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 2022

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The Kew Guild

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

Trustees and Officers 2022 - 2023

Trustees:

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Chris Kidd
Brita Von Schoenaich
Harvey Stephens
Robert Brett
Gordon Fraser
Colin Hindmarch
Sylvia Phillips
David Simpson
Silke Strickrodt

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Due to Data Protection laws, we will no longer be publishing Members' names and addresses. Please ask the Kew Guild Secretary to forward any correspondence to fellow Members.

Editorial

I'd like to welcome you to this edition of the Journal of the Kew Guild.

As a newcomer to the Guild and to the Journal I have been in turn daunted by the history of the Guild as an organisation and impressed by the achievements of Kewites, new and old. So I thought I'd play to my strengths as an outsider: to highlight the amazing attributes of the Guild through fresh eyes.

The Journal appears a little different: the launch of the Guild's new-look website was the spur to give the Journal a fresh feeling to match. I have used more photographs because as I read the stories coming into my inbox from long-established Kewites and those just starting out, I wanted to see as well as hear their stories.

After all, that is surely what the Guild is all about. Telling one another what you are all up to - see News of Kewites, from Page 171; marvelling at the sheer scale of the way botany and horticulture, and indeed conservation, is affecting our world - see Honorary Fellows News, Page 202; and passing on that passion to the next generation - see Student reports, Pages 127 and 133.

For all that, the illustrious history of the Kew Guild is never far away. It didn't seem quite fair to be sent such a curved ball as the piece on Page 192, which follows the publication of a paper in 1962 - but I take it in good part. I was delighted to receive a copy of Brian Willan's book, see Page 199, about Fred Ball, a Kew gardener who rose to become Keeper of Dublin's botanic gardens in Glasnevin. Among the many fascinating illustrations is a picture of the Kew Guild Dinner from 1905, with the observation that Kewites formed strong bonds that could last a lifetime.

That is clearly the case as we read about the botanising visitors to Alex George's home in Australia, see Pages 171 to 175, as part of their own long-dreamed journeys, as well as the educational adventurers in gardens far away by the students who have won bursaries from the Guild. There's a great sense that they, too, will be enveloped by the history of the Guild and its far-reaching network.

Taking over the editorship from Sparkle Ward has been quite daunting, particularly as she is the latest in a long line of Wards who have held the editor's pencil. I hope I have gone some way to meet the challenge.

Ros Whistance Editor

Welcome by Rob Brett, Acting President

Dear Guild Members,

I am delighted to welcome you all to this year's Journal of the Kew Guild.



Rob Brett ©RHS Garden Hyde Hall

This year's Journal is full of interesting and amazing articles to enjoy, including a reflection on two past Presidents meeting in Western Australia, a piece on botanising from Oxford to Jerusalem, alongside volunteering in retirement. Hon Fellows report in from Bangkok to Morecambe Bay, Battersea Power Station to Wye Valley, and there are articles on the Japanese garden in Cowden, Scotland, and on how Kew touched the lives of Dorset Head Gardeners.

There are also student reports including an immersive trip to learn about the ins and outs of the workings of Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania, USA, and a practical course in chainsawing, all achieved through support from the Kew Guild Awards scheme. And, among a varied selection of articles, a book review on Charles Frederick Ball, from Dublin's Botanic Gardens to the killing fields of Gallipoli.

This year marks the 130th anniversary of the Guild and I hope it will end seeing the Guild stronger in membership, vision, support and mentorship.

Unfortunately, it is also a year that has begun with the Guild struggling to come to terms with the loss of some dear and loving friends. As many of you are aware, it should not be myself writing this welcome, but Graham Heywood. The tragic loss of Graham, our President, at the beginning of the year shocked us all and our thoughts continue to be with his family and friends. (See Page 21 and Obituary, Page 211).

As I write this welcome, the Kew Guild is striving to widen its umbrella within the Kew community, reaching out to extend its membership, to support its charitable aims and continue to be a pillar of strength in supporting Kew, its staff and its wider activities. I therefore request that you help us.

We can only be as good as the members we have. I would encourage you (if you have not already done so) to visit and explore the new Kew Guild Website; I would urge you to re-engage with our activities and promote, where you can, the good work of the Guild to old 'Kewites' and beyond.

Through our 5 Year Plan (see Page 120) we are undertaking a transformation of the Kew Guild that will support and assist Kew even further in delivering its Horticultural, Educational and Science mandate.

The Kew Guild is a charitable network that does so much. Explore and engage with it and help us to build this network.

As part of being a member and to make sure you do not miss the opportunities for connections, news and events that are part of the Kew Guild story, we hope you will visit the website, look out for the news updates and of course, enjoy reading this year's Journal.

Finally, I cannot complete this welcome without thanks. We are indebted to Sara Arnold who diligently and painstakingly keeps us all on the right track in her role as Secretary for the Guild, and I cannot thank enough the committed team of Trustees that assist with the Kew Guild's work. I am certain the Kew Guild will continue to grow and develop, and so along with your support and membership, here is to our 130 Year Anniversary, and thank you for continued support.

Rob Brett - Acting President and Curator at RHS Garden Hyde Hall.



Morning sun at Wakehurst

Image Matthew Jeffrey

New Trustees

Dr Colin Hindmarch

Colin was Vice-President of the Kew Guild 1992-94, and President 20004-05, with a background in botanical horticulture, environmental design, strategic planning, landscape ecology, grassland community ecology and molecular phylogeny.

During his long career, he has investigated ancient landscapes (*Hindmarch*, 1997; *Hindmarch* et al, 2000), integrated new development into the wider environment using green infrastructure, reinvigorated urban fringe landscapes, restored land damaged by mineral extraction, and championed sustainable land management across Europe (*Hindmarch* & *Pienkowski*, 2000).



Dr Colin Hindmarch

These activities were underpinned at local, national (UK) and European levels by policy initiatives that attempted to put ecological concerns at the core of economic planning (*Hindmarch et al. 2006*), to improve landscape-scale ecological connectivity (*Hindmarch & Kirby, 2002*), and to increase the socio-economic and ecological resilience of tropical and sub-tropical oceanic islands (*Hindmarch, 2007; Bang et al. 2012*).

At a European level, his involvement in the work of several non-government organisations helped these efforts by opening up channels to the emerging European Biodiversity Strategy, facilitating his involvement in European Research Area Network programmes such as NetBiome, NetBiome CSA and PACE-Net.

Chairing the Environment Committee of the Royal Society of Biology (RSB), and the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) also helped these endeavours by providing established platforms for his ideas, as did his time on the British Ecological Society's Public Policy Committee (BES). Colin and his wife Valerie live in Durham, and follow with some satisfaction the progress of their four surviving children and eleven grandchildren.

