and discounts on public events, early access to the gardens in the summer, and three issues of Kew magazine a year. The only benefit they won't enjoy is family guest access: their membership will only cover the individual named on the membership card. We are really looking forward to the launch of our young person membership. Thank you to everyone who has helped with its development.

April

Kew and Wakehurst move up ALVA visitor rankings. Kew Gardens appears in the top ten most visited attractions in the latest figures from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) for the 2020 calendar year, up from 11th place in 2019 to 4th with 1,226,289 visits (2,316,699 in 2019). Wakehurst moved up an incredible 86 places from 114 to 28 with 342,545 visits (364,236 in 2019). The changes reflect the important role played by gardens and other open spaces in a year where many attractions were forced to close for extended periods.

25 Year Volunteer Long Service Awards 2020 – Jenny Long & Sue Goddard by Justine Parker. Last year we discovered the need to introduce a 25-year Volunteer Long Service Award and we designed a shiny new lapel badge! The recipients also receive a letter and a Hardback Kew publication both signed by the Director. This year volunteers Jenny Long and Sue Goddard received the award for service up to the end of 2020. Funnily enough, Jenny told us that she only started volunteering at Kew because Sue – who was already volunteering – talked her into it! When I suggested sending the awards to Jenny and Sue by post, they both offered to come in and collect them as they each live within walking distance.

I met them in the gardens on Tuesday 30th March and gave them their awards and we then

enjoyed a cup of coffee – socially distanced – sitting in front of the Palm House. Congratulations once again to Jenny, Sue and all the 2020 Volunteer Long Service Award recipients! Kew celebrates and thanks you, our volunteers, whose gifts of time and talent make such an invaluable contribution to our mission. Despite the pandemic, it was gratifying to be able to celebrate this contribution by continuing with our long service volunteer awards programme and our externally sponsored Marsh Trust awards programme – two small ways of highlighting some of the many, many sterling volunteer contributions to RBG Kew.

Forgotten wild species could save our morning coffee. A study published this week, led by Kew scientists, sets out how *Coffea stenophylla*, a rare and threatened ‘forgotten’ coffee species from West Africa that grows at higher temperatures and has a superior flavour could help to future-proof the coffee industry against climate change. Once widely farmed in Upper West Africa, until 2018 *stenophylla* had not been seen in the wild since 1954. In December 2018, Aaron Davis travelled to Sierra Leone to locate the species in the wild along with partners in the project.

Aaron said: ‘Future-proofing the coffee supply chain to deal with climate change is vital – coffee drives a multi-billion dollar global industry, supports the economy of several tropical countries, and provides livelihoods for more than 100 million coffee farmers. To find a coffee species that flourishes at higher temperatures and has an excellent flavour is a once in a lifetime scientific discovery – this species could be essential for the future of high-quality coffee.’

Justin Moat led on the climate analysis in the paper and said: ‘It is widely known that our beloved Arabica coffee is being impacted by climate change, and so the results of the study are extremely exciting. Our analysis shows that *stenophylla* coffee grows at substantially higher temperatures than Arabica, providing the sort of robust differences we need if we are to have any chance of a sustainable coffee sector under climate change.’

The taste test. There are 124 species of coffee, but we rely on just two for 99% of our coffee consumption: Arabica and robusta, making up 56% and 43% of global production respectively. A small sample of the coffee from Sierra Leone was assessed by an expert tasting panel at Union Hand- Roasted Coffee in London and compared favourably with Arabica and robusta. The panel awarded a speciality score of 80.25 – to reach ‘speciality’ status, a coffee needs a score of 80 points or higher.

While *Coffea stenophylla* is classified on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as ‘Vulnerable’, so more work is needed to safeguard it in the wild, it’s also reported to be drought tolerant, though this requires more research. The work was carried out in conjunction with the University of Greenwich, CIRAD (the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development) and partners in Sierra Leone.

May

Kew Gardens: ‘A Year in Bloom’ comes to Channel 5. Tune in this week and spread the word to your friends and family. This new series of four episodes filmed at Kew and Wakehurst includes never before seen footage of both gardens during closure in the spring of 2020 and a look behind the scenes with many of our horticulturists and scientists. The series starts on Thursday 13 May at 8pm. The series takes viewers behind the scenes for a glimpse of what makes Kew so special, in a year unlike any other. From our ground-breaking science, to our future-proofing botany, the series provides a special insight into the wonder of our living collections, and how we maintain, study, and protect one of the

most diverse collections on the planet. Channel 5 was granted unprecedented access to film across both Kew Gardens and Wakehurst and had special permission to film behind the scenes during lockdown with ‘Covid Secure’ precautions. Each of the four episodes – one for each season, opening with Winter – follows the day-to-day work, trials and joys of the horticulture teams caring for the living collections and a look behind the scenes with some of our scientists researching pollination, finding critical solutions to the Ash dieback disease killing our trees, and searching the world for future foods to feed the growing population of a heating planet.

‘This year has been incredibly difficult for many visitor attractions, and we have most definitely felt this at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Watching this life-affirming series has reminded me of the many fabulous moments during 2020 which has been so dominated by the global pandemic. I am very proud to see how this new TV series shines a light on our staff and the important work they do to care for our collections and the vital research they undertake. They really are the backbone of our glorious organisation.’ – Richard Deverell.

June

Building for the future: our new Arboretum HQ. Dame Judi Dench cut the ‘ribbon’ on our new Arboretum HQ building last week, marking the official opening of our first net zero ready building, which will make a significant contribution to achieving our ambitious sustainability target of becoming climate positive by 2030. Funded entirely by philanthropy, the building was completed within budget and on schedule in just 39 weeks and handed over to the Arboretum team on 20 May.

The building materials and methods were chosen for minimal impact on the environment during construction and throughout the building’s lifespan. The main fabric of the building is cross-laminated timber (CLT), widely accepted as one of the most sustainable structural materials available, and Kew timber was used to complete the staircase handrail and window reveals. Most of the building’s energy needs will be met by 38 solar photovoltaic panels on the roof which will generate local, green electricity, while low-carbon, energy-efficient heating and hot water is provided by an air source pump, and there is a natural ventilation system to cool the building. After the opening, Tony Kirkham said: ‘It was a great event and at last the Arboretum has a HQ that is fit for purpose and that all the staff can be proud of.’

July

Japanese ambassador visits Kew Gardens. Ambassador Hayashi Hajime, and three other guests from the Japanese Embassy visited Kew Gardens earlier this week to find out more about this October’s Japan Festival. This was the new Ambassador of Japan to the UK’s first visit to Kew. The party visited the Japanese Gateway and the Minka House, where they met Horticulturist Jake Davies Robinson who talked to them about these unique buildings. The ambassador also visited the Temperate House, where Paul Denton, Head of Visitor Programmes and Exhibitions, gave him an overview of the forthcoming festival and told him how we are working with different artists to bring Japanese culture to life. He also met Corin Golding and David Cooke who talked about the Chrysanthemum displays which will be on show in the Temperate House during the festival in October. The embassy visitors were accompanied by Richard Deverell, Richard Barley, Sandra Botterell, Masumi Yamanaka, Kew Botanical Artist and Ciara O’ Sullivan, and the visit ended with lunch at the newly reopened Botanical.

Japan Festival 2021. This autumn’s festival runs in the Temperate House from 2 October

to 31 October, celebrating the rich and fascinating culture of Japan, featuring stunning large-scale art and horticultural installations. Internationally renowned Japanese artist Chiharu Shiota will install a brand new, bespoke artwork in the Temperate House called One Thousand Springs, featuring 5,000 haikus. Other highlights will include a Chrysanthemum display, celebrating Japan's national flower, a beautiful and elegant Chalk Garden co-designed by a Japanese architect, and an emotive soundscape capturing the natural sounds of the rivers and waterfalls of Kagoshima.

New Director of Wakehurst appointed. In preparation for the departure of Tony Sweeney from the role of Director of Wakehurst in September this year, an appointment panel has selected Ed Ikin for the newly redefined position of Director. Ed joined the Wakehurst team in 2015 after a successful career with the National Trust. His Wakehurst role evolved to be Deputy Director, and Head of Landscape, Horticulture and Research. During 2017-18 Ed also completed the Clore Leadership Programme as a Clore Heritage Fellow. Recently he has been a central figure in the development of the Wakehurst landscape ecology identity, and the development and review of the site masterplan.

Richard Deverell comments: 'Ed is a brilliant appointment to lead the next chapter for Wakehurst. He has a clear vision for the site that weaves together ecology, horticulture, public engagement and commercial growth. He is an energetic and persuasive advocate for Wakehurst and RBG Kew and will, I'm sure, prove to be a transformational leader. I wish him every success and will offer every possible support.' Please join us in congratulating Ed on his appointment to this critically important role. Richard Barley.

Tackling climate change: Special Presidential Envoy for Climate speech at Kew Gardens. Kew Gardens hosted a very important visitor recently, as John Kerry, the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, gave a major speech outlining what major nations must do if environmental and social devastation from runaway climate warming is to be averted. The event was co-hosted by Chatham House and RBG Kew. In a livestreamed address in the Nash Conservatory in front of a small, invited audience, which included London Mayor Sadiq Khan and Ed Miliband, Shadow Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, he called upon the leaders of G20 nations to urgently share both concrete road maps and detailed financial commitments on how they intend to meet targets in the next decade and meet net zero emissions by 2050.

Special Envoy Kerry said: 'We can – and must – achieve this together – especially knowing the triumph or tragedy of the two alternative worlds that await our choices. I believe we will get to the low carbon economy we urgently need. But without greater urgency and effort, it is not clear we will get there in time.' The speech was made ahead of an upcoming gathering of G20 environment ministers in Naples after which Special Envoy Kerry will return to London for further discussions with counterparts ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow starting on 30 October. Special Envoy Kerry was introduced by our chair, Dame Amelia Fawcett, who said: 'The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew strongly supports the US Administration's commitment to nature-based solutions. We share the belief that achieving net-zero by 2050 will not be possible without nature. Biodiversity is a valuable and largely untapped resource and at Kew, we know that plants and fungi offer solutions to many of the challenges we face. However, at current rates of biodiversity loss, we risk losing nature's secrets before we can unlock them and with that, we lose ways of mitigating and adapting to climate change as well. The need for concerted, global action has never been greater.' Before the speech, Special Envoy Kerry met Kew scientists, including Tim Utteridge, in the Herbarium to find out more about our work.

Thanks to all those – from the Events team, the Venue Hire Team, Horticulture, Science, Government Affairs and the Communications team – who helped to bring the event together.

August

Wakehurst's black gold: coppicing and charcoal. Wakehurst lies in the western edge of a medieval landscape known as the High Weald an area with at least 70% ancient woodland. For centuries, this woodland has been managed for coppice and charcoal production. A walk in Wakehurst's woodlands will reveal old charcoal burners' 'clamps', small flat areas with a distinctive curved bank and blacked soils. These clamps follow the routes of woodland streams as the charcoal burners would need water for cooking, cleaning and damping down the kilns. There is evidence that Wakehurst was producing huge amounts of charcoal to support the massive iron industry which thrived from pre-Roman times through to the blast furnaces in the eighteenth century.

At Wakehurst we fulfil Kew's objective to ensure better management of the earth's resources by sustainably managing our woodlands through the skilled ancient art of coppicing. This restores over-mature coppice and brings back to life derelict unmanaged woodland, back into a cycle to produce a rich and diverse habitat. Less than 5% of charcoal is made in the UK with the remainder being imported from unsustainable harvesting in the tropical forests across the world. In Uganda charcoal is referred to as the black gold by the local villagers who produce charcoal.

Heating not burning. Charcoal burning may not be the correct name as we burners do not want to burn the wood as this will only produce ash. We need to put the wood through a process of restricting oxygen so as not to produce a flame but heat the wood up to 450 degrees over a long period of time, sometimes 24 hours. The kiln is stacked with mainly hardwoods: ash, oak, birch, alder, oak, sweet chestnut, hazel and – the very best – the iron hard hornbeam. This would have been coppiced and stacked in the winter and left to air dry. The first phase of the burn, up to 250 degrees, is to force out the water, then, as the kiln heats up, the volatile substances such as tars and oils will be expelled from the wood. Four tonnes of wood will roughly yield half a tonne of charcoal. English lump wood charcoal contains as much as 90% carbon, making it superior to imported charcoal which can have as little as 30% carbon.

Charcoal has many uses. We make charcoal at Wakehurst to sell in our shop as 'Bar B Kew' charcoal and produce around 250 bags. Charcoal has many uses, however, other than burning sausages washed down with lager. In the past finely graded charcoal has been sent to Kew to be used in the soils in the glasshouses. Charcoal can absorb gases and impurities used in chemical, water and vodka filtration. In medicine charcoal biscuits are used to absorb poisons. Charcoal soap is claimed to be highly beneficial to improve skin quality and even charcoal toothpaste may produce an even whiter smile – best I start using it. And the smoke of the kiln produces a very distinct smell which seems to appeal to the nose of passing females. Perhaps this is how the lonely burner attracted his partners. For me I feel privileged to carry on the tradition of the dirty grubby faced charcoal burner, sometimes regarded as a social outcast but surrounded by nature that does not question you. As I move through the woodlands with my kiln I too leave my history for hopefully the next generations of burners to follow. Steven Robinson, Wakehurst Conservation Supervisor.

September

Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta awarded 14th Kew International Medal. Renowned economist Sir Partha Dasgupta received the prestigious award for work to protect nature and stop biodiversity loss and following his ground-breaking report *The Economics of Biodiversity*. The medal was presented at an event in the Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre which was also broadcast online. Delivering a lecture at the ceremony, Sir Partha said: ‘We need to create an affection for nature. That desecrating nature is in a sense desecrating ourselves. Now how do you do that? Education, we need to understand nature, what Kew does for example. To develop an affection requires an understanding of the amazing mystery of what’s going on in keeping it alive.’

Professor Dasgupta was selected for his vital work on the economics of biodiversity review, which was published earlier this year. The review is the first of its kind, providing a comprehensive framework for thinking about and approaching economics, and the decisions it gives rise to, in a way which properly accounts for the natural world. It reinforces the compelling narrative that ‘business as usual’ is no longer an option for the future of planet and people.

Accepting his award, Sir Partha said: “Our long-term prosperity relies on rebalancing our demand of Nature’s goods and services with its capacity to supply them. To do so requires bringing face to face economics and ecology. I’m delighted and honoured to accept this award, from a world-renowned institution which continues to contribute so much to our understanding of the latter”. Before the ceremony, Sir Partha was given a tour of the Gardens, including visits to the Herbarium, Palm House and the Evolution Garden. A lunch was held for Sir Partha and his guests in Cambridge Cottage after the ceremony.

One in three tree species face extinction: new report. The first-ever State of the World’s Trees report, compiled through the work led by the Global Tree Assessment (GTA), to which RBG Kew contributes, and published by Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), reveals that there are twice the number of threatened tree species than threatened mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles combined. The report documents the conservation status of the world’s nearly 60,000 tree species.

Other key findings in the report include:

- Well-known trees such as magnolias and dipterocarps are among the most threatened, with oaks, maple (*Acer*) and ebonies also at risk
- Islands including St Helena (69% of trees threatened), Madagascar (59%) and Mauritius (57%) have the highest proportion of threatened trees
- Agriculture, logging, and livestock farming are the top threats but climate change and extreme weather are emerging dangers

The report finds hope for the future, however, as conservation efforts led by the botanical community worldwide are growing. Identifying which trees are at risk and ensuring these are protected is the most effective way to prevent extinction and restore endangered species. At least 64% of all tree species can be found in at least one protected area, and about 30% can be found in botanic gardens, seed banks, or other *ex situ* collections, but further action is needed. The State of the World’s Trees report brings together research from over 60 institutional partners, including RBG Kew and other botanic gardens, forestry institutions and universities worldwide.

Over the past five years, Kew scientists and our scientific partners worldwide have contributed many hundreds of extinction risk assessments of tree species to the Global

Tree Assessment. Our assessments included trees from the dry forests of Madagascar to the rainforests of South America and West Africa and have already been effective in contributing to preventing deforestation in Cameroon and supporting designation of protected areas in Guinea. Read the full report on the BGCI website.