Gordon Fraser

For those of you who are interested in such things and who, like Gordon, proudly and rather fondly, have 40-years of Kew Guild Journals on their bookshelf to call upon – the first of which was given to Gordon by his mentor, the late EW Studley, "affectionately known as John", or so his obituary in the Journal (*Vol. 10, No. 89, (1984), pp. 360-361*) tells us, but to Gordon always respectfully 'Mr Studley' – you will

find Gordon's 40-year association with RBG Kew and the Guild in the aforementioned Journal at: 'Living Collections' Division Staff' photograph (Vol. 10, No. 89, (1984), pp 304-305)

'Presentation of the Kew Diplomas and Prizes' (Vol. 10, No. 91, (1986), pp. 528-529)

'Students Course 21': Graduation photograph (Vol. 10, No. 91. (1986), p. 533)

Resumé of Gordon's career to the point at which he first served as a member of the Kew Guild Committee: (Vol. 11. No. 96, (1991), p. 16-17)



Gordon Fraser

'Kew Guild Committee at Work' photograph, Gordon standing between fellow alumnus of Course 21, Matthew Biggs, Guild President Elect Gren Lucas, and behind, Guild President John Sales – the latter two who sadly departed from our number in this last year (Vol. 11, No. 100, (1995), p. 441)

'News of Kewites at Home and Abroad in 1997' – informing members of Gordon's status as Chartered Landscape Architect (MLI), the establishment of his independent professional practice, and his status as Master of Business Administration (MBA) (Vol. 13, No. 102, (1997), pp. 148-149)

'News of Kewites at Home and Abroad in 2005' - informing members of Gordon's successfully attaining a Postgraduate Diploma in Law (LLDip), Bar Vocational Course (BVC), and his Call to the Bar of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. (Vol. 14, No. 110, (2005), pp 425-426)

By way of an update on Gordon's career trajectory, at the request of two major international publishing houses in 2015, he wrote a definitive guide to Landscape Professional Practice, (see https://www.routledge.com/Landscape-Professional-Practice/ Gordon/p/book/9781138546974#)

Having been co-opted as advisor to the Trustees from September 2021, Gordon redrafted the Guild's reserves policy, prepared the first draft of its fundraising policy, and, after assuming the role of Trustee for the Finance & Governance portfolio. began updating and redrafting the Guild's risk management policy.

He has also inputted to governance of the many areas of Guild administration, overseen by fellow Trustees, and assures his many friends and fellow members of his wholehearted commitment to sound governance of the Guild for the long-term benefit of its membership.

Silke Strickrodt

Silke is a horticulturist in Kew Gardens' Tropical Nursery, where she works with the arid collections. She joined Kew in 2018 to study for the Kew Diploma in Horticulture (C56) and graduated in September 2021. She was her cohort's representative in the Kew Guild and has been a member of the Kew Guild Awards Committee since 2019.

Previously Silke worked as a historian, specialising in African history and the history of Afro-European encounters. In 2016, she decided to change careers and trained as a landscape gardener in Berlin. Her botanical and horticultural interests are wide-ranging; just now she is obsessed with sansevierias, aloes, Araceae and dry gardens.



Silke Strickrodt



Blossom in sunlight. Kew Gardens

Image Matthew Jeffrey

The President's review of the year Rob Brett: Acting President 2022/23

We all have a role to play in helping the Kew Guild blossom. Making new connections to the Guild, rekindling old ones and being the link in helping bring the many, many affiliates of Kew into the Guild are vital to its development. The strength of the Guild is that it can help members make new relationships, rekindling old ones and provide opportunities for mentorship within the Guild's community.

So what's new for this year? We have launched our new website, and many thanks to Maxine Briggs for all the hard work in pulling this together and making it easier for members to engage with the Kew Guild as a charity. The website https://kew-guild.org.uk/ acts as a vital front page for the Guild's activities. It also acts as a good reminder to us of the charitable work that the Kew Guild is involved in, such as:-

Our Educational portfolio. The Kew Guild is committed to work in supporting RBG Kew with its Educational and wider community activities, and we do this in a number of ways including:

Supporting students. This year we will continue to assist Kew to fund one individual as part of the Introduction to Horticulture programme.

Our incredible Awards Scheme, and the provision of financial awards, will continue to be a pivotal role for the Guild.

And possibly most importantly, help members make new relationships, rekindling old ones and provide opportunities for mentorship within the Guild's community.

We are also wanting to look towards the following objectives, so vital for the strength of the Guild:

- 1. Re-engage with the student body.
- 2. Promote Kew Guild charitable work
- 3. Increase membership
- Raise income

Chris Kidd, our previous President, has worked tirelessly over the years in developing a plan/strategy for the Kew Guild. This 5 Year Plan is integral to the Guild and underpins its committed work programme, and we will be following the Plan's objectives and programmes as we continue to strive forward year on year.

As a reminder the Objectives and Programme Areas are as follows:

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 the public, in particular at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, including (without limitation) by the 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.

Kew Guild 5 Year Plan Programme areas

The key five programmes that assist the Guild in delivering its objectives are as follows:

- 1. Education
- Kew Guild Awards
- Alumni and Fellowship
- 4. Communications and Promotion
- 5. Financial Capacity and Governance

Graham Heywood

Chris Kidd reflects on the life, and tragic loss, of our President

The passing of President Graham Heywood was a great shock. In the time following the news, Trustees have reflected on his short term of office and committed to continuing the vision he shared. On a personal level, I had great respect for a kind, gentle, diplomatic man of conviction quite rightly recognised with a British Empire Medal (shared with his wife Eira) for their charitable work in founding Bolton Adult Autism Support. At Graham's funeral in Bolton on 20th February 2023, Past President Tony Overland gave a touching tribute to a man of many missions, who was grateful for the opportunities that came and doors that were opened by his time at Kew. In St Paul's Church it felt very much as if he was still with us.

Graham impressed by working hard. My first sight of him as Trustee of the Kew Guild was at Kew, awaiting his first meeting in the role. He stood at the top of the grand staircase outside the Kew Guild room, attired for business with his trademark fedora, in preparation for the meeting to begin. He was the first Trustee to arrive, and was waiting for us.

Graham's membership of the Kew Guild was longstanding, but he stood up for a Trustee role when it was asked of the AGM audience: "Surely one amongst you can help?" It is said that friendship is kindled when two strangers see kindred spirits manifest within each other: I saw in Graham a spirit that would kindle our friendship. As a confidant during my Presidency he gave wise advice. His views, counterpoints to some hotheaded situations, brought calm reflection. Let there be no doubt, Graham's contribution to the



Kew Guild during his time as President Elect was effective. He moved us forward.

Graham seemed to have reserves of energy beyond what is natural. In a small organisation such as the Kew Guild, there are rotational vacancies for the jobs that need to be done. Secretaries: three, one main one, a membership one and another variety for the Awards Scheme. An annual dinner organiser. A journal editor, sometimes two or more. An archivist. Someone to deliver the social programme, the visits. A whole raft of financiers, treasurers and advisors. Representatives from everywhere and someone to remember what goes in which cupboard when, for how long, and who else has the keys. Whenever we needed someone to step up, the first

to consider whether they could add the new role to their own was Graham. We had to dissuade him from taking on too much, such was his appetite for helping.

Graham's Presidency was roundly anticipated and he was very much looking forward to it. As a man of progress he was committed to our plan and was rejuvenating our social calendar. Overseeing and leading a largely new team, he would have seen a Journal, an annual dinner, garden visits, a growing membership, a refreshed relationship with Kew, engagement and support of individuals within the student body, awards to the deserving. He would have presented the success at the Annual General Meeting, and requested help and facility to do more of the same and more besides. At that meeting he would be presented with the medal of the past president by his successor, and begun to reflect on the achievement of the Kew Guild better than at his inauguration. Tragically, this was not to be. In his last report to Trustees, filed in January 2023 the line "... Looking ahead to brighter days when we will be able to enjoy each others' companionship" has so much resonance now.

I remember verbatim our last conversation.

Rest in peace Graham. We will do our best not to let you down.

[See Obituary, Page 211]

School of Horticulture Kew Diploma and Prizes Presentation Course 57

'Graduation day is very much about a celebration of the students' achievements,' said Tim Hughes, Head of the School of Horticulture. 'It is an acknowledgement of their hard work in obtaining either the Kew Diploma, or a Kew Introduction to Horticulture certificate. Graduation marks the end of one chapter in your horticultural career but also the start of something new. Many of you have started that next step and we



The graduates of Course 57

Image RBG Kew

wish you well in your future horticultural careers, wherever that may be. So, before I turn to the presentation of certificates and prizes, a very big thanks must go to all our sponsors of prizes:

'The Kew Guild, the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, Alitex, and Squires Garden Centres, many of whom are represented in the audience today. So 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.'

Tim then invited the Guest Speaker, Nigel Brown, to make the presentations.

The awards and prizes were read out, followed by the name of the recipient, in alphabetical order:

The Kew Diploma Awards

A Kew Diploma with Credit is awarded to: Jon Bedford

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

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours this is awarded to: Ciaran Bradshaw

A Kew Diploma with Credit is awarded to: Gosia Czarnecka

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the student undertaking the best Herbarium naming project. (Joint winner)

The Freda Howson Award for excellence in Ecology and Conservation.

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

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours these are awarded to: Jessica Francis

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

The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize for the best practical student overall.

The Fred Larkbey Cup for the student achieving the highest marks in their practical work placements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Along with the Kew Diploma with Honours these are awarded to: **Emily Hazell**

The Dummer Memorial Prize for the student undertaking the best Herbarium naming project. (Joint winner)

Along with the Kew Diploma with Honours this is awarded to: Lizzy Mansfield

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

Along with a Kew Diploma with Honours this is awarded to: Ruari Mostyn

A Kew Diploma with Credit is awarded to: Fruzsina Nagy

A Kew Diploma with Credit is awarded to: Robert Taite

A Kew Diploma with Honours is awarded to: Andrew Wilson

That concludes the awards for the Kew Diploma

Introduction to Horticulture @ Kew Awards

All these students have also passed their day release course at Capel Manor -Level 1 Maintenance Gardener

An Introduction to Horticulture @ Kew certificate is awarded to:

Florence Akanbi-Guei

An Introduction to Horticulture @ Kew certificate is awarded to: Stephanie Li

An Introduction to Horticulture @ Kew certificate is awarded to: Muhammed Moosa

An Introduction to Horticulture @ Kew certificate is awarded to: Aneel Odhwani

Kew Diploma Course 60



Penny Brice



Isabella Bromovsky



John Houston



Josie Lane



Toby Lovegrove



James Moon





Anja Seymour



Louie de Witt

Student Report

By Josie Lane, First-year Diploma Student

C60 got off to a flying start in September with the 2022 Kew Clog and Apron Race – expertly won by Louie de Witt. The race conditions were perfect – dry surface, warm afternoon sun, and enthusiastic spectators. The story was covered by *The Times*, *The Independent*, the *Evening Standard* and many provincial papers.

There are nine students on our C60 Diploma Course. For a small group, we have very varied horticultural backgrounds – Botanic Gardens (Cambridge University Botanic Garden), the Royal Parks, historic gardens and landscapes (English Heritage) as well as specialist plant nurseries and community gardens.

In our first few weeks we quickly found our feet at Kew, with introductions to the different departments, including: Kew Science, the Herbarium, a day-trip to Wakehurst and the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB), The Fungarium, Brahms database, Kew Guild (of course!), and navigating the Gardens, Glasshouses and Arboretum. It

was all very inspiring.

It's now March 2023 and we have been at Kew for an unbelievable six months. We're completing our first practical Placements in the Arboretum, Gardens and Glass – being immersed in the plant collections. We've learnt some key skills: tractor and gator driving, turf maintenance, rose pruning and specialist training such as cloud pruning.



Back: Penny Brice, Bell Bromovsky, John Houston, Josie Lane, James Moon.

Front: Toby Lovegrove, Anja Seymour, Jessie Nield, Louie de Witt.

We've found time to socialise. A 'welcome' barbecue, organised by C59 for us, took place at the back of the Director's Garden. Near Christmas, we organised an evening trip to Wakehurst to see 'Glow Wild', and of course we visited the Christmas at Kew light extravaganza.

We're involved in Kew life in many ways:

Kew Guild – John Houston and Josie Lane will be meeting the Committee and Members at the Annual Dinner and running the traditional raffle. Josie attended the recent Kew Bursary Award Committee meeting.

Kew Mutual Improvement Society (KMIS): Louie de Witt (Chair), John Houston (Treasurer), Anja Seymour (Vice Chair) and Toby Lovegrove on Technical support.

The team have been working hard to secure guest speakers for KMIS in September 2023. At time of writing we are awaiting final confirmation.

Jessie Nield and James Moon represent C60 and liaise with the School of Horticulture, Tim Hughes and Martin Staniforth. Bell Bromovsky and James organise study support, and keep us up to speed on assignment dates.

Finally, as Spring is fast approaching and the days are longer, between the rain showers we're working hard on our individual Student Vegetable plots. A great deal of seed is being sown and structures are being built to support our bumper crops. Many thanks to Penny Brice and Toby for all their organisation and for chasing of materials (bamboo, string, labels etc.) to use on the plot.

Kew Specialist Certificate Students 2022 - 2023



Lucy Davis (Ornamental Horticulture)



Anna Geiger (Propagation)



Catriona Hood (Kitchen Garden)



Charles Hunt (Display and Nursery Glass)



Millicent Woodley (Display and Nursery Glass)

The Kew Guild Award Scheme

by Chris Kidd, Awards Scheme Chair

The Kew Guild Award Scheme again facilitated training, travel, indeed adventures to enable students to build on their Kew education. Anyone is welcome to apply for an award to support their education or help develop their knowledge in an area of personal interest.

For successful applicants, awards provide a valuable contribution toward the cost of, for example, travel, educational resources, tuition fees or attendance at events. Applications are considered by the Awards Committee in March and July of each year, and interested applicants are invited to download the rules and complete the application form via the website. See reports, P?

Kew Guild Awards Scheme Report for 2022

The KGAS met on Thursday 9th March 2022 and 14th July 2022 at 4pm to consider applications for awards and the nomination for the Honorary Fellowship of the Guild.

Awards made in March 2022

Present in March 2022 were Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Marcella Corcoran, Gillian Leese, Silke Strickrodt, Richard Wilford and two student representatives.

A total of £16,485 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available at the March meeting, to be made as awards. Eleven applications had been made, and all were successful after being discussed individually.

Jennifer Wright Touring Norwegian Gardens
Awarded £1.200 from Redman Fund

Lewis Barret Trip to South Africa – biodiversity hotspots Awarded £1,000 from Leese Fund

Francesco Gorni Visit Chicago Botanic Garden Awarded £700 from Leese Fund

Carol Hart Holland Visit

Awarded £200 total, £100 from Redman fund, £100 from general funds

Caleb Job Travel to Sabah, Borneo Awarded £1,000 from Woodhams Fund

Continued over page

Awards made in March 2022 (Continued)

Jack Kinsey Travel to US botanic gardens

Awarded £900 from Redman Fund

Josef Kreidt Travel to study conservation work in California

Awarded £900 from general funds

Hattie Moore North East USA

Awarded £1,200 from Redman Fund

Vicki Thompson Attend AETFAT conference in Zambia

Awarded £500 from Arnold Fund

Ellie Edmonds Travel scholarship to Chile

Awarded £1,000 from Dallimore Fund

Cecily Eltringham Travel scholarship to Hawaii

Awarded £1,200 from Redman Fund

Of a total fund availability £9,800 was awarded, leaving £6,685 available.

Awards made in July 2022

Attending in July 2022 were Chris Kidd (Chairperson), Maxine Briggs (Secretary), Silke Strickrodt, Richard Wilford, Dave Simpson and two student representatives.