October

Visit by HRH, The Prince of Wales and the President of Gabon by Fern Stoner, Director of Resources. Last week we were delighted to welcome HRH, Prince of Wales and the President of Gabon, with a small group of CEOs to promote the importance of HRH's Sustainable Market Initiative in addressing the critical challenges facing nature and humanity from the biodiversity and climate crises. The aim of the visit was to engage the CEOs with Kew's work and explore opportunities. The group was welcomed by Amelia Fawcett, Richard Deverell and Alex Antonelli, spent time in the Herbarium hearing from Tim Utteridge and Aaron Davis about the importance of Kew's collections and our research work. Our VIPs were also shown a specimen of a species of cucumber brought back from the Galapagos Islands by Charles Darwin, a type of legume only found in Gabon, a rhododendron from the mountains of Papua New Guinea and beans from the Zanzibar coffee plant, which was Queen Victoria's favourite coffee.

We then moved on to the Jodrell, stopping briefly in the grass garden, much to the surprise of some visitors taking a break on a bench. In the Jodrell, Monique Simmonds, Peter Gasson, Victor Deklerck and Bill Baker talked about aspects of our research work. A month ahead of COP26, the Prince and the President were joined by CEOs from Charles's Sustainable Markets Initiative for a behind-the-scenes look at some of our crucial work on biodiversity and how it can relate to business. The visit was short and content rich, and those attending learnt much about the work of Kew. We hope to build on these new relationships over coming months. President Ondimba was visiting with Gabon's Minister for the Environment, Professor Lee White. Gabon is a leader in biodiversity and forest preservation. We launched the new science strategy and were able to share a preview copy with HRH and our guests. My thanks for Vicki Harrison and Georgie Darroch for organising this complex and time pressured event. And my thanks to all those across Kew who were involved – including Laura and Jess, Foundation, Press, Constabulary and Science. This was an extremely collaborative undertaking – much appreciated by all who attended.

Clog and Apron race report. This year's clog and apron race was somewhat different than in previous years, Covid regulations had meant we were unable to run the race last year for C58, so this year we had two races! We were also joined by a film crew, Channel 5 commissioning a second series of the popular Kew in Bloom TV series meant that the clog and apron race was on their radar. Clogs and aprons are issued in the school, along with some race rules and safety info. Following this, the students and SoH staff head to the start of the race at Elizabeth Gate, quite a sight and sound as they clatter along. C59, our newest Kew Diploma intake (and day two of being at Kew) were first to run with Henry Welch winning the race and Al Coffey a close second – a record time of 1 min 10 seconds. C58 followed, they have been waiting a year for this, so anticipation was building, a few of the students were keen to get that trophy.....a close race ensued with Lewis Barret and Tim Shaw neck-and-neck for much of the race, with Lewis edging into a lead and winning the race in the last few metres with a new record time of 1 minute 2 seconds; well done Lewis and commiserations Henry, that must have been the shortest time a record run has been held.

Watch Richard's HARDtalk interview on BBC iPlayer. Richard Deverell recently gave

an in-depth interview to Stephen Sackur, the presenter of HARDtalk, BBC World News' flagship current affairs interview programme. The programme is now live on iPlayer and aired around the world on BBC World TV on 8 October at various times. Richard talks about all we are doing at RBG Kew, the ambitions in our manifesto and of the commitment of the people who work here to make a difference. In the run-up to COP 26, the programme will give those who see it a renewed understanding of the role of botanic gardens and botanical science in tackling big issues, while the footage of the Gardens, by Digital Experience's Ben Witt, showcases the beauty and wonder of RBG Kew.

Kew Declaration on Reforestation published. Over 3,000 global experts and concerned citizens from 114 countries have supported and signed the Kew Declaration on Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods that aims to promote the long-term protection and restoration of natural forest ecosystems worldwide. Published today in the journal *Plants, People, Planet*, the declaration, based on a synthesis of evidence, discussions and conclusions presented at the Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Livelihoods conference, hosted by Kew and BGCI earlier this year, encourages policies and frameworks to protect intact forests and ensure effective restoration strategies to safeguard biodiversity, mitigate climate change and improve livelihoods. It also incorporates evidence published in the scientific literature, including the 'Ten golden rules for reforestation', published to coincide with the conference.

Tree planting is often seen as an easy answer to the climate crisis and a convenient way for corporate entities to mitigate their carbon emissions, but inappropriate tree planting can cause more harm than good to both nature and people. The list of signatories, which came from 423 organisations and 2,612 individuals, includes 1t.org, Trillion Trees, the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, the World Agroforestry Centre, Plan Vivo, Ecosia and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Dr Kate Hardwick, Conservation Partnership Coordinator at RBG Kew says, "The loss of natural forest habitat has a devastating impact on biodiversity, climate change, the livelihoods of local and indigenous people and the spread of zoonotic diseases. We want policy makers, funders and project managers to make the protection of existing natural forests their top priority, and then to safeguard and enhance biodiversity at every stage of the reforestation process.

Re-wilding Britain - Nature based Economies. It's a common misconception that rewilding means fewer job and volunteering opportunities. After all, letting natural processes take the lead implies that fewer people are needed to work the land. Analysis of rewilding estates across England in 2021 shows that this is not the case. Rewilding has led to an increase in jobs and volunteering opportunities over the last 10 years. Following an analysis of 33 projects, rewilding has led to 54% increase in jobs and Volunteer roles increased from 61 – 810!

November

Ash dieback: a storm in slow motion by Russell Croft, Arboretum Manager, Wakehurst. In 2011 we had a visit from the Forestry Commission to talk to us about a new threat to ash trees in the UK. The team walked through Pearcelands wood looking at the mature ash and the small saplings, talking about the key identifying features we would expect to see, I don't think any of us there really comprehended what our woods would look like a decade later.

Ten years on. Now, ten years later, the reality has hit home and the visible extent of change around us has become clear. The views from the Coronation Meadow across the valley to Tilgate wood, which should be lush green, are showing a patchwork of dismal and sparsely

leafed trees running through the Alder Carr woodland. As you walk through the arboreta you really see the whole spectrum of die back and for us it's shocking how quickly some trees have gone from healthy to dead over a couple of years whilst others linger somewhere in between. One of the team has described it as watching a storm in slow motion and I can't think of a better way of describing it. When doing our annual survey of crown density, which helps us record the health and rate of decline in the ash population, occasionally we find a healthy tree and it's a stark reminder of what level of dieback we are now used to seeing.

For us as an arboriculture team it is throwing up a lot of practical problems as we look at removing large trees surrounded by valuable botanic specimens. It's fair to say we are constantly weighing up our options and it's fortunate we have a team with a real depth of knowledge and experience. A recent addition, specifically employed to help with the ash dieback work, has already had a big impact freeing up time for us to keep up with our day-to-day work of inspections, planting and arboretum work as well as plan what we need to do to keep the Gardens and woodlands open and safe.

New skills, new equipment, new knowledge needed. 2019 marked a big change for us as we brought in contractors to remove dangerous ash trees alongside our main roadside boundary. The use of specialist equipment and the scale of the work that was carried out really highlighted a shift in approach that the arboriculture industry will have to undergo to deal with this problem as time moves on. Unfortunately, this equipment is not always practical to use because of its size, so a varied approach combining equipment, skills and practical knowledge will be needed as we deal with this work in the years to come. This will be the case for all those involved in arboriculture and forestry across the UK as we develop practices that utilise the best of our skills and new equipment that becomes available.

Scale of the problem. A conservative estimate of ash trees growing in the wider landscapes at Wakehurst would be around 20,000 trees. Work in the LVR and SSSI woodlands requires a careful and sensitive approach in our woodland management. Due to the sheer scale of the problem some of these areas will unfortunately need to be closed to the public as we move forward. In the gardens there are 356 ash trees that will require remedial work or felling to provide a safe environment for staff, visitors and public over the next five to ten years.

Waste wood not wasted. Some the waste wood we have produced has gone to a local biomass company and the wood chip is helping to sustainably heat Ardingly College and a nearby outdoor activities centre. The rest of it goes to the biomass power station in Kent or perhaps to Heathrow to heat Terminal 5.

A positive development. An unintentional but positive development is that new views and sight lines are being opened up and trees that might previously have been hidden are being revealed. Also, where we have struggled to find space for new plantings in the past, we now begin to have options in the arboreta that were never considered before. We have also been seed collecting on site so we can begin replanting in our woodlands to support the natural regeneration that will begin to occur as increased light makes its way to the canopy floor. Protecting these new saplings from deer and squirrels will become a priority as we manage the woodlands in the future.

Hope for the future. Hopefully as we go forward more resistant trees will be found or work being done by Kew will help preserve the ash trees of the future. But we may, as we have done with elm, just become accustomed to a changed tree landscape. Just having had a

new addition to the family I am certainly more mindful now of the changes that climate, plant health and imported pest and disease are having on our native species and worldwide. It's great to be able to see the MSB here at Wakehurst daily to be reminded of all the work that has gone on with seed conservation. Our team has been able to help contribute to this over the years and working on the UK native tree seed project is something we all feel especially proud of.

Generation Earthshot – a visit from the royals. A school from Hounslow visited Kew in October to participate in a workshop with Prince William and Kate Middleton, exploring the five themes of the Earthshot prize. On arriving at Kew, Helen Gill and Kate Graham welcomed the school group and excited them about Kew's work before the Royal visit. Kate gave the children a tour of the Hive, sharing about the importance of pollinators and the work of Kew in this area. They then went to the Nash Conservatory for a series of activities and were joined by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the Mayor of London, Steve Backshall and Helen Glover. The children were asked to explore different ideas to save the planet. Kate also attended the workshop to encourage discussion among the school children. Prince William said: They were asked to come up with some really crazy ideas, think out of the box. But actually, some of the things they said has already been worked on by scientists, which shows how bright they are and are thinking on the right track."

The Frontline Taskforce – the Tour Guides by volunteer Sheila Cox. So often each week we read in Kew and You of the many varied pursuits undertaken by volunteers at both Kew and Wakehurst but let's not forget that intrepid band of volunteers who meet the general public face to face. In all weather conditions, often dealing with a mixture of cultures with varying degrees of interest in horticulture, we aim to excite and delight our visitors with "little gems" that we hope will make that visit more memorable and hopefully in so doing ensure that they will want to return to our beautiful gardens again and again. So, three Christmas cheers to the volunteer guides at both Kew and Wakehurst. Sheila Cox.

December

Our new disability language and etiquette guide by Eleanor Cocks, Community & Access Learning Manager. Last Friday we celebrated the International Day of Disabled People and we are excited to be launching a new disability language and etiquette guide. We are engaging in #PurpleLightUp, a global movement that celebrates and raises awareness of the economic contribution of the 386 million disabled employees worldwide. This is a campaign led by the organisation PurpleSpace as a mark of respect to the International Day of Disabled People. Launching this guide on this day and changing our Kewnet banner for the day to celebrate #PurpleLightUp is only a first step on a journey to make Kew a more accessible place to both visit and work. The disability language and etiquette guide will help everyone at Kew to feel more confident in engaging with people who have access requirements, whether they are visitors, staff or volunteers. It was produced by Goss Consultancy and was informed by the Kew access forum, our HR team and Visitor Operations.

What does it include? The guide adheres to the social model of disability which is based on the principle that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairments or differences. It offers some general guidance as well as specific advice for different access requirements. I would encourage all staff and volunteers to take the time to read the guide. It is written in a friendly, simple style which should be accessible to all. I have learned a lot through the process of commissioning it and have found myself sharing guidance with friends and family. I hope you find it useful and please don't hesitate to get

in touch if you have any questions. Don't forget that the Kew Access Forum is also in place to support the organisation with accessibility projects so let me know if you want to draw on their support!

'Christmas Magic at Kew Gardens' – not to mention Wakehurst – yesterday. This one off seasonal special, shot behind the scenes at Kew and Wakehurst, was shown on Channel 5. The Christmas special followed our staff as they were preparing for one of the busiest times of the year. From the tree gang hanging lights on Britain's tallest living Christmas tree at Wakehurst and festive pruning taking place in the Temperate House at Kew Gardens, to watching Kew's scientists propagating holly and discovering the horticultural importance of Frankincense, the programme shared a side to Kew and Christmas that's never been seen before. It featured a special festive meal for the tree gang, using produce from the Kitchen Garden, while at Wakehurst the programme took a tour of the winter garden, the MSB as well as the switching on of our festive light shows. Sandra Botterell said: 'This programme gives people a unique perspective on everything that goes into delivering a special Christmas atmosphere for our visitors at this time of year. From the excitement of installing and launching the lights for Christmas at Kew to seasonal work, it's an incredibly busy time of year for the garden staff looking after our precious plants at Kew and Wakehurst, our wild botanic garden in Sussex.' Thank you to all those involved for their hard work in setting up and participating in the programme.

Positive long-term change: RBG Kew retains ISO14001 certification. RBG Kew was the first World Heritage Status site to achieve the international ISO14001 Environmental Management standard in 2005, since when we have been audited yearly. These audits look at the systems in place to ensure compliance with environmental legislation and other commitments and our progress towards our sustainability targets. The recent two-week intensive audit has confirmed that we continue to work to a high quality of environmental protection, with the auditors noting several areas of positive long-term change. The auditors, Amanda and Adrian, talked to many teams, visited Kew Gardens and Wakehurst, and requested a wide array of documents and records for their audit trails. Thank you to everyone who provided time and information as part of these discussions.

An update for the Kew Guild provided by Director Richard Deverell

2021 was another busy year for Kew and we achieved a great deal including the launch of our corporate strategy to 2030, the ‘Manifesto for Change’, in addition to new Science and Sustainability strategies. There were ongoing challenges around visitor numbers and income with the introduction of a further lockdown on 5 January, leading to the immediate closure of Christmas at Kew and Glow Wild. We were fortunate, however, that the gardens at Kew and Wakehurst were able to remain open for our daytime offering.

January saw the publication of our ‘Right tree, right place: ten golden rules for reforestation’ prior to a virtual conference on ‘Reforestation for Biodiversity, Carbon Capture and Sustainable Livelihoods’ in late February. The conference offered a diverse and stimulating range of presentations, case studies and debates and was opened by our Patron HRH The Prince of Wales. A major milestone for the Plant and Fungal Trees of Life Project (PAFTOL) team was achieved in February when the Kew Tree of Life Explorer, our gateway to Kew’s research and data on the plant tree of life was launched. In March Defra announced the appointment of five new Trustees to our Board; Professor Christopher Gilligan, Sir Paul Nurse, David Richardson, Judith Batchelar and Professor Ian Graham. One year on from the start of the first national lockdown we teamed up with the Yellow Hearts to Remember campaign – a support group of bereaved families of people who died during the pandemic – to create two beautiful planting beds opposite the Palm House, made up of over 1,000 bulbs and planted with blooming Tulipa ‘Monte Carlo’, Hyacinthus ‘City of Haarlem’ and Polyanthus ‘Crescendo Yellow’.

I am delighted to report that Kew Gardens appeared in the top ten most visited attractions in the figures from the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) for the 2020 calendar year, up from 11th place in 2019 to 4th. Wakehurst moved up an incredible 86 places from 114th to 28th place. These changes reflect the important role played by gardens and other open spaces in a year where many attractions were forced to close for extended periods. In April a study, led by Kew scientists, was published setting out how *Coffea stenophylla*, a rare and threatened ‘forgotten’ coffee species from West Africa that grows at higher temperatures and has a superior flavour could help to future-proof the coffee industry against climate change. This fascinating study generated extensive media coverage. During the summer, a new series on Channel 5 ‘Kew Gardens: A Year in Bloom’ took viewers behind the scenes for a glimpse of what makes Kew so special, in a year unlike any other. From our ground-breaking science, to our future-proofing botany, the series provided a special insight into the wonder of our living collections, and how we maintain, study, and protect one of the most diverse collections on the planet.

The Shirley Sherwood Gallery hosted some wonderful exhibitions throughout 2021. In May, the Naturally Brilliant Colour exhibition opened featuring ‘Pure Structural Colour’, a cutting-edge piece of technology which takes inspiration from the natural world to synthetically produce any shade of colour in its most vivid form. In the autumn, an exhibition by internationally renowned artist Zadok Ben-David opened, exploring the themes of tragedy and hope, as well as shining a uniquely creative light on the relationship between humanity and the natural world. Our new Arboretum HQ was opened in June by Dame Judi Dench; this is our first net zero ready building, which will make a significant contribution to achieving our ambitious sustainability target of becoming climate positive by 2030. The Family Kitchen & Shop was completed in December and was built to achieve BREEAM ‘Excellent’ standard. This is entirely aimed at a family visitor with child-focussed design, including messages about nutrition, biodiversity, and the sources of plant food.

Once international travel recommenced, we had an exceptionally busy time with VIP events and visits. Kew Gardens hosted as John Kerry, the US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, gave a speech outlining what major nations must do if environmental and social devastation from runaway climate warming is to be averted. He called upon the leaders of G20 nations to urgently share both concrete road maps and detailed financial commitments on how they intend to meet targets in the next decade and meet net zero emissions by 2050. We were also delighted to welcome HRH The Prince of Wales and the President of Gabon, with a small group of CEOs, to promote the importance of HRH's Sustainable Market Initiative in addressing the critical challenges facing nature and humanity from the biodiversity and climate crises. We received a further royal visit in October when The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge took part in a Generation Earthshot event with children from a local school to generate big, bold ideas to repair the planet and to help spark a lasting enthusiasm for the natural world.

In August we launched our new brand campaign: Our Future is Botanic. This campaign aims to shift perceptions of RBG Kew from being known only as beautiful gardens, to being seen as a world leading plant science institute with superb botanic gardens. The campaign also aims to help people understand and believe in the benefits of plants and fungi to the future of our planet. Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta was awarded the Kew International Medal (KIM) in September for his work to protect nature and stop biodiversity loss, following his ground-breaking report *The Economics of Biodiversity*. The medal was presented at a ceremony at Kew. This was a hugely warm and celebratory event made more so by Sir Partha's genuine delight and pride at receiving the KIM. A new festival celebrating Japan held in the Temperate House contributed to the highest October visitor numbers on record. Opened by His Excellency, the Japanese Ambassador, it included a major artistic installation, horticultural displays and a live performance programme. This was the first of what will be an annual autumn festival, with 2022 celebrating the extraordinary plants, food and culture of Mexico.

A contingent from RBG Kew attended COP26 in November, where we had a plant-based display in the UN Pavilion to illustrate the importance of nature-based solutions to climate change and our work in this area. We had a series of conversations with global leaders including Presidents, Environmental Ministers, British politicians, scientists and philanthropists. Kew Gardens also hosted the Defra pre-COP event in October with the Secretary of State and other distinguished guests. The Chief Secretary to the Treasury visited Kew in November and announced £10 million for the digitisation of our Herbarium and Fungarium collections. This is an important step in ensuring the long-term safety of our collections. We estimate the total cost of digitisation to be c.£30 million and we will be seeking further funding to enable us to complete digitisation of our collections over the next four years. This will ensure universal access and will create an unparalleled scientific resource of plant diversity for use by scientists and conservationists globally.

After disruption in 2020, we were delighted that Christmas at Kew and Glow Wild were able to return in 2021 and were more popular than ever with 323,000 visitors to Christmas at Kew and 88,000 at Wakehurst for Glow Wild. I am also pleased to report that our Board of Trustees have approved a new £1 entry ticket to Kew Gardens and to Wakehurst for anyone on Universal Credit or Pension Credit, commencing in January 2022. This arises from our commitment to do all we can to broaden reach and ensure no one is excluded due to affordability. © RBG Kew

The Year at Wakehurst 2021

Regrettably, there was no report forthcoming.

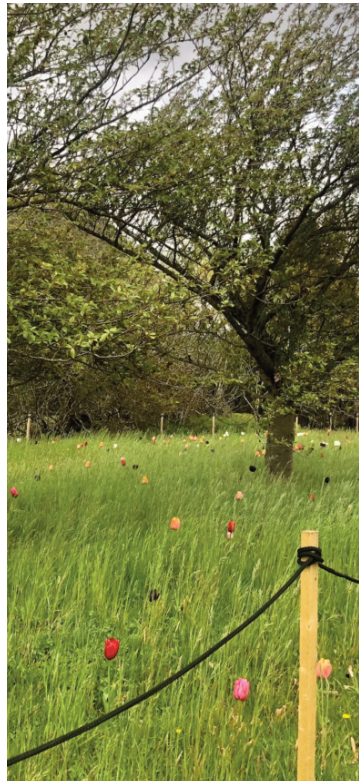
Wakehurst Place Weather 2021

Wakehurst Place Weather:	January 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	February 2021
Month's total rainfall:	132.3 mm	Month's total rainfall:	77.9 mm
Rainiest day:	18.2 mm on 27 th	Rainiest day:	15.5 mm on 14 th
Rainless days:	5	Rainless days:	11
Highest Max Temp:	15.1 °C on 28 th	Highest Max Temp:	15.6 °C on 21 st
Lowest Max Temp:	2.5 °C on 24 th	Lowest Max Temp:	-1.5 °C on 8 th
Highest Min Temp:	8.3 °C on 20 th	Highest Min Temp:	10 °C on 21 st
Lowest Min Temp:	-4 °C on 10 th	Lowest Min Temp:	4.4 °C on 13 th
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	13	Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	7
Windiest day date: 21 st Direction: WSW Wind speed: 29 MPH		Windiest day date: 8 th Direction: NNE Wind speed: 24 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	March 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	April 2021
Month's total rainfall:	46.3 mm	Month's total rainfall:	3.7 mm
Rainiest day:	16.2 mm on 12 th	Rainiest day:	2.6 mm on 29 th
Rainless days:	18	Rainless days:	26
Highest Max Temp:	25.6 °C on 30 th	Highest Max Temp:	20.5 °C on 23 rd
Lowest Max Temp:	5.2 °C on 4 th	Lowest Max Temp:	6.9 °C on 10 th
Highest Min Temp:	11 °C on 31 st	Highest Min Temp:	9.4 °C on 1 st
Lowest Min Temp:	-1.5 °C on 7 th	Lowest Min Temp:	-2.3 °C on 8 th
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	2	Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	3
Windiest day date: 11 th Direction: WNW Wind speed: 32 MPH		Windiest day date: 3 rd Direction: NNE Wind speed: 20 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	May 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	June 2021
Month's total rainfall:	127.6 mm	Month's total rainfall:	114.9 mm
Rainiest day:	31.2 mm on 16 th	Rainiest day:	27.8 mm on 16 th
Rainless days:	Approx 7	Rainless days:	Approx 11
Highest Max Temp:	28.4 °C on 31 st	Highest Max Temp:	31 °C on 2 nd
Lowest Max Temp:	12.1 °C on 21 st	Lowest Max Temp:	13.8 °C on 21 st
Highest Min Temp:	11.9 °C on 29 th	Highest Min Temp:	17.4 °C on 17 th
Lowest Min Temp:	1.5 °C on 6 th	Lowest Min Temp:	8.3 °C on 23 rd
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: 22 nd Direction: NW Wind speed: 31 MPH		Windiest day date: 22 nd Direction: NE Wind speed: 15 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	July 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	August 2021
Month's total rainfall:	86.3 mm	Month's total rainfall:	61.7 mm
Rainiest day:	27.6 mm on 25 th	Rainiest day:	21.7 mm on 8 th
Rainless days:	Approx 10	Rainless days:	16
Highest Max Temp:	34.8 °C on 18 th	Highest Max Temp:	25.2 °C on 4 th
Lowest Max Temp:	17.7 °C on 6 th	Lowest Max Temp:	17.8 °C on 30 th
Highest Min Temp:	17.8 °C on 19 th	Highest Min Temp:	15.0 °C on 26 th
Lowest Min Temp:	11.0 °C on 16 th	Lowest Min Temp:	9.5 °C on 17 th
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: 24 th Direction: ENE Wind speed: 21 MPH		Windiest day date: 7 th Direction: S Wind speed: 15 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	September 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	October 2021
Month's total rainfall:	63.3 mm	Month's total rainfall:	200.4 mm
Rainiest day:	17.2 mm on 30 th	Rainiest day:	44.0 mm on 2 nd
Rainless days:	Approx 17	Rainless days:	5-11
Highest Max Temp:	32.6 °C on 6 th	Highest Max Temp:	23.3 °C on 9 th
Lowest Max Temp:	16.1 °C on 30 th	Lowest Max Temp:	14.4 °C on 16 th
Highest Min Temp:	17.0 °C on 8 th	Highest Min Temp:	14.8 °C on 20 th
Lowest Min Temp:	7.0 °C on 30 th	Lowest Min Temp:	3.0 °C on 22 nd
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: 27 th Direction: SW Wind speed: 20 MPH		Windiest day date: 3 & 21 Direction: WSW & WNW Wind speed: 18 MPH	
Wakehurst Place Weather:	November 2021	Wakehurst Place Weather:	December 2021
Month's total rainfall:	10.9 mm	Month's total rainfall:	110.1 mm
Rainiest day:	4.8 mm on 26 th	Rainiest day:	18.4 mm on 7 th
Rainless days:	Approx 14	Rainless days:	Approx 3
Highest Max Temp:	16.5 °C on 2 nd	Highest Max Temp:	12.1 °C on 14 th
Lowest Max Temp:	5.1 °C on 27 & 28 th	Lowest Max Temp:	6.0 °C on 19 th
Highest Min Temp:	10.5 °C on 10 th	Highest Min Temp:	10.3 °C on 15 th
Lowest Min Temp:	-1.5 °C on 29 th	Lowest Min Temp:	-0.3 °C on 22 nd
Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	2	Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 °C and below):	2
Windiest day date: 28 th Direction: NE Wind speed: 24 MPH		Windiest day date: 5, 8, 9, 11 th Direction: NW, WSW, Wind speed: 15 MPH	

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

©RBG Kew, Wakehurst

Photos of Kew during 2021









Kew Guild Medal Recipient: Mark Chase

by Sylvia Phillips

Mark W. Chase is a highly distinguished and internationally recognised botanist who retired from Kew in 2019. He is known for his pioneering work on the use of DNA sequences in plant classification and evolution. His work has been highly influential in botanical science, which has been recognised by his admission to Fellowship of the Royal Society. He was one of the instigators of the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group (APG) classification, based largely on DNA studies, which has been adopted worldwide as the de facto classification for flowering plants. He has greatly influenced science at Kew and the Herbarium has recently been re-arranged according to the APG classification, the first major re-arrangement since the time of Hooker.

Mark's research focuses on molecular systematics, phylogenetics and more recently, phylogenomics, with particular interests in orchids, polyploidy, epigenetics and their role in angiosperm evolution, and chromosome change in *Nicotiana*. He has published over 500 scientific papers, books and book chapters, and is one of the most highly cited researchers in the plant sciences (<https://publons.com/researcher/2815525/mark-w-chase/>). His work on orchids has also been recognised with the award of a Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society.

Mark's blend of expertise in both science and horticulture makes him a very worthy recipient.

The First Arctic Seat at Bere Mill

by Graham Burgess

3000 men died in the Arctic Convoys. Serving our country, yes, for what they knew we had that was of value. Time has passed and many of the heroes who did not pass away in the war have passed away since. Much of what they invested in we still have. The initial medal for Arctic Heroes was initiated in Whitchurch, Hampshire. It may have been key in encouraging the government to award medals nationally.

One of the key heroes was local Roy Dykes, and as a focus on him we have created the Arctic Seat. At the age of 25 he returned from the Arctic and within him a love of dogs



Cllr Onnalee Cubitt (R) (Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane) and Cllr Tracy Woodruff (L) (Chairman and Mayor, Whitchurch Town Council), in front of the Arctic Seat

based on the vital role played by Arctic Sled Dogs. It led to him getting involved nationally with Cruft's Dog Shows and locally with Dog Days on The Millennium Green. So, the Arctic Seat represents the special vessels and the one he sailed in which was a Flower Corvette called Honeysuckle. On one end there will be an image of an arctic sled dog and along the back behind the icebergs a metal cord. In accord with the interest in dogs now and then, dog

owners will be able to attach a dog tag with their dog's name in it. You will be able to sit on either side in the same way the rowers in Egyptian punts did and where they sat was called the bankh. Roy's life at work was involved in banking. Another connection with a key voyage is Bere Mill. Henri Portal who set up the business there making paper for the Bank of England was smuggled over from France hidden in a wine barrel. Until recently, all the ships carried wooden barrels of rum to serve to the sailors. The father of Rupert Nabarro, Gerald, left home aged 14 and joined the navy. He went on to develop a career connected with wood. Very special wood is used in wine, beer and rum barrels.

The proposed site kindly offered by the Nabarros is where the lane to Bere Mill links with the old London Road. The site will link to a key aspect of English country life namely a glade, an accessible part of a wood. Most of the trees are in position so a gentle approach pathway has been installed and a firm base for the seat. The seat is steel and manufactured by an accomplished firm whose invoices say "no need to paint for 15 years". Items they have done previously in Whitchurch 20 years ago still do not need painting. The basic seat cost £2000 and sponsors have already agreed to cover the initial cost so the voyage has been properly planned. A key supporter of the Arctic Medal campaign and a great supporter of The Sea Cadets nationally, Robin Allum, recently passed away but his family are making a major contribution.

Key, like winning in any battle at sea, the ships must be ready. Robin poured rum on Roy Dyke's grave as part of his funeral. So a rum barrel nearby? The ship Roy Dykes sailed in was called Honeysuckle so we have planted some evergreen, white-flowered honeysuckles, donated by a local family nursery, near to the seat. The initial voyage ended up at a formal opening in November 20th 2021. Mayors from Basingstoke and Whitchurch formally opened the seat. The idea could go national so if you want to have one installed in your neighbourhood, I can link you to the seat supplier. If you are a caring individual or one connected to groups who also care about what they did and what we have now, contact Graham Burgess (see address in back of Journal).

Beth

by Graham Burgess

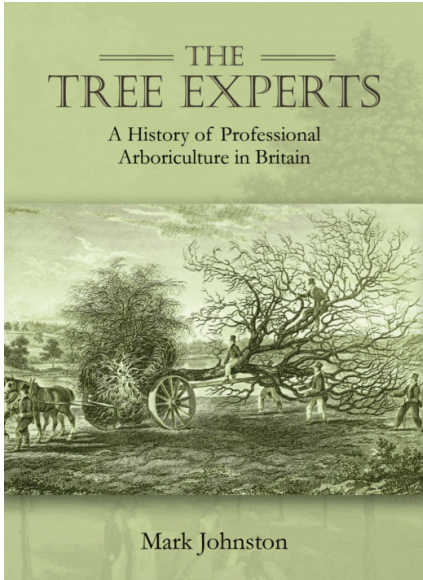
The Coronavirus and global warming is focussing our intention on nature and a key aspect is the planting of many trees throughout the UK. In the early stages there is a link to our Queen. Her name is Elizabeth. In the Ogham Alphabet thousands of years old the year was divided into lunar cycles. There were thirteen and each one was associated with special trees. They had a name, a time of the year and special attributes. The first in the Ogham Alphabet was Beth. It was what we now call the Birch Tree, *Betula alba*. So, a design is being put in place based on our current letter A. It is based in the south and the two side lines will end up in Scotland. Most of the lines will be hidden as are ley lines but landowners, private or public will be invited to plant rows of Birch trees along the line. Another option if you are not on one of the main lines on the east and west lines in the large letter A, is to plant trees from your location along a line that heads at ninety degrees to one of the vertical lines. The planting can be two Birch Trees on either end of a special seat that also sits on the line. In ancient times Beth was associated with healing and recent research has revealed they absorb 47% of pollution in the air around roadsides. So on special days, Beth Day trees will be planted throughout Britain celebrating their historic values and the values of our Queen Elizabeth. In chosen locations a planting event can be linked to eating a special Beth Day Cake. Surface the same as the special colour associated with Beth, white. *Betula alba*? Flavoured with Birch resin. Queen Victoria loved a wine flavoured with Birch essence. If you want to be part of this, many national organisations may be able to help. If you want to put in a key line make contact with me.

The Tree Experts: A History of Professional Arboriculture in Britain

by Mark Johnston, published by Windgather Press (Oxbow Books) in 2021

Book Review for the Kew Guild Journal

by Peter Bridgeman



The book's front cover shows Sir Henry Steuart's transplanting machine in action in the 1820s, moving a large tree in his park in Scotland.

Credit: Mark Johnston

research, few could challenge the accuracy of this amazing tome. Only this man, with his great depth of knowledge and his ability to research, analyse, structure and put into



William Dallimore: One of Kew's greatest tree experts and although an eminent botanist and author he started as a Kew student and worked on the tree gang. Photographed c.1900 at the request of Sir William Thistlethorpe-Dyer, with his "various appliances, saw, chopper, standard pruners, short pruners, wire pliers, tarpot and tarbrush, ladder, etc." for tree surgery. *Credit: The Library and Archives, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.*

This is Mark Johnston's third and best tree book* and is a comprehensive work detailing the history of arboriculture in Britain over the last two millennia. It focuses on the people who made important contributions to the science and practice of tree care. The title states 'in Britain' but it correctly includes experts from other parts of the world who made it happen here in the United Kingdom.