Three applications were considered at the July meeting and, after discussion, all were granted.

Francesco Gorni Chainsaw training course

Awarded £750 from Dallimore Fund

Richard Moore MSc course at the University of Edinburgh

Awarded £2,000 from General funds

Svenja Jührend Chainsaw training course

Awarded £250 from Dallimore Fund

Covid 19: The pandemic continued to blight travel awards made since 2019, highlighted by two applications discussed. It was agreed by the Committee that a further, and final, extension of availability of awards made during this time be made, provided the successful proposals remain changed only by date. This decision was ratified by Trustees at their following meeting.

George Brown Memorial Award

A nomination for the George Brown Memorial Award was received, made by Allan Hart, for Cyrill John. A second nomination from Graham Heywood was received for Allan Hart. After discussion the proposals were agreed unanimously. Both nominees accepted, and Allan Hart received the Award at the annual dinner, 2022.



Award Winners at the Annual Dinner Image Graham Heywood

Joan and Allan Hart with their Award and Medal Image Richard Ward

Kew Guild Medal

Kew Guild Medals were awarded to Joan and Allan Hart, and to the Ward Family. Allan Hart was the instigator and administrator of the Award Scheme, and the Harts have given many years of support and service to the Guild.

The Ward Family were recognised for their collective services to the Journal in particular. Richard joined the Guild as a Kew student, 1961-63, the Committee in



Richard, Sparkle, Wiena and Alexandra Ward with their Kew Guild Medal Image Alexandra Ward

1971 and became Journal Editor in 1976 until 2006, continuing as Advisory Editor until 2021. Alexandra, Richard and Wiena's eldest daughter, was Editor from 2007 until 2014, and her younger sister Sparkle from 2014 until 2021. They created a product of an excellent standard which was enjoyed by so many. The Trustees also recognised the Ward family's part in the Annual Dinner. Richard was the main organiser between 1978 and 2010, as well as being Master of Ceremonies. This, along with the support of his wife and daughters at the event helped to make many lovely evenings and memories for members.

Richard Ward and family embody the spirit of friendship of the Guild, opening their home in a warm and welcoming manner to so many Kewites.

The Kew Guild Honorary Fellowship

This sector of membership recognises those who are particularly distinguished in their chosen careers, be it horticulture, botanical sciences and other 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, though this could be increased should the Trustees decide.

The awardee for 2022 is Dr John David, who leads the Botany, Herbarium and Registration teams at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS). His role is diverse, covering core areas such as cultivated plant taxonomy and nomenclature, but also extending into cultivated plant conservation and the biodiversity and legal aspects relating to conservation, such as invasive alien species. Other areas of interest include plant hardiness linked to climate and aspects of climate change, and the impact on the UK's garden flora.

Current Honorary Fellows are:

Elected	2006 2007 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	Roy Lancaster, John Melmoe, Tim Smit, Ed Wolf Dennis McGlade, Anna Pavord Richard Bisgrove, Niall Kirkwood Shirley Sherwood Adil Güner John Massey, Graham Ross Piet Oudolf Raymond Evison No appointment James Hitchmough, Nigel Dunnett Michael Fitt Tim O'Hare Marcus Agius
	2020	Steven Sillett
	2022	John David

Fellowship of the Kew Guild

An Honorary Fellow's Nomination was received, made by Chris Kidd for Dr John David. After discussion the committee unanimously supported the nomination. Dr David has accepted the award, which will be presented at the annual dinner in 2023.

Chris Kidd Awards Scheme Chair

Student Awards Scheme Reports

Touring Scandinavian Gardens by Jennifer Wright

Jennifer's two weeks, in Bergen and Tromsø, were intended to improve her knowledge on plant adaptations in extreme climates and environments; to develop knowledge on native Norwegian flora and fauna with a focus on historically useful plants; to experience horticultural techniques, which may differ from United Kingdom practices, by volunteering within the Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden and the University of Bergen gardens; to strengthen contacts and gain new ones by working directly with horticulturists in Norway, acting as an ambassador for the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; and to observe local plant diversity and document changes in habit, shape, growth patterns and flowering times in plants in each area.

After arriving at Bergen Airport on Saturday 4th June I spent the rest of the day resting. Then on Sunday I travelled into the city centre and found the Museum Garden surrounding the Natural History Museum. This garden is one of three maintained by the University of Bergen and was the original site of the Botanical Garden until space became too small, when it was moved to Milde, next to the Arboretum.



Made it to Bergen ©Jennifer Wright

The Museum Garden is laid out in a formal style and is home to a rock garden, kitchen garden and a collection of wild seed collected plants from all over Norway.



The Museum Garden in Bergen city centre. ©Jennifer Wright

I was originally due to start volunteering within the Botanical Garden and the Arboretum on the Monday but due to a public holiday when most of the team was off it was decided that it was better for me to come along and start working on Tuesday. Therefore, on Monday I spent the day wandering around the Botanical Garden at Milde. The Botanical Garden has an excellent rock garden, Japanese garden, lake, and collection of kitchen and poison plants.

It was actually particularly useful to go around by myself for the day as I was really able to take in what plants were there and appreciate the landscape as a whole. For the rest of the week, I was working between the Arboretum and the Botanical Garden. I spent two days working with the team within the Arboretum between the rosarium and their Rhododendron species collection, which I was very lucky to see



Part of the Rhododendron collection. ©Jennifer Wright

as it was only just still flowering. While working with the Rhododendrons, two native plants were pointed out to me: Cornus suecica and Lysimachia europaea. These plant species are growing all over the peninsula and can be found throughout central western Norway. On the other two days I was working with the team at the Botanical Garden where I helped them weed Equisetum arvense from the Japanese garden.

Leaving Bergen, I flew to Tromsø on Saturday 11th June and had a rest day the following day. From Monday through to Friday that week I worked with the team at the Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden, helping to pull out *Equisetum arvense* from the

collections. This is home to alpine plants from around the world which happily grow on the rocky slopes of the garden, some plants coming from as far away as Patagonia. The team there has a June campaign pulling out all Equisetum from the garden as it takes over dramatically very quickly and will grow over the small alpine collections. I was mainly working with other interns there, but the staff were extremely helpful, showing me many interesting plant species. As part



Before and after creating the Meconopsis bed. ©Jennifer Wright

of a project they are undertaking I helped to create a bed of Meconopsis species by digging over and removing rocks in the soil, adding new soil/compost, and then

planting the Meconopsis. From Tromsø, I travelled to Oslo and then onwards home.



Calceolaria uniflora ©Jennifer Wright

There were two main outcomes from my week in Bergen. The first was that it was very obvious that the landscape and the gardens were all approximately one month behind on development when compared to London, despite the hot temperature all week of 23 °C. Many of the plants in Bergen were familiar species or genus which I have come across frequently before.

The second was that I found that the arboretum is managed in a way that is much more visually pleasing and full of wildlife than some of those here in the UK. The arboretum is a native forest with only some areas specifically planted and maintained, with native species allowed to mingle with the collections. It was originally a commercial forest plantation of Western Hemlock (Tsuga heterophylla) which has slowly been removed, and native forest allowed to take its place. I found

this style of arboretum much more sympathetic to the overall landscape of western Norway.

From a climate perspective Tromsø was quite different and felt a little weird. It was as though Tromsø was around two months behind on the development of leaf on trees but on par with herbaceous ground cover development. The leaves on the trees were all very new and still had the lustre of early spring colour but were in full leaf already, whereas the herbaceous ground cover of ferns and Equisetum had rocketed ahead. I mentioned this to the team in the garden and I was told this was because spring is very rapid there and happens within two weeks: plants move fast and put on as much growth as possible



within a truly short timeframe. If I had come three weeks earlier, no trees would have had leaf.

Betula nana ©Jennifer Wright

Interestingly, the tree line ends at 400m above sea level in Tromsø and the overall height of the trees compared with those growing in London is incredibly low, with the main tree species being Betula pubescens and never growing above 10m. On one trip with the interns from the garden we travelled to the Blue Lake near Sør-Lenangen, and I spotted Betula nana which I have only ever seen growing in the highlands of Scotland.

This trip was so much fun, and I would love to go back as I am sure there is lots I missed.

I would like to say a massive thank you to the following people and organisations for helping me throughout this project: Kew Guild, Bentham-Moxon Trust, The Scottish Rock Garden Club, Hardy Plant Society, Berit Gehrke, Mladen Golubovic, Terhi Pousi, Stefan Reimann, Dominika Wytrykowska, Martin Hajman and Arve Elvebakk

USA Expedition: 'Explore the sites and don't stop learning' by Jack Kinsey

The aims of Jack's expedition to the USA were to develop a wider knowledge of horticulture, and to understand the principles of the gardens he visited, and their ambitions as an organisation. Also to discover the stories and fundamentals of garden layouts and horticultural practices. He wanted to record and investigate anything that related to his dissertation, and investigate sustainability and modern horticultural techniques.

His objectives were, through discussions with the horticultural team, to understand the practices implemented at the sites, and to read interpretation at the sites, investigating if they weren't clear. Where he would not be meeting the team, he wanted to compare these to sites in the UK and note how it feels to be a visitor. Is it easy to understand what's going on?

The Journey

My experience at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania consisted of a four-day visit, meeting the vast teams there, along with a bit of working with some of the team for a short while, pruning in the conservatory and the Nymphaea and Victoria, with Senior Horticulturist Tim Jennings, along with Longwood interns and professional horticulture students.

While at Longwood I also visited Winterthur, another of the Du Pont estates around



Longwood - © Jack Kinsey

the area, a tranquil retreat of woodland walks – a rest from the high impactful displays at Longwood. I also went on a trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show, along with professional horticulture students from Longwood.

The next stage of the trip was working with the team at Chanticleer Garden, a 48-acre botanical garden built on the grounds of the Rosengarten estate, along with a trip to

Stoneleigh, with interns of Chanticleer. Stoneleigh newly opened to visitors just two years ago. Showing strong ideas for the future, that place has a lot of potential, already having some new great features and a strong core structure. I finished off my trip with a visit to New York Botanical Garden. I met Adam Dooling along with a tour and meeting the team at NYBG.

Longwood Gardens

The first week of the trip was spent exploring Longwood Gardens, meeting the vast team and the diversity of departments across the organisation - from the outdoor landscape team to the conservatory and their historian. It was a thoroughly immersive experience to truly get to know Longwood. There were a few trips to other local gardens such as the tranquil Winterthur, Delaware.





Longwood - © Jack Kinsey

Longwood Conservatory - © Jack Kinsey

Chanticleer Garden

A week of work experience within a garden made for gardeners. An idyllic place of pure genius planting, meticulously tweaked to perfection, pushing every inch of space to its delightful limit. Each full-time horticulturist has their own style, making each area sing its own tune with mellow peaceful connections. A truly inspiring garden and a great team.



Chanticleer - © Jack Kinsey

I also had trips to the enchanted Stoneleigh, Scott Arboretum and the Philadelphia Flower Show, with a visit and tour by Adam Dooling, Director of Plant Collections at New York Botanical Garden.

Throughout my time visiting the USA I was able to network with international gardeners, students and staff, exploring horticulture at an international level. I've made amazing contacts that I will be eternally grateful to have gained. The opportunity to have gained this experience personally and professionally is nothing but beneficial.

Without the support from RBG Kew's Travel Scholarship, along with the other funding

organisations that sponsored my trip, this adventure would have not been an option. A huge thank you to: The Kew Guild, Bentham Moxon Trust, Hardy Plants Society (HPS), and the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS).

Experiencing ecological horticulture in the North East of the USA by Hattie Moore

Hattie's aim from her trip was to learn more about the ecological principles of horticulture promoted in US gardens. This included practical methods, plant choice and plant sources. She would collect data through interviews with staff and working in the garden. She wanted to learn how ecologically driven horticulture can be implemented in different types of garden: public/private, rural/urban, botanic/park, gleaning this information through conversations with staff and working in the garden; also to consider how US methods and principles of ecological horticulture could be applied to UK gardens. This aim was to be achieved through discussion with

horticulturists on her visit and on her return to the UK

ner return to the UK.

Description of activity

- Working at Brooklyn Bridge
Park, an urban park in New York
City that utilises ecological
planting and techniques to
benefit local wildlife and people.
Four days at BBP, with tours
around Brooklyn Botanic
Garden and Central Park.

- Five days working with
ecological designer Edwina von

Gal at her garden Marshouse in



The salt marsh at Brooklyn Bridge Park © Hattie Moore

Long Island. I was working in her garden and visiting sites she designed. There were trips to the Walking Dunes and Mashomack State Park.



Prairie style perennial planting in the formal garden. Mt Cuba Center © Hattie Moore

– Four days working at Mt Cuba Center, Delaware. An ecological botanic garden in a rural area set in 1000 acres of natural lands. All the plants grown at Mt Cuba are natives. Research is conducted into native plants for gardens and the Centre is active in conservation. There were tours to Longwood Gardens, Pennysylvania and a visit to Trap Pond State Park, home to the most northerly wild population of *Taxodium distichum*.

Outcome/Results

All aims and objectives relate directly to my dissertation which was to be handed in to Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in March.

Brief description of ecological horticulture methods used in practice

- Mulching is used very sparingly in all three gardens. Excess nutrients encourages weeds.
- Pests. Chemicals were in general strictly not used. Glyphosate and other herbicides/fungicides were used at Mt Cuba Center, especially in the natural lands of 1000 acres.
- Surveying. All gardens surveyed insects or animals at some level. Mt Cuba's plant trials were especially thorough.
- Resources. All gardens provided resources online or in the form of free booklets covering a wide range of topics. Encouraging public engagement was important to all.
- Plant Choice. Natives were either exclusively used or in the majority in all three gardens.
- Cutting back. All gardens were cut back in March, not before winter.
- Irrigation. Intelligent plant choice meant that frequent watering wasn't necessary most of the year.

I shared the knowledge gained on my Instagram stories at the time of my trip, with a Kew Mutual Improvement Society (KMIS) talk about my trip in January.

Climbing to the Schachen: exploring the Alpine Garden and Munich Botanic Garden by Vicki Thompson

On the first day at Munich Botanic Garden I had a tour of some of the outdoor areas, including one being used to establish conservation cultures of endangered Bavarian taxa with Dr Andreas Groeger, Deputy Director & Senior Conservator at Munich Botanic Garden. This area has been built to include a peat bog, which is becoming a rare habitat due to peat extraction in Germany. I then met Pierre Steppke, Head of



Rock Garden and pond. Munich Botanic Garden © Vicki Thompson

the Rock Garden, who showed me more of the garden as well as the Alpine propagation area for Munich and the Schachen Alpine Garden.

The following day I spent time in the rock garden planting *Eriogonum kennedyi* and *Nemesia silvatica*. I then updated the database and learnt about IrisBG, the database they use in Munich Botanic Garden.
On Wednesday I was given

a tour of the glasshouses and nursery and later the outdoor areas, including the Rhododendron Grove. Later I was able to explore more of the gardens, which is 21.2 hectares (52.4 acres) and home to approximately 19,600 species and subspecies. This also allowed me to meet more of the horticulturists working in the garden, and

make contacts.