The nine chapters cover the important developments in tree care over the past two thousand years starting with the Roman occupation through to the Dark Ages and on to the Tudor and early Stuart times. Arboriculture in the age of the Formal Garden is followed by the English Landscape era then on to the major developments in the nineteenth century. The penultimate chapter describes the rise in the Tree Experts from 1900-1945 and finally the coming of age of professional arboriculture post WWII to the present day.

Like most of us, Mark Johnston could not have had any personal experience of this history until the last chapter but, with his painstaking interesting words, could have attempted such a work.

It is not until the last chapter that many of us have personal knowledge of the more recent history of British arboriculture. It is not just his thoughts, as he has drawn on the knowledge and memories of scores of his peers and these are recognised with detailed references and indexes. Some may have differing memories and interpretations of the events over the last decades but we all can marvel at the completeness of what is to me the most important book on the subject and which will never be

equalled – let alone bettered. Apart from arboriculturists, it will appeal to those interested in the natural and built environment, heritage landscapes, social history and the history of gardening.

Mark's background in trees includes being a student at Merrist Wood in the 1970's, a brief spell on the tree gang at Kew and tree officer posts in local authorities. Then back to Merrist Wood as Head of Arboriculture, a consultant in private practice, a government adviser and a university academic. This knowledge and background have been recognised with a PhD in Urban Forestry, Fellowships in Horticulture, Forestry and Arboriculture and an MBE.

*Other books include *Trees in Towns and Cities, A History of British Urban Arboriculture*, 2015 and *Street Trees in Britain, A History*, 2017.

Being the Kew Kitchen Gardener by Helena Dove

The kitchen garden at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, is tucked into a corner of what is now called the Agius Evolution Garden, but was once the original Georgian kitchen garden. Although small, around half an acre, it is full to the brim with exciting edibles, from the staples of potatoes and courgettes to the more experimental such as oca and orach.

The new kitchen garden was created in 2014 for the BBC series 'Kew on a Plate' and has continued to be a popular part of the gardens. Today, the kitchen garden plays various roles within the wider botanical garden. Primarily, it is an educational area for visitors to see how to grow different crops. I spend a good part of my day answering queries from the public. As part of this education, I have recently worked closely with science directorate at



Kew to showcase their work on food crops, where appropriate. Last year I grew wild carrots from seed that had been collected and stored in the Millennium Seed Bank. These grew next to cultivated carrots and highlighted the Crop Wild Project that Kew has been involved with that could help achieve food security in the future.

As well as educational, the area is extremely productive. I weekly harvest leaf crops and edible flowers for the onsite restaurants. The chefs and I work closely together and they base their menus on what is growing seasonally in the kitchen garden, and I will grow a crop for special events they are hosting. I also sell the crops to the public during the spring, summer and autumn. This happens as and when the crops are ready and is a nice way for guests to take home a taste of the garden, as freshly harvested produce really does taste

better than shop bought, plus it is grown organically. A day at work changes seasonally for me. Spring is the busiest time of year and is very dependent on the temperatures. I spend much of the time in my glasshouse, which is behind the scenes, as most of the crops are started off in modules and then planted out. As the season warms up, the young plants are put into the main beds to grow away. In summer, I spend most of my day maintaining the crops and harvesting. Towards the end of summer, I start to prepare the autumn and winter crops to allow a year-round display.

Autumn is one of the most satisfying seasons, especially harvesting and displaying the pumpkins, which I love and usually grow a minimum of 20 cultivars. As the frosts of autumn appear, the summer crops are slowly cleared and the beds are mulched as part of a no-dig cultivation system. Winter is spent planning for the next year and undertaking tasks such as apple pruning the orchard in the Queens garden near the palace. Plus cleaning the glasshouse for the season to start again, which comes around fast as the chilli peppers, onions and brassicas need sowing in late January. ©Helena Dove

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew: The Name

by Alex George

Have you ever wondered when Kew became the Royal Botanic Gardens? In the days of King George III, when Joseph Banks became the unofficial Director, it was the Royal Gardens, or Royal Gardens at Kew. These days most people know it as Kew Gardens or just Kew and use Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (correctly including the comma), when referring to it formally.

From time to time, I pondered on this, especially whenever I saw the name Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew used when referring to the Gardens in the 18th century. I was sure that this was incorrect but couldn't find when the present name was adopted. For a start, I point out that, as official place names, Kew refers to the suburb and Kew Gardens is a station on the District Line of the London Underground.

So, can we place a precise date on the adoption of the present official name? A search of the various histories and books about Kew (Bean, 1908; Turrill, 1959; Blunt, 1978; Desmond, 1995, 2007) fails to provide the answer. Some clues point to the time when they changed from being a royal estate to a public institution in the early 1840s.

It would seem that the date is 25 March 1841.

In his first report to Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests, dated 7 May 1844, the first Director, William Hooker, wrote: *Early in 1841 Mr. Aiton retired from the directorship of the Botanic Garden at Kew, and I had at the same time the honour to receive a notice from Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, &c., in whom the garden was now vested, to the effect that "the Lords of the Treasury agreed to accept my offer to succeed that gentleman, with the understanding that I was to give my whole services to the management and improvement of the establishment, and their Lordships sanctioned the remuneration to be paid me of a salary of 300 l. per annum, and an allowance of 200 l. per annum to provide a house for my residence and for the deposit of my library and herbarium, there being no suitable house belonging to the Crown vacant at that time." The residence selected being approved by the Board, I was instructed to put myself in communication with Mr. Aiton, who gave me possession of the Botanic Garden on Lady-day of that year.*

Lady Day, the feast of the Annunciation, is 25 March.

On page 170 of *The Gardeners' Chronicle* for 20 March 1841, the editor, John Lindley (who had led an inquiry into the Gardens in 1838) reported: *It is with great satisfaction that we are at length enabled to announce upon authority that Sir W. J. Hooker has been appointed to the charge of the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. We trust this wise step will be accompanied by such other changes and improvements in this important establishment as will ensure its efficiency, and prove that the ill-advised plan of destroying it, last year entertained by certain gentlemen connected with Government, was never approved of by her Majesty's responsible advisers. This event causes a vacancy in the Chair of Botany in the University of Glasgow.*

Apart from the spelling 'Botanical', this indicates that the change of name had been proposed by that date. It seems certain, therefore, that it was adopted formally from the date when William Hooker took up the Director's position on 25 March that year. From Lindley's announcement it would appear to have been in use within Government leading up to his appointment.

In further support of early 1841 as the date being sought is the title page of volume 4 of the first series of the *Icones Plantarum*, a journal that William Hooker established while in Glasgow in 1836. In volume 3 he gave his institution (as Editor) as 'Regius Professor of Botany in The University of Glasgow'. On the title page of volume 4 it is given as 'Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew'. Although the first part of volume 4 was published in 1840, the title page would have been printed on the completion of part 2 which appeared between 6 July and 6 August 1841. Thus, Hooker was using the name by then.

In the Director's Correspondence in the Archives at Kew is a letter from a merchant, John McLean, to William Hooker, dated 3 June 1841, answering one from Hooker dated 30 March, which is addressed to him at 'The Royal Botanic gardens of Kew' (sic).

I am grateful to Katherine Harrington, Assistant Archivist at Kew, for assistance in locating these papers.

Covid-19 Story by Harvey Groffman

Since retiring in 2007, I have continued cultivating and developing both my front and back gardens, opening to the general public under the National Garden Scheme and being the recipient of numerous awards in local borough and London-wide garden competitions, usually featuring a topical themed display of a notable event or anniversary.

Advanced plans for 2020 had been made to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE Day, with plant material ordered from specialist growers and dates set for National Garden Scheme (NGS) openings. Early 2020 and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic was about to disrupt these proceedings!

The lockdown bombshell of March 2020 dictated the postponement or cancellation of many activities and events for at least three months, maybe longer, effectively wiping out horticultural spring and early summer trading. After much deliberation NGS Head Office strongly advised against garden openings before July, as those who did would not be covered by the Scheme's insurance. Likewise, garden competition organisations followed suit to curtail activities for the coming season.

A painful decision was made to cancel plant orders. The nursery growers accepted my request without penalty and confirmed many similar communications from other private gardens and local authorities. They added that, due to restrictive work practices, plant production would be severely limited and they were contacting customers to advise cancellations of orders already placed. In retrospect, my cancellation request was welcome.

By July 2020, lockdown eased and NGS advised gardens could resume openings subject to safety guidelines being observed. Surprisingly, I did welcome a handful of brave attendees, but had to explain the lack of normal display. The winter of 2019-20 had been unseasonably mild and frost free, resulting in many “annuals” and half-hardy subjects making renewed growth so, in place of the planned 2020 75th VE commemoration, was an unplanned repeat 2019 show of “tender” standard Fuchsias underplanted with *Begonia semperflorens*. Some vacant pots and containers were utilised for growing dwarf and climbing French beans, potatoes and tomatoes, albeit not very productively due to shade cast by neighbouring trees. In contrast, 2019 survivors, including Tuberous Begonias, Zonal-leaved Pelargoniums and Osteospermums did exceptionally well.

So ended my “gap year” of 2020, with no garden awards to look forward to, impending 2nd and 3rd lockdowns on the horizon, and great uncertainty for the year beyond. On reflection, perhaps my best award was not to succumb to the virus and live to fight another day!

A Student Wedding Colin Jones and Penelope Richardson by Colin Jones (1965-68)

I joined The Royal Botanic Gardens as a student in the autumn of 1965, my first placement was with the Curator George Preston in the Herbaceous and Alpine department. Kew students in those days were allowed to make use of the Post Office Savings Bank canteen in Ruskin Avenue for their lunch break and one afternoon in October 1965 after an outside trip to collect some donated made-up trough gardens we were one hour late having lunch

at the canteen and as a result I met Penelope Richardson (see Guild Journal 2004 Vol.14 No. 109 pages 336-337). Three and a half months later we got married at St. Stephens Church, St. Margarets, Twickenham on Saturday 29th January 1966. I think there was something else of some importance that happened during 1966 also.

Things however got off to a bad start on our wedding day as somehow the police managed to get a message to us that my best man had broken down somewhere on the M4, on his journey



Hailing our transport - Dick Cowley and Brian Nash in background

from Cardiff, and would not be able to attend the wedding. Fortunately, my brother offered to step in as my best man and did an excellent job of making sure that everything went well on the day. A number of Kew students were able to attend the church ceremony joining in with both our families and friends to help fill the pews. One or two students had jokingly threatened to object to our marriage when the Vicar Rev. W.T.M. Burton asked the vital question during the ceremony. I must admit that I had my fingers crossed until that point in the service but all went well thankfully.

Students in the 60's weren't paid very much hence the need to use public transport; see photographs. Only kidding, we did have a hire car to take us to the reception at the Crown Hotel, Twickenham. We managed to find lodgings in a house in Priory Road, Kew staying in two rooms with a small kitchen and shared bathroom facilities. Our first child Karina arrived 15 months later and I must admit it was difficult at times for us both to get by but I wouldn't change a thing as my three years as a Kew student changed my life in many ways.

Penny and I have had three more children (Keith, Christian and Nicholas) since leaving Kew and after several career moves eventually settled down in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire and have been in W.G.C for 44 years. We have both taken up playing Lawn Bowls and Short Mat Bowls over the last 15 years to keep ourselves active and have done quite well in a number of club competitions over the years. At the Guild AGM in 2006 I had a wonderful time meeting up with Bob Hebb, Colin Hindmarch and Graham (Harold) Heywood all students in the same year as myself. Since the 2006 AGM I have attended the meetings as regularly as I can, even getting involved in the 2020 AGM via Zoom when I renewed an old friendship with Greg Armstrong in America.

I cherish the friendships that I have struck up with ex-students at the AGM's over the years and especially the friendship that my wife and I have established with Graham Heywood and his wife Eira since I met them in 2006, we have managed to meet up almost every year since to talk about old times and what lies ahead for the future of the Kew Guild. I am personally quite excited by the direction the Guild is now going and hope that we manage to get more people to join and get involved, and wish Chris Kidd and Graham Heywood good luck in guiding us into the future.

A Time Remembered

by Graham (Harold) Heywood

This little piece is by way of an addendum to Colin Jones's article. My wife and I also were married whilst I was studying at Kew. I was of course on the 1965 intake but started my life at Kew in March of 1965 as an improver - not a category of pre-studentship that exists now as far as I know. I do recall that at my interview I was asked if I would be prepared to come to Kew six months early before the course started officially in September. Needless to say, I quickly confirmed I would be able and happy to start in March of '65.

Excitement knew no bounds on later receiving a letter from Kew to say I had been accepted. I was walking tall! As Colin says in his reflective article, Kew was a place where many new friendships were (to be) forged. It seems looking back that there were no barriers whatsoever to our making friends, whether with our colleagues on the same year's intake or those on previous intakes already reaping (or about to reap) the benefits of being a 'KEWITE'. There always seemed to be a feeling of comradeship amongst students and between students and staff of the Gardens. One could hardly believe that we were rubbing shoulders with George Preston, Ian Beyer, Bert Bruty, John Simmons, George Brown, and



Stan Rawlings to name but a few that made us starry eyed!

And wait! Is that the Director Sir George Taylor making his way ever so briskly through the order beds on his way to the British Museum?

Kew was also a time when my personal life became even more blissful. I married my teenage sweetheart Eira (means Snow in Welsh) who happened to have come down to Richmond shortly after I had arrived. However, we didn't get married "Down South" but returned to Eccles and married at Monton Methodist Church on March 17th 1967 where I had previously been a regular attendee.

For the remainder of our time at Kew we rented a very small apartment at 23 Church Street Twickenham and which we visited whilst at Kew for the AGM 2021. Memories came flooding back! We often supplemented our £12 per week wages with Luncheon Vouchers which were generously supplied to Eira by the company she worked for. Eira had a couple of Secretarial jobs whilst

we were at Kew; one of which was transcribing documents in the attic of a flat near Kew Green. These documents were no less transcripts from Alistair Cooke of 'Letter from America' fame (who himself was born in Salford) a small world don't you think!

Back to friendships shared. There were many friendships forged at Kew and some of those endure to this day and of course include Colin Jones and Tony Overland and Graham Pattison; David Hardman came later when we were both very active members of the IPRA post Kew - but whatever happened to Ken Robinson who left his post of Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation at Bolton about 1977 to go to Liverpool and which place I filled?

Looking back through all those years I often recall a much-repeated saying addressed to me by my Mother and Father "Make new friends but keep the old - one's Silver and one's Gold." How very true!

**"Will Purdom; Agitator, plant-hunter, forester" by Francois Gordon,
published by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 2021**
by Leonie Paterson, RBGE Archivist

William Purdom (1880-1921) may be unfamiliar to many people, being best known for working alongside, and therefore overshadowed by the plant collector and horticulturist Reginald Farrer in China between 1914 and 1915. He left scant archives. Therefore, it is remarkable that not one, but three separate biographies have been published about him recently, each looking at his story from different angles, the first two being Alistair Watt's and Vicky Presant's, both in 2019.

The biography concerning us here is "*Will Purdom; agitator, plant-hunter, forester*" by Francois Gordon, an attractive and well-presented book (thanks to designer Caroline Muir) published by the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh in 2021. Gordon scoured archives in the U.K., U.S.A. and, thanks to researcher Cheng Yi Men, China and produced a very

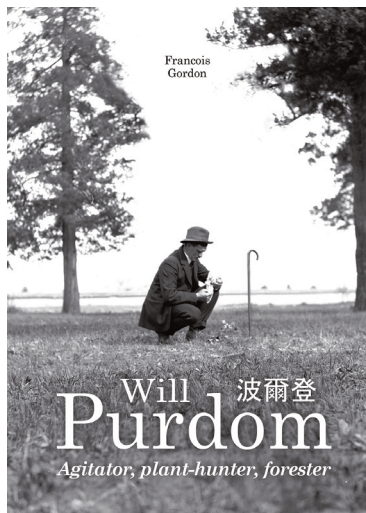


Image courtesy of RBGE

readable and comprehensive biography. It must have been an incredibly difficult, albeit fascinating detective hunt.

Who was Purdom? If he couldn't compete with Farrer's publicity 100 years ago, what can we learn from him now? Plenty, as it happens; his biography is fascinating and begins by taking us from his beginnings in Cumbria, his love of natural history, gardening and plants leading to his enrolment on the student gardener course at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during which he fought for the rights of fellow probationer gardeners and campaigned for better pay. His political tendencies were on the way to making him unemployable when he came to the attention of the nurseryman Harry Veitch and Charles Sprague Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. Looking for a man to collect plants in northern China, they snapped him up, and despite them mishandling his legacy, a career in, and lifelong love of China and its people began. Purdom's experience led to assisting

with Farrer's first plant hunting expedition to north China in 1914 – and making it work.

Prior to this biography, it was easy to dismiss Purdom as merely Farrer's sidekick, a constant background presence. One may have wondered if he was there because Farrer found him good company and pleasing to the eye? Gordon looks deeper at the evidence and concludes fairly and rationally that this is highly unlikely to be the case. Purdom played a crucial role and got little credit at the time. Gordon's biography reveals that Purdom not only steadfastly organised important aspects of the expedition, but he stepped in diplomatically when Farrer's entitled bluntness at best confused and at worst enraged villagers, chieftains and officials.

Purdom seemed to be a different breed from many other plant collectors and Europeans in China at the beginning of the 20th century. Some refused to learn Chinese; others did but kept a certain distance; Purdom integrated with the Chinese population as much as possible, eventually becoming one of three new Forestry Advisers to the Chinese Government responsible for establishing training and reforestation projects.

Gordon skilfully works in elements of socio-political history both in the U.K. and China and places Purdom's story in context so we can see how it affected him and decisions made by him, something I've rarely heard when the plant collectors in China are talked about – it is very welcome. There is a desire to hear stories about people who have been denied publicity. Purdom was a quiet, modest man, who may not have welcomed it, but I certainly do. This book felt like having a friendly chat with an eloquent man about a fascinating and likable character, and I very much recommend it. ©Leonie Paterson

Twelve to look out for in the Palm House

by Will Spoelstra

Last year, I wrote an article for this Journal focusing on the palm collection within the Palm House. So, this year, I would like to focus on some of the other plants that we house here in our rainforest at Kew. After the palms, key plant groups include cycads (52 species),

aroids (91 species) and pandans (10 species). Much of our woody tropical collection at Kew is on display in the Palm House and is best represented by the legumes (Fabaceae) as well as the Malvaceae, Rubiaceae, Apocynaceae and Moraceae families. The groundcover is dominated by non-woody monocots and shrubby Acanthaceae, the canopy is filled with epiphytic Bromeliaceae and Orchidaceae, while we have over 100 climbing lianas growing up trees, wires, and pillars around the house.



The Palm House is perhaps not as known for its floral displays as the other glasshouses, however, throughout the year there is always something interesting to see, whether high up in the canopy or emerging low-down towards the woody base of the tree. With this article I want to highlight 12 plants worth finding over the course of the year that represent a wide spectrum of our diverse

collection and perhaps go a little under the radar, compared to some of our more landmark, interpreted species.

1. *Encephalartos ferox*

All three cycad families are represented in the Palm House. This includes some of our most historical and celebrated specimens at Kew such as the oldest potted plant in the world (*Encephalartos altensteinii*) as well as the male and female pair of *Dioon spinulosum* in the centre, that have been kept in the Palm House since the late 19th century. Generally slower growing than the palms, you can find cycads in all but three beds within the house and every month someone from our team will check each one and record new cone development and leaf growth. Pollen from male cones is collected and frozen downstairs, ready to be used to pollinate female cones of the same species.

Encephalartos ferox is native to the South East coast of Africa. Large male and female



specimens can be found in the wooden boxes at the South end of the Palm House. The photo is of the stunning red female cone.

2. *Pandanus microcarpus*

Endemic to swamp and river habitats in Mauritius and critically endangered, *Pandanus microcarpus* one of our best examples of the genus in the Palm House. Found in the South East corner, it is multi-branching and

showcases some good aerial roots that help to stabilise the plant. Like cycads, pandans are dioecious and therefore male and female specimens are required for pollination. We do not have this luxury with our pandan collection and are instead using airlayers for propagation.

3. *Monstera tenuis*

The aroids (Araceae), contribute at various levels of the rainforest. Our 91 species in the Palm House consists of climbers, epiphytes, and groundcover that add a real flavour of the tropics and, I think, best amalgamate the rainforest-like planting with the iron structure of the building. *Monstera tenuis* is a vigorous climber from Costa Rica that has been known to crack the glass in years gone by. In the centre of the house covering one of the pillars, this is also a good example of plant adaptation and has two leaf forms to help it cope with varying levels of light availability as it climbs.



4. *Amherstia nobilis*

This legume is native to Myanmar and Thailand but is very rare in the wild. Cultivated across the tropics due to its stunning flowers, in the Palm House it blooms late winter/early spring. Around the same time, flowers can often be found on some of its relatives in the house such as *Saraca indica* and the fantastic *Brownea X crawfordii* in the centre.

5. *Herrania balaensis*

This is my pick of the Palm House Malvaceae,

which also includes 16 species of *Hibiscus*, *Theobroma cacao* (the chocolate tree) and another favourite, *Sterculia mexicana*. Native to the West coast of Ecuador and Colombia, while endangered in the wild, *Herrania balaensis* is a consistent performer in the Palm House that flowers abundantly year after year. There are two specimens, both situated in the Centre block. The flowers are cauliflorous, producing edible fruits.



6. *Osa pulcha*

A recent addition to the collection, and now a popular Palm House feature. It bloomed around six times during last year, with the best coming in early spring. Critically endangered in the forests of Costa Rica and

Panama, this species is becoming more commonly cultivated in botanical gardens. It has fantastic, white, trumpet-like flowers thought to be pollinated by moths. The foliage resembles that of coffee plants, from the same family, also growing in the Palm House.



7. *Ficus montana*

We have 20 species of *Ficus* in the Palm House, coming in various shapes and sizes. They tend to make excellent trees for glasshouses, coping with the conditions and responding well to hard pruning when necessary. *Ficus religiosa* (The Buddha Tree) and *Ficus bengalensis* (banyan tree) can be found in the North wing and are among our best specimens. I have chosen *Ficus montana*, from South Asia, as an example of the morphological variation

within this genus. Known as the oak-leaved fig, we use this species as ground-cover on the banana bed, where it spreads rapidly. It is also used as a climber, where it will grow up to two meters high.

8. *Heliconia longiflora*

'Non-woody' monocots form an important part of the Palm House understorey. Included in this are 27 species within the ginger family (Zingiberaceae) and 14 species of Marantaceae, while the banana collection remains hugely popular among visitors. Also popular are the Heliconiaceae, often mistaken for *Strelitzia*, of which we have 11 species and several cultivars. My favourite, *Heliconia longiflora*, is native across Central America and the Northern regions of South America. It flowers well during the winter months in the Palm House.



9. *Crescentia cujute*

Part of the Bignoniaceae family, the cauliflorous calabash tree produces huge, round, pumpkin-like fruit with poisonous flesh and seed. Once dried, the fruits are traditionally



utilised as bowls and containers, while the seed can be cooked in a variety of ways. The tree holds medicinal properties that are used to treat headaches, diarrhoea and to heal wounds. Native to the Caribbean and Central America, we grow this in the Central section of the house.

10. *Tabernaemontana divaricata*

This shrubby tree is situated in the North wing of the Palm House, close to the access to the staff area. It displays clusters of white flowers every spring/summer and is native to several countries in East Asia. All parts of the plant are used for array of medicines to treat conditions such as headaches, hypertension and scabies. This is one of 26 Apocynaceae species in the Palm House that includes the *Plumeria rubra* (frangipani) and *Catharanthus roseus*, the Madagascan periwinkle, used to treat childhood leukaemia.



11. *Tetrastigma obtectum*

Two species of *Tetrastigma* can be found in the North wing of the house. The genus consists of over 100 species that grow across tropical Asia and are best known for being the host plant for the parasite, *Rafflesia*. Aesthetically, these climbers are great additions to the house that grow rampantly through the North wing canopy before they are cut back in the winter.

12. *Monodora myristica*

When in bloom this tree from Tropical West Africa displays spectacular orchid-like flowers. Like with several other trees in the house, you will need to look up and very closely into the canopy to see them during flowering season in early spring. In the wild these would be pollinated by a beetle to produce large fruits, a similar size to the calabash. The seeds are used as a nutmeg substitute as well as in traditional medicine to treat headaches. The species belongs to the Annonaceae family and can

be found in the Southwest corner of the Palm House.

A Gardener's Tale during Covid Restrictions

by Alan Stuttard

The word Covid sounded relatively innocuous when we first heard it 2020 and none of us could ever have imagined the havoc that it would wreak worldwide. Over almost two years it crashed world and national economies, brought many local communities, businesses

and families to the edge of disaster and visited personal tragedies on many households. No national emergency has had such an effect on the behaviour of a nation's people outside the years of wartime and this was recognised by our President Chris Kidd. He requested that Kew Guild members should write some articles on their Covid experiences to provide a record of the effect that Covid had on them.

To start my tale, I need to give some background to my home life. The first thing to say is that our household has been extremely lucky in not having Covid-19 visit us and that is a massive blessing. The second thing is that we live in a very rural area with a large garden that has allowed us to isolate without the depressive forces of being "locked in". And finally, to help us through these dark days I was lucky to be a Gardener, that breed of individual who can always find things to do in the garden. Who dreams of plans for garden improvements that they have often neither time nor finances to realistically expect to complete.

Like most gardeners during this pandemic, I started off by bringing my garden up to a standard of maintenance that I had rarely achieved before. Few weeds could be found, borders were edged, roses pruned and the vegetable garden became fully productive. All very satisfying, but after only a few months had passed, I found that I now had a great number of spare hours on my hands available to be used. At this point an unexpected side effect of Covid became obvious to me as I looked at our bank balance. Holidays and weekends away, restaurant visits and all the plethora of events we class as entertainment didn't happen and more importantly neither did any of the proposed expenditure occur. I found myself in the unexpected position of seeing my resources increasing, allowing the dreamer in this gardener to be released and start to plan the changing of garden dreams into realities.

In our garden is a reasonably large natural pond which had become home to a resident population of Mallards who "shovelled" away at the banks making them collapse and the pond to grow in size on an annual basis. Their "manure," aided by the annual deposit of leaves from a couple of large Oaks, had started to silt up the pond, making it time for some serious remedial work. Luckily for me we have close to us an Agricultural Supplier that could deliver all the materials needed for the planned work.

My first and most substantial piece of work was to create a sandstone wall around the parts of the pond that the ducks were enlarging. This meant a considerable mixing of cement and a couple of summer months spent wall building, wearing waders and generally "living" in the pond. Once the issue of bank erosion was addressed, I turned my attention to reducing the considerable pond "sludge" and trying to improve the water quality. Mechanical removal of this sludge would have been an impossible project, so I looked to other forms of treatment. In 2019 we had visited Sissinghurst Castle and noticed that they had the same problem in part of their "moat" and that they were undertaking remedial treatment. Using the "wonder of the internet" I contacted the National Trust at Sissinghurst to ask for details on what the treatment was and how successful it had been. The responses came back positively along with the contact details for the supplier from whom I ordered the treatment in 25kg bags and treated the pond during the early autumn of 2020. I can now say that I am reasonably pleased with the outcome, with the sludge being reduced by some 150mm, along with a noticeable improvement in water clarity. By the late summer of 2020 I had addressed the issues regarding the pond as far as I could and therefore started to consider the horticultural opportunities created by these works.

I have long had an interest in Primulas and the pond works had created both bogland and woodland conditions in which this genus could thrive. When I had been a member of the

Kew Guild Committee, the then President, Tony Overland had very kindly provided me with some Primula stock plants from his collection, from which I had had propagated a good number of garden ready plants. I therefore started digging out new beds and was able to use a lot of the vegetation “sludge” from the pond to enrich the soil and provide good growing conditions for the plants shortly to be placed therein. By the late autumn of 2020 the pond and its surrounding beds were completed allowing me to start to review my garden dreams and plan further works that I could undertake.



Plantings of *Primula beesiana*, *P secundiflora*, *P bulleyana* and *P pulverulenta*

One of my great pleasures over the years has been to sit by the pond at dusk and watch the local bats flit over the water as they feed, with the pleasure enhanced sometimes with a calming glass of whisky. It therefore became obvious that a pleasant seating area needed to be created to enhance my neo nocturnal pleasures. A local vintage and collectables store provided the ideal teak seat and it just required the creation of a gravelled area by the



Creation of seating and Bat watching area



Completed vanity project and jetty

newly planted pond wall beds and as they say “job done”!

To finally finish the pond surrounds a dream that I never thought that would see the light of day suddenly became a practical project. A discussion with a local landscape contractor revealed that he had a number of “spare” 100mm square recycled plastic posts. A good price was quickly negotiated and I was then the proud possessor of enough plastic posts to provide the in-water base uprights for a jetty.



Cider apples, Tremletts bitter

After a quick design I ordered enough timber to create all the out of water structure and it was back into the pond in my waders. This was always a vanity project but I did like the idea of being able to sit above the water and have a unique view of the pond surrounds and it was a great venue for bat watching!

As the years have passed, I found that my old 8ft x 6ft greenhouse had seemed to get smaller each year and I finally decided that it was time to acquire a larger version. I happened to be chatting to my old Kew mate Phil (the font of all knowledge on things horticultural) who I had been trying to convince to buy a greenhouse for himself for quite a while. We agreed the time was right and a company in Norfolk seemed the best supplier of the sort of greenhouse we wanted. I decided on a 10ft x 8ft which was a big increase from

what I was used to. I acquired and erected it and was extremely happy, until talking later to Phil I found that he had acquired and erected his, a 12ft x 8ft, which I have to say has left me with just a touch of “greenhouse envy”!

2021 saw me slow down on the major projects and allowed me to keep on top of the garden maintenance and begin to enjoy the fruits of my labours. Talking about fruits, one task that I hadn’t got around to during the Covid time was to tackle my orchard which did need some good pruning, re-staking and the labelling sorting out. This reminded me that five of the trees are cider varieties and I therefore made this year the year to do something I have never tried before - making cider. My neighbour and I have produced 50 litres of, though I say it myself, a very passable dry cider, which we are looking forward to enjoying in pleasant summer sunshine in the refurbished garden.

This about brings me up to date with my tale and I hope that for everyone 2022 is the year that the major pandemic problems we have suffered become a thing of the past. My heart goes out to anyone who has had their or their families’ lives affected by this dreadful disease and I just hope that everyone can now start to look forward to a more pleasant and “normal” future. Looking back on almost two years I feel very lucky to have been a member of the family that is the Kew Guild and a gardener who had dreams that needed to be fulfilled. I just hope that some of your readers were also able to get some benefit from the time so unexpectedly thrown at us!



The Garden Museum, London by Richard Ward

Members may know about the Wardian case, invented by Dr Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward in 1829 to transport plants across the world. There is plenty of info. on the internet. The strange



Director Christopher Woodward

thing is, my late father was named Ralph Bagshaw Ward. And so, it was that my elder sister spent the best part of six weeks during lockdown researching a possible link between Nathaniel and Ralph. Disappointingly she failed. For now. However, there is a 'happy ending.' Our ex brother-in-law thought to commission a replica Wardian case to donate for display at The Garden Museum, and during a family party to 'celebrate' my 80th at the Maids of Honour Restaurant on Kew Road on 13th December 2019, 20 family members contributed enough to pay for the case to be made. And thus, in late October this year, a group of us visited the Museum, enjoyed a great lunch in their modern cafe, and were kindly shown around by Director Christopher Woodward, and his Assistant, Samia. Amongst the exhibits were a pair of clogs, 'as worn at Kew in the 60s' - that's when I was there as a student!! I would urge Kewites to visit this fascinating museum.

100 Years Ago

by Richard Ward

"Whatever criticisms may be levelled at the Kew Guild for what it has or has not done, this at least must be said in its favour - it brought together into one fold hundreds of gardeners who at one time or another worked in the Royal Gardens, and who in the course of time became scattered and disunited, not only over the British Isles, but throughout the world. Many Kew men had been forgotten altogether until the Kew Guild came into existence, but one by one they again entered into communion with their Alma Mater, and in many instances have kept up a regular connection ever since." Thus was the intro. to Kew Guild President Charles Cundy in December 1921.