I then travelled to the Schachen Alpine Garden, a satellite garden of Munich Botanic Garden and one of the oldest gardens in the Alps. It opened on 14 July 1901 and is situated at a height of 1,860m, approximately 56 miles south of Munich in the Wetterstein Mountains. July is peak flowering time for the indigenous flora as well as the Himalayan collection (such as Himalayan poppies and *Primula*



View of Wetterstein mountains © Vicki Thompson

spp.) and I was there to see the garden at the beginning of its opening season. A large section of the garden consists of native flora as well as plants of many other areas of the world, which I enjoyed exploring during my stay.



Meconopsis staintonii: controlled pollination tent © Vicki Thompson

Working in the garden allowed for a hands-on experience getting to know more about the cultivation of alpine plants, and I spent a lot of time with Jenny Wainwright-Klein, in charge of alpine propagation and the Schachengarten: she is extremely knowledgeable. At the weekend there were also plenty of opportunities to explore the local area and see some plants in the picturesque surroundings. Plants I saw included *Traunsteinera globosa*, *Crepis aurea*, *Veratrum album*, *Phyteuma globulariifolium* and *Tofieldia calyculata* and I got to observe some of the flora on the way up the limestone Wetterstein Mountains, such as the near-threatened *Saxifraga mutata*, as well as trees such as *Pinus mugo* and *Pinus cembra*.

I spent a week at the garden, doing tasks including weeding, deadheading, planting (including *Meconopsis baileyi* and *Meconopsis napaulensis*) as well as renovating a section in the garden by removing soil, mixing and adding new soil, rearranging plants, adding new ones and setting up shading. I also helped create a tent to control the pollination of the monocarpic perennial *Meconopsis staintonii* so it can be propagated by seed and we can be sure it has not been cross pollinated.

Chainsaw Training: from Scary to Safely By Svenja Jührend

Her interest in arboriculture led Svenja to want to further her employability with chainsaw training: CS30 Chainsaw maintenance and crosscutting & CS31 Felling, and processing trees up to 380mm.

Training provider was Tony Darbyshire, Sawpod Ltd., Amport, Hampshire.

During my time as a Kew Diploma Student, I have developed an interest in arboricultural practice from our lectures with Kevin Martin (Head of Tree Collections) and from my time spent working in the Arboretum. To further my knowledge and improve my employability in the future, I was looking to do a chainsaw training course. The combined CS30/CS31 chainsaw qualification is a starting point for many other arboricultural certificates: it is a LANTRA-approved certificate awarded by City & Guilds NPTC. Chainsaw skills are sought-after both for working on conservation

sites and for head gardeners with responsibilities for

tree collections.

To this end, my fellow student Francesco Gorni and I organised training with Tony Darbyshire of Sawpod Ltd, to take the combined CS30/CS31 course. I was awarded £250 out of the Dallimore Fund (administered by The Kew Guild) towards this training.

The course took place in Tony's workshop and in a local woodland near Andover. On the first day we focussed on chainsaw maintenance, sharpening, and aspects of good practice regarding health and safety. From Tuesday onwards we focussed on crosscutting and felling. On Tuesday morning we



Practicing sink cuts before felling © Svenja Jührend

went out into the woodland and got to grips with the chainsaw, learning crosscutting and doing some cutting exercises. This is an important skill in timber processing. From that afternoon until assessment day, we focused on felling.

To start with the felling was quite scary, as we were working on beech trees approximately 12m high, but Tony was very supportive in giving us the time and space to practice our cuts. I was also relieved to find that the precise nature of felling minimises risk to the operator, and we were taught how to safely operate the chainsaw.

We learned techniques to suit a variety of felling situations, from the basic felling cut to more specialised cuts used to safely fell leaning trees. The basic felling cut is normally applied to trees growing up straight, whereas the Dog's Tooth cut is used

for trees leaning forwards in the direction of felling, while the Danish Pie cut is applied to trees leaning backwards to the direction of felling. Both specialist cuts ensure the

Successfully felled a beech tree © Svenja Jührend

safety of the operator and reduce the risk of the saw becoming trapped in the wood while cutting.

It was a steep learning curve to go from zero chainsaw experience to felling tall trees in a few days, and there was a lot of material to cover – both the theory as well as the cutting techniques. It was physically tiring and I was very aware that you can't afford to lose focus when handling potentially dangerous equipment like the chainsaw. Luckily Tony was aware that I was nervous, and helped me when I was struggling. He gave very helpful feedback throughout the week to make sure my cuts were as accurate as possible. By assessment day on Friday, I was confident enough in my skills to successfully pass the examination.

Thanks to the award I received from The Kew Guild, I got to go on an intense and exciting training course, which culminated in learning a new skill and gaining a recognised chainsaw qualification. Thank you for making this possible for me!



Hellebore at Wakehurst

Image Maude Verstappen

Committee Deliberations

This is a summary of some of the committee's discussions in 2022. Members may find it interesting, or feel relieved that this is one meeting they don't have to attend! All meetings were held via Zoom.

In March we were pleased to hear from student representative Fruzsina, who reported that as well as lectures on such subjects as Amenity Horticulture, Landscape Design, and sustainable planting, one on presentation skills was particularly handy for students' Workplace Presentations. They also welcomed the chance to travel again, on a field trip to France.

The Committee went on to discuss the delicate arrangements for special guest, our Patron Princess Alexandra and entourage for the annual Dinner, and as the day approached the issue of drawing in more people, particularly students, came under discussion. In the event it was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

How to support and further the education of students is a constant refrain in meetings, and President Chris Kidd was keen to explore new ways to do this. Utilising a legacy from one Valentine Tynan was one proposed, and honing the Guild's resources to support specific and limited causes is important in order to maximise effectiveness. The Introduction to Horticulture programme was cited as being one to continue to support. There was a recurring concern about the lack of interest and involvement of students in the Guild and much discussion about how to engage their interest.

There were discussions about greater contact with the RHS, in hope that Guild members could be enabled to enter RHS gardens with a financial concession.

The new, revamped and new look website, under the watchful eye of Maxine Briggs, began to be discussed, and over a few brief months it was up and running and looking extremely smart. New Kew Guild membership cards chime with the look of the website. Heartfelt thanks were given to Sparkle Ward for her editorship of the Journal over the past seven years.



Director's Update

Richard Deverell looks back at 2022

2022 was a remarkably productive time for Kew. In January,

Image RBG Kew

The Green Planet was launched with footage filmed at Kew Gardens and Wakehurst. As part of Kew's commitment to Extend our Reach, £1 tickets for those on universal credit were introduced in January and over 22,000 of these tickets were sold throughout 2022. We were delighted with the return of the Orchid Festival, celebrating the vast biodiversity of Costa Rica. In March we awarded Elizabeth Maruma Mrema the Kew International Medal for her work to protect nature and halt biodiversity loss. Ms Mrema has held various positions at the UN Environment Programme for over 20 years, working on the development, implementation, and

enforcement of environmental laws.

The Gardens were particularly busy throughout the summer, featuring two festivals, Food Forever at Kew, and Nourish at Wakehurst. These explored how everyone can have access to sustainable nutrition, while protecting Earth's natural habitats.