A tablet was placed on the back wall of the Temple of Arethusa, inscribed with the names of 37 Guild members and other Kew staff who had made the supreme sacrifice during WW1. The Guild Committee considered and dismissed a proposal from the AGM to offer £10 honoraria to the Treasurer, Editor and Secretary. The annual Dinner was attended by 137 members. Several Kewites had written books during the year. The Association of Kew Gardeners in America agreed to continue as an organisation; and to arranging a social 'to which ladies shall be invited.' The Central African (Uganda) branch of the Kew Guild was formed in 1921, with 23 members, and produced a 44-page Journal - Editress Dorothy M Halkerston. A general meeting of the swimming Club took place in March 1921 and the Annual Championship Race on 25th August - one mile in the Thames from below Brentford Ferry Gate to Kew Bridge. The winner, K. E. Toms in 19 minutes 58 seconds, received the £1 prize. 100 men painted the interior of the central portion of the Palm House in six weeks. There were 1,236,308 visitors to the Gardens, excluding season tickets, in 1921, including 1055 bath chairs and 12,174 cameras. Only 12.04 inches of rain fell at Kew during 1921. Many Kewites' long and interesting letters, mostly from colonial outposts, were published. In Memoriam provides fascinating and inspiring obituaries for those who died during 1921. Be proud to be a Kewite!

Committee Deliberations

by Richard Ward

I introduced this feature nine years ago to keep members informed about many of the varied matters that the Guild Committee at large discuss over the year. ‘The Committee’ is made up of nine voluntary and elected Trustees (who make the decisions) and Officers, including an Archivist, Student year reps., Treasurer, and paid Secretary and Editor. Previously voluntary Advisors were also elected, and often attended meetings, where their invaluable experience was available. During 2021 the Committee variously met in the Kew Guild room in the herbarium, or mostly via Zoom.

They discussed, amongst other things and in no particular order:

A wider alumnus role for the Guild; a 5-year plan; online vs printed Journals; roles of Honorary Fellows; future annual dinners; contacting lapsed and non-fully-paid-up members; introduction of Special Awards; co-opting of specialists; investment income; applications for grants; new Honorary Treasurer; membership survey; photographs in Journals; Introduction to Horticulture at Kew initiative; direct debit subscriptions; archiving of Guild records; guidance for new Editor; obituaries for non-Guild members; Trustee and Officer job descriptions; Discovery Day initiative; Kew Guild medal; Kew Guild handbook; Vicky Schilling bursary award; website development and update; replacing retiring Trustees; Facebook; management of Guild accounts; George Brown Memorial Award; Award Scheme; spam and email security; membership; Diploma student reps’ reports; subscriptions; and Guild Bank and Investments signatories.

My Career

Tony Kirkham MBE, VMH

I was a boy scout and grew up in a rural part of Lancashire where my first arboricultural qualification was the “forester’s badge”. No one had ever done this badge before, and it had to be set up specially for me. I still remember felling a small tree with a large bow saw and axe. I left school at the age of 16 with three GCE O’levels, all in woodwork, failed English, maths and physics twice, but I always knew from the age of about 10 that I wanted to work with trees and so my career path was partly planned. After watching a television programme on BBC2 called “*Look Stranger*,” which was about the reafforestation of Scotland and a large private forestry company called Tilhill Forestry, I was soon contacting them to find out more about their apprenticeship. In the 1974 summer school holidays, having never left Darwen in Lancashire before, I travelled to Farnham in Surrey for an interview with the Managing Director, Henry Jackson. I was successful and never went back to school and instead headed south on my 17th birthday to live in the woods at Frensham Ponds and begin my working career with trees.

I worked on the tree nursery where we were growing several millions of Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis* transplants for planting in the borders of Scotland. Every Wednesday we were whisked away to Merrist Wood Agricultural College for day release to do City and Guilds Stage 1 in horticulture and C&G Forestry Nursery Practices with Derek Patch. I suddenly realised that learning something that you were interested in was useful and fun, apart from the many different heating systems in glasshouses and cultivars of brussel sprouts that I had to learn as well.

At the end of my first two years, I was awarded top Tilhill student with distinctions in C&G. Game on! I left the nursery and the forestry industry to do the one-year NCH

(Arboriculture) and the RFS Certificate in Arboriculture at Merrist Wood, graduating in the summer of 1977 to work as an arborist or tree surgeon as we were known then, in Hamburg, Germany for a leading tree company called Kusche und Frotscher.

Luckily two of my lecturers at college, Barry Phillips, and John (Log) Whitehead were both past students on the Kew diploma and they persuaded me to apply for the Kew diploma course. I listened to them and did apply and in September 1978 I was on the 3-year course number 16. It was three of the best years of my career under the supervision of Leo Pemberton. It was hard going as I had to get up to speed with many of the science subjects that I missed out on at school, but with help from my fellow students and lecturers I graduated in September 1981 with honours.

I was successful applying for the position of Supervisor of North Arboretum and carried out this role for 14 years under the direction of the Assistant Curator, Charles Erskine and Deputy Curator, Ian Beyer. One of the most memorable moments that made a huge impact on trees generally, the Arboretum and my life was the “Great Storm” on 16th October 1987. Over 700 mature trees were lost in the collections and the gardens were closed for several months whilst clearance began, with parts of the arboretum gradually opening to visitors as it was made safe. This took almost three years and at the time it was all doom and gloom, but we learnt so much about the cultivation and management of trees, from new tree planting techniques to the decompaction of mature trees. Having previously been on a seed collecting expedition to Chile in 1985 with Stewart Henchie, a plant exploration programme began, collecting seed to fill the gaps in the landscape and scientific collections left by the storm. I began with South Korea in 1989, followed by Taiwan in 1992, the Russian Far East and Sakhalin in 1994, China in 1996 and Hokkaido in 1997, followed by three more expeditions to Sichuan, China in the early 2000’s. With all the successfully

established tree planting in the arboretum using material generated from these expeditions, the damage done by the storm is hardly noticeable today.



At the foot of a *Katsura* on Lake Towada Japan 2015

In 1995 I became the Head of Horticultural Operations and Support, managing all the capital horticultural machinery and equipment in the gardens and the Arboricultural team. One of my projects was establishing a green waste recycling centre in the Stable Yard with funding from MAFF. Today all the green waste generated at Kew is shredded and recycled, making an organic product used across the gardens as a soil conditioner or mulch in borders and around tree circles.

In 2001, I was promoted to Head of the Arboretum and Horticultural Services, taking on the curation and management of the woody plant collections including the Arboretum Nursery, following the retirement of Charles Erskine. A landmark project in 2006 was the creation of the “Arc Pathway” which dissected the arboretum crossing the lake by the “Sackler Crossing”

designed by John Pawson. In 2008 followed the “Xstrata Treetop Walkway” in the woodland adjacent to the Stable Yard along the Arc Path. Designed by Marks Barfield and constructed by Britland, these two iconic structures changed the dynamics of the gardens, bringing more visitors to the central and southern end of the arboretum. In 2006 and 2008 I presented my own two television series for BBC 2 called “*The Trees That Made Britain*” with an arborist in the Arboricultural team, Jon Hammerton. In 2014 under the leadership of Richard Barley, the hardy display collections in the northern part of the gardens were amalgamated with the Arboretum and I became the Head of Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services until my retirement in the summer of 2021.

I enjoy travel and lecturing to international audiences about trees and the Arboretum at Kew and writing technical papers and books about the management of trees. Despite failing English O’level twice at school I have written and co-written several books on trees and Arboriculture, including a revision of “*The Pruning of Trees Shrubs and Conifers*” by George Brown, “*Essential Pruning Techniques*”, “*The Haynes Manual of Arboriculture*”, “*Plants from the Edge of the World*” and “*Wilson’s China: A Century On*” with the late Mark Flanagan. More recently I co-wrote “*Remarkable Trees*” with Christina Harrison and “*Growing Trees*” in the Kew Growing Guide series.

In 2009 I was awarded the Associate of Honour by the RHS for distinguished service to horticulture, which can only be held by 100 people at any one time and in 2016 I was listed as one of London’s most influential people in “The Progress 1000” and awarded the Kew William Aiton medal. 2019 was a great year for me when I was given the Arboricultural Association Lifetime Achievement Award at the autumn conference for making a significant and positive impact to arboriculture, the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH) and the MBE for services to Kew and Arboriculture.

I think I have had one of the best careers in horticulture/arboriculture and have enjoyed my 43 years at Kew working with amazing people who are as passionate about plants and their jobs as I was and the incredible plant collections that make Kew the best garden in the world.

News of Kewites

Sandra Bell: The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown affected my family and household as it did everyone else in southern England. From March 2020 we spent much



Small Elephant Hawkmoth has been recorded in our garden only once, in 2021

more time in our own garden than would normally be the case. We are very lucky in that it is surrounded by countryside and rich in wildlife much of which we have been recording for years. Lockdown seemed an ideal opportunity to extend an area of our existing knowledge by devoting more time to it and we chose moths as the focus as we were aware the basic knowledge of our garden’s moths formed by sporadic trapping could be improved dramatically with greater regularity and frequency. In March 2020, as a family John, Hazel and I decided to trap at least twice each week for the rest of the year.

The vast majority of moths occurring naturally in the British Isles can be identified from field guides and recording them involves catching them alive, identifying them and then releasing them unharmed. Most moths fly at night and find bright lights very attractive so one of the best

methods of catching them is to use a light trap although some species are also enticed by sweet, sticky food spread on outside surfaces known as sugaring. Some moth traps use a very powerful light such as a 125W Mercury Vapour bulb while others use less powerful sources. As a general rule the more powerful light will attract more moths than a less powerful one. Under our conditions on a warm, cloudy summer evening trapping with a 125W Mercury Vapour lamp we would expect in the region of 150 moths in 5 hours. With a 40W actinic bulb we would expect far fewer, perhaps 50 in the same time.



Tree-lichen Beauty is a relatively recent immigrant from Europe and was first recorded in our garden in 2021



Canary-shouldered Thorn breeds in the garden and is recorded regularly in August and September

We rarely trap all night as the first five hours or so catch enough moths to keep us busy. When we want to turn out the light for the rest of the night we check the surrounding area and catch any moths that have been attracted to perch nearby. The trap is then covered to prevent any escapes and opened up in the morning. Opening the trap is always very exciting as you can never predict what will be found. Each moth is caught carefully and removed from the trap in a vial, photographed and released. Then most of the identification is done by comparing the photos with illustrations in field guides or on the internet where many counties have very good websites showing the many variants of all the species recorded there. We then

contribute all our records to the county recording scheme to add to the bigger picture of moth distribution in the UK.

A little over 1000 moth species have been found in Berkshire over the last two years and we have recorded nearly a third of these in our Aldermaston garden. Two years of trapping have brought many lovely examples with interesting stories to tell. Least the Carpet Moth once hardly seen in the area and becoming more frequent with each year, the tiny orange-edged *Tachystola acroxantha* accidentally introduced from Australia in 1908 and now common but apparently doing no harm, Peppered Moth famous for industrial melanism, Heart and Dart which was one of the commonest species in 2020 and yet hardly seen in 2021 and Gypsy Moth returning after an absence of many years. My own favourites, the Merveille du Jour and Burnished Brass are caught in good and stable numbers every year.

Migrant species are of particular interest both those that cover large distances to appear such as Hummingbird Hawkmoth, and those that are expanding their ranges and may well breed here such as Dewick's *Plusia* and Silver-y. The most sought-after of all, like visiting royalty, the Clifden Nonpareil, has been caught here only once, in September 2020. This very lovely, large migrant moth with blue hind wings was photographed and then it fed for several hours on a mixture of crushed banana, rum and pineapple juice. On release it circled the garden and set off northwards flying strongly. We've had a lot of fun moth recording in our garden at least twice weekly throughout 2020 and have continued in 2021. We've found out a lot about a beautiful and diverse group of insects that might otherwise go almost un-noticed except when their larvae eat our plants. If you're inspired to try there are a couple of good sites in the internet to start off with. To learn more about moth-

trapping and National and local recording schemes visit <https://www.butterfly-conservation.org>. Discover some of the many kinds of moth trap and their suitability under different conditions at Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies, <https://www.anglens.com>.

Jim Emerton: Little stimuli each day maintain motivation. At 72 I enjoy life with royalties from nine books on Amazon – I am a poet/philosopher and author, and write in many media. My autobiography is out there, I was a formal student for 11 years, evolving into a horticulturalist and science teacher. For Mensa, this will be sig. no 18 that I have created in. Wise to eat a healthy diet, walk out in the real world and keep buzzing in the brain. On my global travels there were some great characters in 60 countries and islands which were personality enhancing. My formula for a long life is to squeeze the juice out of it.

Hugh Flower (1973): Over the last four years Hugh has been busy establishing his new garden in Henfield with the help of plant exchanges from friends enabling him to entertain and jointly celebrate significant birthdays with Shan Watkins (1972) and Nick Boyes (1972)! Hugh continues to serve several police teams as one of the Surrey Chaplains and occasionally sees Molly Norman living in Chichester. Remembered by many old students as able assistant to Leo Pemberton. Hugh is now looking forward to celebrating his Church Golden Jubilee with planned improvements through a generous former parishioner bequest.

Alex George: Here in Western Australia we continued to manage remarkably well during the Covid epidemic. It's a time when our geographical isolation has been to our advantage. Having a relatively small population has also helped. Besides national restrictions on travel from overseas, our State Government closed our border with the other States and in general people have accepted the situation. Because I had no plans for travel, life continued fairly normally for me. Local societies suspended meetings in 2020 but resumed this year. I have given a few talks at these (e.g. Wildflower Society, Native Orchid Study Group, Friends of Kings Park), and I contribute articles (including book reviews) to their newsletters.

I had a couple of short trips to the country in company with friends. One was to Esperance and Ravensthorpe, on our south coast, to see the spring wildflowers (and a life-size replica



Near Hopetoun on the south coast of Western Australia, with a grasstree, *Xanthorrhoea platyphylla* (left), and Royal Hakea, *Hakea victoria*, with colourful floral leaves

of Stonehenge). In recent years, artists have begun making giant murals on grain silos, and we saw an example in Ravensthorpe. The other trip was to Norseman, some 600 km east of Perth, to look at the regeneration in *Eucalyptus* woodlands that were burnt in bushfires two years ago. These areas burn rarely but clearly have the same ability to regenerate as the rest of our flora. Some plants appear only after fire, flower and then their seed stays dormant in the soil until the next fire, even if that's decades later.

My garden is my haven,

Grain silos at Ravensthorpe with a mural of *Banksia Baxteri*



giving me pleasure and exercise. Weatherwise, we had our best winter for some years, with rainfall well above average. So far, summer has been typically dry and quite warm. This year I published the fourth edition of *Western Australian Plant Names and their Meanings*. In the two years since the third edition there were many new species to be added, as well as a number of name changes reflecting advances in knowledge of our flora. I continued with a new edition of the journal of Peter Good, gardener for Kew aboard the

voyage of HMS *Investigator* under Matthew Flinders in 1801–03. Also on board were botanist Robert Brown, botanical artist Ferdinand Bauer and landscape artist William Westall, making a remarkable team. A challenge has been identifying Good's seed lists from the various landings, bearing in mind that many were still unnamed and were given, at best, nicknames. I've identified about three-quarters, though many only tentatively.

One that puzzled me for some time was what he said was like the 'plank plant of English gardens'. After much searching I found it where I should have thought to look first, in *Paxton's Botanical Dictionary* - it was *Bossiaea scolopendria*, a legume with flat stems that had been introduced from New South Wales in 1792. Elsewhere in this number is a short article on the precise date when Kew officially became called the 'Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew' - 25 March 1841. As far as I know, this has not appeared in print before.

Eucalyptus woodland near Norseman regenerating after a bushfire, with mulla mulla, *Ptilotus exaltatus* (pink), everlastings *Leucochrysum fitzgibbonii* (white) and speargrass, *Austrostipa* species



I was invited to comment on the draft report on History, Equity and Inclusion at RBG Kew, which had 'a broad remit covering Kew's history, science and public engagement'. While it contains some proposals to ensure that the institution remains abreast of current social issues, I am concerned that some proposed structural and operational changes will alter the character of Kew for the worse. I hope that common and practical sense will prevail.

Harvey Groffman: A new year, a new Covid variant, a new lockdown – after a disastrous 2020, should I even contemplate garden opening and display plans? But something else had arrived – a vaccine to hopefully turn the tide and restore some degree of normality!

Hesitantly, provisional plans were made, with a theme to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Albert Hall, an idea instigated from a guided tour in 2019 with my local history group. However, another event was soon to influence a change of direction!



On 2nd February 2021, the death was announced of Captain Sir Tom Moore, knighted by H.M. The Queen for his gallant fundraising efforts for the NHS in his 100th year. Public feeling convinced me to consider a fitting floral tribute. NGS Head Office were consulted, with a very favourable response and a suggestion I write to

the family about my plans and they would forward the letter. Family approval was forthcoming, with a request for pictures to be sent as they could not guarantee being able to come to London to see it for real. A backdrop design was worked out with a local printer, featuring Sir Tom's image, together with a carpet bedding foreground displaying his words "TOMORROW IS A GOOD DAY" planted with *Echeveria glauca*.

Unexpected news in April confirmed garden competitions would go ahead in June and July, resulting in 12 awards, four being attributable to the Captain Tom display area. Most notable was the Challenge Trophy and Gilt Medal as first prize for Patios in the London Gardens Society All London Championships. A second prize silver medal was awarded for Window Boxes. The Brighter Kensington Scheme awarded first prizes for Front Garden and Back Garden, together with a special award for design. So, thanks to Captain Tom, the rather lean results of recent years have been turned around. Hopefully, the general situation will improve so that we can all enjoy a momentous Platinum Jubilee year.

David Hardman: Continuing to raise awareness about the benefits the sport of dragonboat racing for people who have been affected by any type of cancer, I was elected as a Director to the Executive of the British Dragonboat Association. This is enabling me to drive forward with all the affiliated clubs who wish to create an All Cancers (ACs) Dragonboat team. Still in the early stages, to date we have 12 Clubs across England keen to form an ACs team to attract paddlers to join them. Making new friends and enjoying an incredible team sport, paddlers will eventually benefit, being able to race within this category as it grows.

On 13th September, via internet, I attended the funeral of a good friend and a Kewite who had greatly helped me in my early horticultural career. **Roger Davenport** (6th April 1942 – 18th August 2021) was a passionate gardener delighting in garden visits with his wife

Lesley. A lifelong fan of Manchester City he also enjoyed theatre and contemporary ballet. As an enthusiast he attended the Scarborough Jazz Festival every year. He had grown up in Cheadle Hulme with parents Nellie and Bernard. Serving his horticultural apprenticeship at Hazel Grove & Bramhall UDC, Cheshire then entering Kew on the Certificate course, gaining further technical qualifications at the “Grotto”, Reading. He had worked at Salford, Coventry and Doncaster, finally Wakefield where he was highly respected through his work and mentoring to many apprentices. He was devoted to his family and is survived by his loving wife Lesley, children Judith and Philip, their partners Neil and Joanne and grandchildren, Ella and Miles.

Looking forward to promote ACs Dragonboating; if anyone is interested and would like more information, please contact me.

Stewart Henchie: January 2021 started off on a more expectant note with the opportunity to obtain vaccination for COVID -19, I had my first flu jab on February 5th. My son living in Holland insisted that I had the process photographed to prove to him that I had it carried out. Hence the photo taken using my iPhone – isn’t technology just wonderful!

During this year I have carried on although in a much-reduced scale volunteering at **Teign Heritage Centre**, our local museum. Another volunteer Tony Wilson and I have now scanned over 10,000 photographs, 35mm slides and other images during the last five years. Although this year our scanning numbers are greatly reduced, I have with much lower staff numbers continued to volunteer once a week at the **Dawlish Gardens Trust** caring and maintaining containerised and field grown plants on a six-acre site just outside



Leo Pemberton in the Orangery Teignmouth



Dawlish. Normally there would be up to 120 vulnerable adults on the site during the week but due to COVID-19 none were able to come onto the site until early September. We mainly worked outside in ‘bubbles’ of six clients to keep safe and I’m glad to say this worked. While volunteering at the Trust I like many others had to undergo the ‘AAAGH’ PCR swab

Leo Pemberton (L), and Tom Seager





Pat my wife in her 'lockdown blue hair', Leo Pemberton (left), and Martin and Anne Abrahams on the right

in Sunbury-on-Thames and he spent a week with us at what he calls 'his holiday home'. During that week we went to **Abbotsbury subtropical gardens** on a coach trip organised by the **Teignmouth Gardening Club** of which I'm still the chairperson and a great day and weather was had by all. We also managed to meet up with **Tom Seager** (left Kew in 1951) who lives in Teignmouth and he and Leo reminisced about Kew and students/staff they both knew while I sat nearby and listened and took the inevitable photograph! We also arranged an outdoor meal in our garden in the evening, cool, hence Leo is wearing a poncho I obtained in Chile a long time ago! You will notice my dear wife Pat still has the blue hair; it will go she assures me when Covid-19 has finally disappeared! **Martin Abrahams** (student 1970-1973) and his wife Anne also joined us.

and Rapid flow testing myself once a week since late August. This is to ensure that I'm COVID-19 free before I go on site.

In early September we opened our garden with another and the **Orangery at Bitton House** in Teignmouth to the public under the **National Gardens Scheme** under the group gardens section and we managed to raise over £700 for the charities. In the first week of September, I collected **Leo Pemberton** from his home

Grapes and special secateurs



Peace and a mug of tea on a windy day outside our beach hut on Teignmouth Point

My lovely daughter Anna signed me up to pick grapes over two weekends in September at our nearby **Old Walls Vineyard** in Bishopsteignton as she felt I needed some exercise! The exercise picking on the slopes was challenging and fun but the meals and wine provided later for each volunteer was even better. To bring a bit of Sunshine to our local Gardening Club we had a sunflower growing competition - as the Chairman I did not enter but grew 20 large plants on my allotment. Finally, for relaxation there is nothing like sitting back in chair and looking out to sea from a beach hut.



Pamela abseiling in the Polish Tatra mountains



Pamela with the Surrey Hills Society, on the North Downs

Pamela Holt (1971): When I began my horticultural career, the RHS Wisley 2-year diploma course was denied me. Then one needed to be male, single and live on site. As I only live four miles away this was a great pity but later when I applied to RBG Kew no such restrictions applied! Having returned to my family home, I am now able to volunteer at

Wisley and assist in the Library once a month. This is housed in the new Hill Top building along with the science staff, café and splendid terrace viewing platform. An active member of the Surrey Hills Society I regularly lead tree walk and talks. This time a winter walk to recognise buds and bark. The rain was just beginning to stop in the picture so finally pushed off my hood as we studied a splendid old *Sorbus aria*.

Apart from hill walking and rock climbing in Britain when conditions allowed, I did manage a week in Poland staying at a lovely old mountain refuge in the Tatra mountains. I read with interest an information board advising that visitors refrained from feeding the Spotted Nutcrackers (*Nucifraga caryocatactes*) It seems the birds enjoy the rich pickings from the National Park visitors rather seeking out their traditional food source the *Pinus cembra*. Often the birds would bury the seeds and assist in the spread of the tree which is now becoming threatened.

Bryan Howard (RBGK 1963-1966):

With Covid clipping our wings and dashing our hopes of travel further afield we looked to our beautiful County of Shropshire and the Shropshire Hills to provide us with fresh air, exercise and peace of mind.

Shropshire is England's biggest inland county and



claims to possess one of the richest and most diverse areas of British natural flora. Some kind neighbours presented us with a list of 60 Shropshire Hills, AONBs and all providing unrivalled distant and panoramic views. The challenge was on! Armed with essential OS maps, strong walking boots and some sustenance in our rucksacks - what could be more rewarding?

We also had wonderful visits to some of the gardens listed in the National Gardens Scheme for the Shropshire area. We managed to visit some 30 beautiful gardens open for Charity, some part of large estates while others were just a small garden or a patio – each a gem, all outdoors so little worry about Covid, a cream tea at the end in a wonderful English garden - what could be more perfect?! So, “when the world wearies and society ceases to satisfy there is always the garden...and the gardener.”

Udai Pradhan, News from the Himalayas: Dear friends old and new, warm greetings from the Himalayas to every one of you and your families for the New Year. Much has changed for us since the pandemic and there will be many who will remember 2020 as the year of change and 2021 as the year of revelation of truths and dysfunctions at every possible level. Yet through it all, I deeply appreciate the grit, steadfastness and the tenacity of the human species to move on and to look for solutions in this new found consciousness.

As Marianne Williamson once said “A miracle is a shift in perception from fear to love.” And so back home in the Himalayas, we continue to do what we love doing the most – rearing plants and our grandchildren while making the best of the lockdowns and the quality times that had been gifted to us. Our garden blossomed in a cornucopia of plants amongst which were Rhododendron, various lilies, Orchids, Gloriosas, Anthuriums, Begonias, Azaleas, Russelias and Roses. Here, I would like to make a special mention of our great friends, Viru and Girija Viraraghavan who hail from Kodaikanal, a lovely hill station in South India. The couple are well known for their hybrid roses in India and abroad. Many years ago, they had gifted us with few seeds of *Rosa gigantea*. Tej and I nursed the plants for more than five years after which they began to flower for us. Our joy knew no bounds as we got the opportunity to see the majestic large and creamy fragrant flowers that bloomed one after another against the beautiful red thorns on the stems.

What a sight it was! Kalimpong has an ideal altitude of 1500-1800 metres for *Rosa gigantea* which is native to Northeast India, Northern Myanmar and Yunnan, China. In one of his articles titled *A Search For Wild Roses - Rosa gigantea*, 1991, Viru beautifully describes the plant as: “*R. gigantea* truly lives up to its name, being by far the largest growing of roses - plants have been recorded 50 feet in height, with stems thicker than a man’s arm, huge flowers in shades of light yellow to white, around six inches across, and very large fruits (hips) the size of small apples, around 1-1½ inches across, and, most importantly, from the breeder’s point of view, lovely evergreen disease resistant foliage. This species is one of the most prominent in the pedigree of the modern rose but it has contributed its genes



Rosa gigantea flowering in our garden in Kalimpong



Anthurium schezerianum

not directly but through many ancient hybrids evolved by the Chinese over the centuries.”

Another plant that bloomed profusely for us this time was *Anthurium schezerianum*. The berries of this plant had been imported by my father, late Badri Narayan Pradhan and his cousin Tek Bahadur Pradhan from late Robert Blossfield of Lubeck, Germany in mid-1950. The extraordinary size, the bright red spathe and nearly three months of flowering made the species a great seller. This species is native to Costa Rica and Honduras in South America but is doing well in different parts of India too.

2021 arrived on an exciting note with an email from Dr. Leslie Ee, President, The Canadian Orchid Congress (COC), inviting me to contribute an article of the Himalayan Jewel Orchids in a special Jewel Orchid issue

for their newsletter. This provided me with the much awaited opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences about the Himalayan Jewels with a wider audience. The Jewel Issue was released in Summer 2021 as a downloadable PDF file. It would assist in raising worldwide awareness of this group of Orchids while facilitating fund raising towards orchid conservation efforts in Canada and other parts of the world and maintaining web presence. My daughter Hemlata's watercolour painting of *Goodyera hemsleyana* became the wraparound cover for this special issue! Quoting Dr. Leslie Ee in his correspondence with me “Your contribution and name anchored the validity of the topic on jewel orchids and their conservation”. Unfortunately, I could not accept their invitation to speak at the Jewel Speakers Day on August 22nd 2021 as travelling during the pandemic was impossible. But I had sent them a video that I had made for the World Orchid Conference, Singapore in 2011 on the Jewels which was presented during the Speaker's Day and was appreciated by many.

Besides this, my request for part of the proceeds collected from the Jewel issue to be donated to the American Orchid Society as they were celebrating their Centennial year while I was also celebrating my 50th year of life membership with them, was kindly approved by the COD-Board of Directors of the Canadian Orchid Congress whereby they generously matched the Toronto Orchid Society's donation to the Centennial AOS Celebrations! How I received the life membership with the American Orchid Society is another story. As a college going student, I had been contributing articles to the American Orchid Society Bulletin. In the year 1970 I finally wrote to Mr. Gordon W. Dillon, the then Executive Secretary to the American Orchid Society, expressing my desire to become a Life Member of the AOS. I requested that the accumulated payment for my articles be credited towards payment of the life membership which was \$200 then. My request was accepted and I finally received my life membership card in 1972 with a formal letter of welcome from Gordon!

In order to celebrate my 50th year with the American Orchid Society, I had submitted an article on my experiments with *Paphiopedilum druryi* here in India to the *ORCHIDS* magazine. My excitement knew no bounds when it was accepted for publication in the following month. We (Hemlata and I) also submitted another article on *Paphiopedilum*

fairrie anum which was once again acknowledged and accepted to be published by the AOS later this year. Jean Ikeson, Chair, Editorial Board of the American Orchid Society and education coordinator for the centre and also for the entire AOS judging system commented in her mail – “Your article will make a fine addition to *Orchids*”. Meanwhile, we registered three new hybrids with the Royal Horticultural Society, London.

They were as follows:

1. *Cymbidium Ganesh ko Sangeet*

Cymbidium tigrinum x *Cymbidium lancifolium*



This hybrid was named after my cousin and close orchid friend, the late Ganesh Mani Pradhan, and his wife Sangeeta. Not only was he a well-known Orchid enthusiast who had been actively hybridizing orchids and other plants since the 1960's but was also a treasure trove of knowledge on natural life, art and culture and was always keen to share this with everyone young and old who showed their interest. His firm Ganesh Mani Pradhan Orchids was well known for the import and export of propagated Orchids and other Indo-Himalayan plants. He was one of the core members

to initiate the Orchid Society of India, Chandigarh. The first Orchid hybrid from India *Bulbophyllum (Cirrhopetalum) Kalimpong* was registered by him with the Royal Horticultural Society, London in the year 1977. Ganesh together with his wife Sangeeta set up and ran the nursery for more than five decades. Today his son Mahendra Mani Pradhan and daughter-in-law Honey Pradhan look after the plant nursery and business. Ganesh was also a Rotarian and had served the Rotary club of Kalimpong for the last 30 years.

2. *Vanvanda Atsushi's Kazuko*

Vandopsis undulata x *Vanda cristata*



Atsushi Kuyama was born in 1947 near Kobe, Japan. He completed his studies from the Kwansei Gakuin University in 1970 and later he joined the International Institute for Japan Studies. Between 1972-73 he was a student at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, U.K. and was my batchmate. In 1973 he along with his wife Kazuko took a road trip for botanizing from England to India. Atsushi and Kazuko's love for plants brought them to Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas from Kew, England. Between 1982-1993 he became the Director at the Awaji Farm Park Botanical Garden. Later, Atsushi became the Founder and Director of one of Japan's biggest plant conservatories, Sakuya Konohana Kan Botanical Gardens, which he is still running. The way he has set up the Great Plant Conservatory reflects his passion for plants from all over the world. Atsushi was also a

member of the board of trustees of Royal Horticultural Society Japan from 1987 to 2015.

Kazuko Kuyama was born in Osaka in 1946. She attended the Kobe Women's College between 1965-69 after which she continued her studies at the Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Between 1970-73 she went to the International Institute for Japan Studies. From 1972-73 she was a student at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Presently Kazuko is a teacher of English Language in Japan, a venture she had embarked upon since 1974.

3. *Paphiopedilum* Sage *Agastya druryi* *Paphiopedilum venustum* x *Paphiopedilum druryi*



Sage Agastya was a respected Indian sage who was an influential scholar and author of many great Vedic literatures. He was also well versed in the field of natural medicines and history states that he had a garden where he grew all kinds of plants including those that were of high medicinal value. Research suggests that '*Paphiopedilum druryi*' was also found in his garden. In order to honour this great sage and his contribution to science and literature, I took the opportunity to name this hybrid between *Paphiopedilum druryi* and *Paphiopedilum venustum* after him.

While we carried on with our work of interest, Hemlata continued with her own line of passion and interest. On June 2021, Hemlata received an invitation to participate in a 10 day 3D Virtual Art Exhibition titled 'Classmates' by the IGA Art Gallery, Mumbai, India between 16th to 25th July 2021, which would also include art talks and virtual studio visits. This was a uniquely planned art initiative aligned towards bringing art inspired by nature and natural forms to the masses by the gallery while creating an aesthetic awareness through visual learning and online interactions.

(Visit <https://www.igastudios.com/classmates> to view the exhibition). Later in the year, the well-known LA Journal also featured the exhibition in their journal.

In October, 2019 Dr. Martyn Rix, the editor of *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* at Kew wrote to Hemlata asking if Kew Publishing could use a few of her botanical paintings in a book on Indian Botanical Painting covering artworks from the Moghuls, to the paintings for botanists with the East India Company, and also some of the current botanical artists from India. It was to be published by Roli Books in New Delhi, in association with RBG Kew. We celebrated our joy with Hemlata when this beautiful and insightful book was finally published and released on August, 2021. It was another landmark on her journey as a botanical artist and also as someone who had completed her botanical art course from Kew. Around the same time, more of her paintings of the different *Paphiopedilum* species were also used by Dr. Guido Braem in his new publication *The Genus Paphiopedilum* (3rd Edition).