The festivals featured large-scale installations, commissioned especially for Kew, each of which explored a different aspect of modern food consumption or production, including sustainability, future foods and food security. Shooting at Hunger by Ghanaian artist Serge Attukwei Clottey features the Fufuor gallon, a colourful container used in Ghana for storing and transporting food and water. Another



Trolls: Matt (and Helen) Image RBG Kew

highlight was Trolls (Matt and Helen). Recycle art activist Thomas Dambo created two giant trolls eating from bins, to show the benefits of sustainable plant-based diets. *Kew Gardens: A Year in Bloom* returned for a second series on Channel 5.



Food Forever: Shooting at Hunger by Serge Attukwei Clottey Image RBG Kew

Summer 2022 also saw Kew's Community Open Week, a five-day programme of free events and workshops aimed at breaking down the barriers that some individuals may face when visiting the Gardens. This year, with a theme of food and food sustainability, we welcomed over 1,500 people who might ordinarily be unable to visit. Highlights from

the week's 27 events included the cacti chef, Elki Guillen, cooking and serving up some prickly produce, and a 'print in nature' workshop, where participants used fruit and veg to create art.

In October we celebrated Mexican plants, food and culture in the Temperate House with our month-long Mexico Festival. It was a colourful, stimulating and fun experience that went down very well with our members and visitors.

In August, work began on the digitisation of around 8.25 million herbarium and fungarium specimens. By the end of 2022 over 300,000 images, both plant material and label data, had been captured.

One of Kew's biggest highlights was the discovery of a new species of giant waterlily – *Victoria boliviana*. This stunning plant, with lily pads



Giant Waterlily: Discovery of Victoria boliviana Image RBG Kew

more than 3m across, can be seen alongside the two other giant South American waterlilies in the Princess of Wales Conservatory. This is the first discovery of a giant waterlily in over a century and the species has been named *Victoria boliviana*, to honour the plant's South American home. *Victoria boliviana* specimens had been stored in Kew's herbarium since 1845 – and in the National Herbarium of Bolivia



Giant Waterlily: Discovery of Victoria boliviana Image RBG Kew

for 34 years – but at Kew it was misidentified as *V. amazonica* and at the National Herbarium as *V. cruziana*. However, after years of investigation, a team comprising experts from Kew's Science, Horticulture and Botanical Art departments, alongside partners form Bolivia, were finally able to confirm it as a new scientific species, using their unique mix of expertise.

2022 saw the start of our exciting project in Madagascar which aims to protect and restore biodiversity, helping to reduce poverty and mitigate the impact of climate change. A consortium of botanical, conservation, and humanitarian organisations, led by Kew, has been awarded £10 million from the Defra Biodiverse Landscape Fund. The consortium will work across nine protected areas of forest and grasslands, including the Itremo Protected Area, managed by the Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre.

In November, we were delighted to host the President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, and HRH The Earl of Wessex as part of the South African state visit.

There was a large delegation of staff from the South African government, Defra, Foreign Office and the Palace, as well as a crowd of journalists and photographers from both countries. The new Defra Secretary of State was also in attendance. The President was taken around the Temperate House to see some of the South African plants growing in the glasshouse as well as others from our nurseries, speaking to some of our South African



Cyril Ramaphosa, and HRH The Earl of Wessex visit Image Jeff Eden

horticulturists and showing a genuine interest in, amongst others, the cycads.

To round off an eventful year we celebrated 10 years of Christmas at Kew with the most sustainable trail yet; 75 per cent of the lighting was LED and all generators ran on a type of recycled vegetable oil. A record 342,000 visitors were welcomed to Christmas at Kew. At Wakehurst, visitor feedback for Glow Wild's ninth year was overwhelmingly positive, and the new trail route was very well received.

Kew News

News 2022

The Guild is grateful to Kew & You Editor Amanda le Poer Trench for allowing us to reproduce excerpts of the formerly weekly, now fortnightly newsletter for Wakehurst and Kew volunteers. We hope the edited selection below will be of interest to Guild members who may or may not still be employed by Kew.

January

Treehouses at Kew. Architects from over 70 practices visited Kew Gardens in response to the opening of an international design competition run by RBG Kew in conjunction with the Museum of Architecture (MoA), to find three exceptional designs to create three treehouses as part of Treehouses at Kew exhibition, planned for April to October 2023. See update on Page 157.



Audience with nature

Image RBG Kew

Yvonne Boyce legacy: 100 Years at Kew. In 1911 a young Frederick Harcourt applied to Kew to be a trainee gardener, *writes Rebekah Spencer, Foundation Debt*. Following great success at Kew, he worked on botanical plantations across the world, becoming the Governor for Agriculture in Dominica. He later received an OBE.

Frederick's daughter, Yvonne Boyce, went on to fund multiple scholarships for young horticultural apprentices at Kew, to set them on the same path as her father. These were known as the Harcourt Scholars. In 2021 Yvonne sadly passed away, but in one of the most astounding gifts I've dealt with, Yvonne pledged to continue the spirit of the Harcourt Scholarships with a grand legacy of £500,000 to go to at least two students on a botanical horticulture course. Her legacy, received in full, will help fund courses such as the new Introduction to Horticulture course.

February

The Board of Trustees agreed to remove the Sackler name from the footbridge within Kew Gardens. This is now known as The Lake Crossing. The name was removed from the bridge and onsite signage, as well as our website, maps, and any other places where the name is referenced, including verbal highlights made on the Kew Explorer. This follows the much-publicised revelation about OxyContin and the over-prescription of addictive pharmaceutical drugs. The Board also agreed to remove the name from the Sackler Phylogenomics Laboratory in the Jodrell building and any associations in research papers and publications. Kew has not accepted new gifts from the Sackler family in several years, nor will in the future.

Orchid Festival. Stunning displays bringing to life the biodiversity of Costa Rica opened on 5 February. Costa Rica is a major orchid habitat and a role model for biodiversity conservation. It was awarded the first ever Earthshot Prize.

The vibrant installations in the Princess of Wales Conservatory included monkeys, sea turtles and the native quetzal bird, a symbol of Costa Rican forest protection. Ethereal Nature, a series of installations by Costa Rican artist Dino Urpí, explored the balance, beauty and harmony of the natural world. On Saturdays during the exhibition 'We Are Costa Rica in the UK' presented traditional folk dances.



Henck Röling helping prepare the Orchid Festival Image RBG Kew

March

Dame Amelia Fawcett reappointed as Chair of our Board of Trustees for a second three-year term. Dame Amelia said: 'I am so honoured to have been reappointed Chair of Kew, a remarkable and important institution both nationally and globally. The combination of your world-renowned gardens and world leading plant science means Kew is using all of its considerable resources to understand and protect plants and fungi, for the wellbeing of people and the future of all life on Earth.'

Arboretum Nursery opens to visitors. After a long delay because of Covid-19 restrictions, we were excited to officially open our viewing room, *writes Jenny Crabb, Diploma student*. Arboretum is a three-year-old building, replacing the old, dilapidated nursery. An exciting new feature of the glasshouse is the visitor entrance where the public can get a daily, behind-the-scenes look at our work.

From the viewing area, visitors can look through all six of the environmentally controlled zones within the glasshouse complex. The Boiler Room shows them how this modern, high-tech nursery operates. At the potting shed they observe how we care for our collections and our specialised activities to help them thrive. We have a handwritten board with a daily description of our tasks for that day.