At home Hemlata has been building up her portfolio of paintings, especially focusing on Jewel Orchids in their habitats. She had previously won the RHS Gold Medal in 1999 for a series of illustrations on the same group of orchids. Besides, her latest painting of



Hemlata's Art classes during the lockdowns on her terrace

Paphiopedilum fairrieianum in its natural habitat will be exclusively featured in my article for the Orchids magazine of the American Orchid Society this year. She wants to begin exhibiting and participating in shows as and when the pandemic begins to ease out and the restrictions are lifted by Governments.

Meanwhile, even as her art school remained closed following the pandemic restrictions for schools and colleges, Hemlata continued to provide botanical art classes to a new generation of young students from the surrounding villages in her own home. Hemlata finally

took the initiative on December 2021 with her friends once again to re-organize the art

The Art School



school cleaning, re-painting and re-furnishing it so that they could begin the new sessions at the school itself rather than the make-shift class on her terrace garden at home. A dormitory was also created so that the school could host our station students.

Sumrita Gotamay, one of Hemlata's ex-students also joined her for Botanical art internship programme at the art school. Sumrita wants to take up botanical art and conservation as her career and she also wants to join the art school as a botanical art tutor in the near future. Hemlata has been training her for this. She has been studying and illustrating local flora. From a shy little girl from a remote village in Kalimpong who had no clue about the world of botanical art, to a lady who is today independent, smart, diligent and producing art works of quality, Sumrita has indeed come a long way and done us all proud!

Just recently the school had a visitor who was none other than Lolita Dutta! Prof. Lolita Dutta is the Head of Department (HOD), associate director of School of Communication Design at Unitedworld Institute of Design (UID), Karnavati University. She is a design

professional and an academician responsible for curriculum development and has led teams and taught at all the top design institutes with over 35 years of experience. She has had the honour of working with several ministries in the Government of India. She has proposed to design and develop courses and modules around art, nature and design for students from the local surrounding areas in the hills and students from various design universities to immerse and learn experientially in the beautiful surroundings of Hemlata's school for Natural History Art. The courses and modules will be designed as multi sensorial immersive experiences exploring the interrelationships between art, nature, design and ecology. Lolita has also opened up possible new avenues for student exchange programmes, art retreats and residencies for students and researches alike.



Studies of local bamboos found in Kalimpong by Sumrita Gotamay, 2021

This and many more developments to look forward to in the coming months and years for us all dear friends and we look forward to sharing them with you again! While a year has passed and we have lost many of our near and dear ones, it does not have to end there. There is a new dawn each day that brings us back to the “now” and we will all join hands and strive for a better tomorrow. I end my note with these profound words by Pepper Lewis that Hemlata is very keen on sharing with everyone today -

Cymbidium Tej and Udai two clones



*“There does not need to be a new earth in order to have a new world.
Worlds come and go, change and overlap, discover and re-discover themselves.
And from that emerges new life, great life.
From that emergence comes creativity and opportunity, guidance and wisdom.
From that comes new species and new elements, new life.
Begin to look around you and you will see a new world already.
You need not wait for changes in the calendar to prove it to you!”*

With our very good wishes for a new, creative, joyful and a healthy year ahead to each one of you.

Anthony (Tony) Rose (1962): Besides charity work Tony's main preoccupation during the year was developing his botanical garden with its 2,000 plants. Mostly in pots these overwinter in three conservatories which he has built over the past five years. Tony has many cacti, succulents, and sub tropical plants including agaves, various types of palms, gingers, banana, cycads, cannas, dasyliirions, aeoniums and bamboo. His love of plants beginning when he was 13 years old gives considerable enjoyment.

During the summer the garden is open to the public on some Sundays raising money for mental health charities. On one National Gardens Scheme open day almost 200 people visited which Tony found particularly pleasing noting the delighted expressions on people's faces as they enjoyed the colourful plants most visitors would have only seen on holidays abroad. He is amused to see which plants visitors find of particular interest, the current favourite being Senecio 'Angel Wings'. Despite a lot of watering in the summer months with the help of nine huge waterbutts, Tony says that it is a good way to keep active. Can't be bad for a gentleman of 82 years of age!

Richard Ward: Having had the required three coronavirus vaccinations Wiena and I have enjoyed a year of consolidation - sorting papers, contacting friends by phone, email or Christmas card, and generally catching up with things that we might not otherwise have got round to doing. It has been good to keep in contact with many fellow Kewites during the year but sad to see that some have failed to renew their subs. and thus lost touch with us. It is with some relief, tinged with much regret, that I will no longer be attending Guild Committee meetings after the best part of 50 years in some capacity or other! See you at the Annual Dinner? Things can only get better! Best wishes to all.



John Whitehead (1969): Another Covid year in North Wales curtailed any safe travel adventures to far-off lands. Sadly Covid-19 claimed the loss of a close friend, the botanical artist Jenny Brasier aged 85 years. In the 1980s, Jenny and her sons Jim and Marcus lived in The Oaks house with their father, John Brasier the Principal of Merrist Wood College in Surrey. They were my next-door neighbours on the college campus where I was a Lecturer in Arboriculture and a college warden for 25 years.

Also at the college, friends and neighbours included the Kewites **Barry Phillips**, a Lecturer in Horticulture and **Christine Phillips-Watlington** who, in the early days, use to help run the Book shop at Kew when it was in the Orangery. Later Barry became a Horticultural Officer in Bermuda and a notable celebrity for saving the endemic Bermudan Cedar *Juniperus bermudiana*. Christine became an established Bermudan Botanical Artist and produced a charming fully illustrated book on the flora. Barry helped with the botany and Christine liked my suggested title for her book *Bermuda's Botanical Wonderland* by Christine Phillips-Watlington 1996. Fortunately, I was able to stay with Christine and Barry in Bermuda to recuperate after losing all my belongings in a disastrous fire at Merrist Wood House on 15th June 1978. At the end of that academic year, a student's silly late-night prank resulted in the horrendous fire in the students common room.

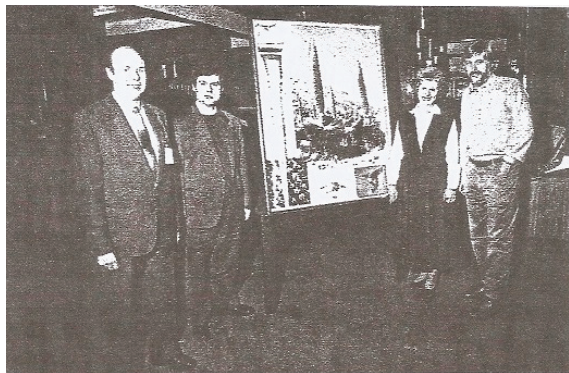
During my first neighbourly visit to the Principal's house, I was inspired when I saw Jenny's delightful painting of a blackberry bramble on display. Jenny had a background

in agriculture and I outlined to her my art background which included A-Level Art in the 1960s. The exam subject was “The Battle”. I had successfully submitted a painting of a moribund windblown tree on the exposed slopes of a windswept estuary. Other examples of my artwork were recorded under my full name M.J. Whitehead, which included all illustrations and photographs in the book *Tree Surgery* by Peter H. Bridgeman 1976. With my artwork and botanical background at Kew, I became Jenny’s botanical advisor and our art partnership flourished. In the 1980s, for seven years, I spent the summer college vacations as a leader, working for Exodus Expeditions guiding backpacking groups in the Andean mountains of Peru. At that time, having a Kew collectors’ licence, I was able to collect plants, although often difficult to achieve at high altitude, and with the extra work involved organising a safe trek on the Inca Trail where an armed escort provided protection against possible dangers from the activities of the communists’ guerrillas, known as the Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path).

In 1985 I collected the Giant Buttercup *Laccopetalum giganteum* in Peru. On the long flight back home, I carefully held the large fleshy plant in a black plastic bin bag. With the plant in transit from the airport to be quarantined in Kew via Merrist Wood, under pressure with a limited time factor, Jenny captured a fresh life-size botanical painting of the succulent giant buttercup. The grey-green fleshy flowers as big as a human fist and with the seeds, were in transit to **Jim Keesing** for accessioning to the Kew collection and the Herbarium. **Brian Halliwell**, the assistant curator of the Alpine Department, germinated the giant buttercup from the seed but the seedlings eventually dwindled. He researched the plant and noted that they possibly required the mineral trace element Molybdenum for healthy growth in its natural habitat in the high Andes of Peru. The painting of *Laccopetalum* was on display at Kew when Jenny held an exhibition in the early days of Cambridge Cottage art gallery.

In 1987, I collected the *Puya raimondii*, the world’s largest alpine plant and has the world record for the tallest flowering inflorescence. Again, Jenny accepted the challenge to complete a painting of part of the infructescence seed head. Jenny had her botanical art exhibited at the Natural History Museum where we both presented a large multimedia picture containing her painting together with my pictures of the giant Puya and the Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas* (Jenny eventually gained five RHS Gold Medals and the Jill Smythies Medal for Botanical Art from the Linnean Society of London in 2002). A few years later I visited Jenny when she joined the artist in residence at Flatford Mill where

she was thrilled to be staying in Willi Lotts Cottage, made famous in Constable’s iconic painting, The Hay Wain.



Jenny Brasier and myself at the Natural History Museum, presenting the multi-media picture of the Giant Puya I collected in Peru in 1985. With thanks and credit to the Natural History Museum.

Obituaries

Our thanks to Graham Burgess for his assistance with obituaries - Ed.

Robert Adams

16th February 1933 - 17th December 2018

Robert ‘Bob’ Adams was born on the 16th of February 1933 in Migaladon, Rangoon, Burma; his parents were serving with the army in India and Burma. He was interested in horticulture from an early age, but didn’t go directly into the field upon leaving school. He did various jobs, including working at a toy and pram factory, shop, and a small building firm. In his late teens he joined the gardening staff at Lyme Park, Disley, Cheshire as a garden labourer. Whilst at Lyme Park he began studying for the RHS General examination at evening classes at Stockport Technical College. In 1954 Bob transferred to Stockport Corporation Parks Department where he widened his experience working in various parks and indoor places. After gaining his RHS qualification he then took an extra mural course in Horticultural Science at Manchester University.

Bob then saw advert for Kew studentship, applied and started the Course in October 1957. He began in The Palm House before the standard tour of different departments including Flower Garden North, T Range and Arboretum Nursery. He very much enjoyed his time at Kew, including the study, activities, as well as the friendliness and helpfulness of everyone at the Gardens. Whilst at Kew, he also took the Certificate of Arboriculture.

He took part in most activities including The Music Circle and Mutual Improvement Society. He entered the Clog Race and one year won the ‘Round the Gardens’ Race. He was Cricket Secretary and a wing-half in the football team. He graduated from Kew in 1959 and went on to the College of Park Administration at ‘The Grotto’, Lower Basildon, Reading. Then, from Stockport, he moved to become Technical Assistant at Cheadle and Gatley Parks Department. During this time, he was an inaugural student of the new part-time evening course in Landscape Design at Manchester Technical College of Art.

In 1965, with support from Allan Hart, Bob joined the landscape group of what was then Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. He retired in September 1991.

Bob served the Kew Guild on the main Committee as Vice President, as well as the Award Scheme Committee. A lifetime serving others on so many levels, a great loss. We send our condolences to Bob’s family and friends.

Allan Hart adds: *“I have very fond memories of Bob; he used to spend every Cup Final day with us watching the matches with a critical eye, as he was a qualified referee. When we were at ‘The Grotto’, a visit was arranged to tour the gardens of Paris and passports had to be obtained. Bob was surprised to be informed that as he had been born in Burma he would have to be issued with an Irish passport through his Irish grandparents!”*

Norman Robson 1928-2021

Norman Keith Bonner Robson died peacefully on 6th September 2021 after a short illness. He was the much-loved husband of Eve, brother of Mary, uncle and great-uncle.

Born in Aberdeen in 1928, Norman was a senior Botanist based mainly at the Natural

History Museum in the Plants Division, Department of Life Sciences. He was a member of staff from 1962-1988, retiring as Principal Scientific Officer, with responsibility for General Herbarium Section I. Following his retirement, he continued at the Natural History Museum as an Associate, in total spending almost 60 years there. Norman had close links with Kew, being at Kew between 1956-1962 before joining the Natural History Museum. Between 1977 and 2010, he also produced a worldwide taxonomic monograph of the genus *Hypericum*, with the encouragement of Roy Lancaster. The monograph accounted for all 470 species of the genus (at the time of its completion).

His interest in *Hypericum* began during on a final year project on the species whilst studying at Aberdeen University and he continued this work during his PhD at the University of Edinburgh. His thesis (1956) was entitled ‘Studies in the genus *Hypericum L.*’, examining floral anatomy and evolution. During his career Norman published over 90 papers and contributed to flora accounts on *Hypericum* and described more than 80 new species.

His funeral was held on 11th October, at St Peter’s Parish Church, Limpsfield, Surrey. We send our condolences to Norman’s family.

Clive Popham

We regret to report that Clive Popham, Kew student 1961-63, passed away in Buninyong, Australia on 15th January 2022. A full Appreciation will be published in the Events of 2022 Journal.

THE KEW GUILD CIO STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

		UNRESTRICTED FUNDS	RESTRICTED FUNDS	ENDOWMENT FUNDS	TOTAL 2021	TOTAL 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:						
Incoming resources from generated funds						
Donations and legacies	2	1,935			1,935	763
Income from Investments						
Investment income and deposit interest	3	16,287	3,175		19,462	18,483
Income from charitable activities						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and other membership activities:						
Membership subscriptions		8,895			8,895	9,734
Annual Dinner		-	-		-	61
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-
Other events and income		90	-		90	22,487
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Awards and prizes:						
Donations and legacies	4	-	4,877		4,877	4,781
Total income and endowments		27,207	8,052	-	35,259	56,309
EXPENDITURE ON:						
Expenditure on Charitable activities						
<i>Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge</i>						
Events and membership activities:						
Website project		901	-		901	433
Journal of The Kew Guild		7,699	-		7,699	4,777
Annual Dinner		-	-		-	184
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-
Newsletter		187	-		187	68
Presidents' name bars		-	-		-	-
Presidents' medals		-	-		-	-
Archivist		-	-		-	105
Other events and membership activities		-	-		-	22,292
<i>Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education</i>						
Award making: Awards	5	486	6,077		6,563	7,000
Prizes	5	725	-		725	825
Student fellowship		-	-		-	341
Kew Guild Medal		441	-		441	450
Grants to institutions		32,405	-		32,405	8,500
Other Expenditure						
Membership database		-	-		-	1,051
Administrative costs		5,316	-		5,316	3,721
Other expenditure		-	-		-	3
Total expenditure		48,160	6,077	-	54,237	49,750
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)		(20,953)	1,975	-	(18,978)	6,559
Net gains/(losses) on investments:						
Unrealised movements on investment assets	8	76,946	15,190	-	92,136	37,951
Net income/(expenditure)		55,993	17,165	-	73,158	44,510
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		55,993	17,165	-	73,158	44,510
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	675,798	122,584	-	798,382	753,872
Total funds carried forward	12	731,791	139,749	-	871,540	798,382

THE KEW GUILD CIO BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	8	758,443	631,346
Current assets			
Stock of Kew Guild medals		3,087	3,969
Debtors	9	8,740	37,612
Cash at bank and in hand	10	144,562	135,084
Total current assets		<u>156,389</u>	<u>176,655</u>
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(43,292)	(9,629)
Net current assets or liabilities		<u>113,097</u>	<u>167,036</u>
Total net assets or liabilities		<u><u>871,540</u></u>	<u><u>798,382</u></u>
The Funds of the Charity:			
Restricted funds	12	139,749	122,584
Unrestricted general fund	12	225,356	197,464
Unrestricted designated funds	12	<u>506,435</u>	<u>478,334</u>
Total unrestricted funds		731,791	675,798
Total Charity funds		<u><u>871,540</u></u>	<u><u>798,382</u></u>

The financial statements will be approved by The Trustees in June 2022 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. The full Annual Report and Financial Statements, including the Independent Examiner's Report, will be made available for the AGM.

The unincorporated Kew Guild charity (306064) holds the permanent endowment funds which at 31 December 2021 were £187,804 (2020: £164,473). The dividend income received annually £4,877 for 2021 (2020: £4,781) is donated, as restricted donations, to the CIO to be used for awards and prizes in accordance with their original purposes.



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