Green Planet augmented reality experience. Instead of an Executive Board meeting we headed to Regent Street to try the Green Planet Experience, writes Richard Deverell. This is an experimental project, part-funded by government, to create an augmented reality experience about plants, building on the BBC's Green Planet series. RBG Kew was one of the contributing partners to the project and I was keen to understand the potential for technology to offer novel ways to enrich our visitors' understanding of the importance of plants to support all life on earth. At Green Planet Augmented Reality, each visitor is given a headset and a handheld screen. You walk through a series of separate rooms, each representing a particular biome, echoing those covered in the BBC series: an Amazonian pond with huge waterlily; the Sonoran Desert; a Brazilian forest; and abundant beds of marine sea

grass. A virtual Sir David Attenborough introduces each biome and explains why it matters. I was impressed by the quality of the virtual graphics; some were almost as good as the extraordinary footage in the TV series.

At Kew Gardens and Wakehurst, we have the huge advantage of having a powerfully compelling real experience. Step into the Palm House and you feel the warmth and humidity, you see the beauty and diversity of the plants and the glorious architecture. What possible augmentation would we need and surely it might detract or distract from the rich physical experiences we can offer?



AR Sir David Attenborough Image RBG Kew

However, might some visitors appreciate, in some circumstances, the additional layers of information that could be provided by augmented reality? Perhaps we might find the resources at some point to trial some content relevant to our purpose.

Positive Foodsteps. Foodsteps is a company that focuses on improving food labelling to make clear the carbon footprint and environmental impact of food, writes Rachel Purdon, Head of Sustainability. They're working to help us display environmental labels on our menus and make it easier for all of us to make climate-positive choices. Without making some dietary shifts, it will be much harder to limit carbon emissions to below 1.5 degrees of global heating. The changes will also have health and wider benefits: reduced red meat consumption can contribute to at least nine of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Prestigious RHS award for Greg Redwood

Congratulations to Greg Redwood, Head of Glasshouse Collections, who has been awarded the RHS Associate of Honour. Greg received his medal at a ceremony at the RHS Halls in Vincent Square. Established in 1930, the Associate of Honour is conferred on British nationals for distinguished service to the practice of horticulture during their working life. Greg said: 'It's a great honour, and obviously due in large part to Kew and the help and support of my colleagues (especially Carol Bliss!) throughout my career.'



Greg Redwood,RHS award Image RBG Kew

Reward for Biodiversity Work. The Kew International

Medal 2022 was presented to Elizabeth Maruma Mrema in a ceremony in the Nash Conservatory at Kew Gardens. Ms Mrema is a Tanzanian biodiversity leader and Executive Secretary of the CBD, and was recognised for decades of work protecting nature. In her keynote lecture, *The Power of Collective Action for Biodiversity*, Ms Mrema addressed the scale of the challenge facing the planet, the value of Kew's work in contributing to the implementation of a post-2020 framework on global biodiversity, and called on everyone to work collaboratively to a shared goal.

April

Treehouses at Kew Winners Announced. From over 200 submissions from around the world, three overall winners were: *Polypore/Play that Fungi Music*, by freelance architect India Aspin and Amy Jenkins Smith - an 'ode to fungi'. As a play space, it aimed to be accessible to all. *Linden Thing* by Patrick Fryer of Patrick Fryer Architecture with Thomas Randall-Page Studio and timber specialists Xylotek. Both a teahouse and a treehouse. Linden trees were historically places of assembly in German culture and the design seeks to heighten appreciation of our spectacular Silver Lime. *An Audience with Nature* by Kevin Kelly Architects is an inhabitable amphitheatre, with pods that mimic pinecones clustered over two tiers.

Operational plan and budget 2022-23 approved by Board of Trustees. The budget for next year is exceptional as our operating expenditure will be greater than our operating income, and we'll be using surplus from the 2021-22 financial year to balance the budget. We're doing this for one year only because we are still recovering from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although there have been increases in visitor numbers, we are still below pre-pandemic levels, particularly for international tourists, and the government reliefs on VAT and business rates have now ended.

This year will be the first year of our new science strategy and sustainability strategy. It will also see the start of the digitisation of specimens – the team is planning to digitise over 700,000 herbarium specimens this year.

May

Earth Day. It was called 'a Noah's Ark for Plants' during a live panel discussion of the fifth Climate Action Summit in Stockholm. Kate Hardwick, Conservation Partnership Coordinator said: 'Research from Kew estimates that two in five plants are threatened with extinction, so this is a massive crisis that we're all aware of but it's not always clear what we should do about it. As a kind of emergency safety measure, Kew set up the Millennium Seed Bank Partnership over 20 years ago now – when we first became aware of this problem. It represents a global network of seed banks around the world.

We have over 260 partners in at least 97 different countries, and we aim to conserve wild plants species in what is effectively a Noah's Ark for plants, to make sure that they don't go extinct.' She described plants that have been banked, but are considered extinct in the wild, such as the South African *Cylindrophyllum hallii* cactus: 'One of the key things about wild seed banks is that we're often growing seeds that have never been banked before and have certainly never been grown or propagated before, and so we develop the germination protocols, and these can then be applied to help reintroduced the species back to the wild.'

Critically endangered Iris flowers for first time.

The beautiful *Iris cedreti* is native to Lebanon where it has been pushed near to extinction due to urbanisation and quarrying, *writes Richard Moore, Botanical Horticulturist*. Thankfully, as a result of the efforts made by the Millennium Seed Bank and Kew, we've now got seed preserved, a huge step towards conserving this threatened species – and for the first time it's flowering at Kew!



Iris cedreti

Image RBG Kew

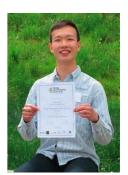
In 2020 Kew's Alpine team requested a small portion of seed from the MSB in the hope that we could germinate and grow this species, aiming to establish mature flowering specimens which could then be control pollinated to produce additional seed for the seed bank. Unfortunately, out of the 10 seeds we received at Kew, one germinated. Even this was a cause for celebration! In the spring of 2021, it began to establish, putting up its first adult leaves, quickly developing a fan of typical Iris-like leaves at the base of which a healthy rhizome had formed.

Iris cedreti is a member of the *Oncocyclus* section of Irises, which are self-incompatible so it's unlikely that our plant will produce any viable seed, but it's worth a try! Thankfully, more seeds are banked at the MSB and hopefully we will grow more in the future, from which we can collect seed, ensuring the species' survival.

Charles Shi is Young Horticulturist of the Year.

Congratulations to Charles, Botanical Horticulturist in the Arboretum and Kew Diploma graduate, who, in a tightly fought contest, won the Grand Final of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture's Young Horticulturist of the Year competition held at Warwick University. (Charles was also victor in the 2018 Clog and Apron race when he joined Kew as a Diploma student and ran the race in 1 minute and 10 seconds.)

Community Open Week 2022. This free event for those who face barriers to visiting independently was a huge success with over 1,500 visitors, leaving many eager to participate in



Charles Shi Image RBG Kew

our activities again, *writes Sian Seaman*. The theme was food and food sustainability, with 27 different activities. Highlights included the cacti chef, Elki Guillen, cooking and serving up prickly produce, a 'print in nature' workshop using fruit and veg to create art, and a finger-knitted corn workshop. The Youth Forum also created their own interactive games and held an exciting animation workshop.

We also joined forces with other departments at Kew. Kitchen gardener Helena Dove gave a captivating talk on how growers are adapting to the challenges of climate change. Kew scientist Hauke Koch led a pollinator walk and ran a honey-tasting stand (our visitors left buzzing reviews at our feedback station). The Herbarium

Library and Archives team showed our participants some of Kew's collections. Thank you to EcoWorld, London for generously supporting this event.

Food Forever in a changing world. Our summer programme saw over 19,000 visitors over the weekend. Food Forever featured four large-scale art installations in the Gardens, as well as the exhibition *When Flowers Dream* in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery. The programme also included guest menus at the Pavilion from awardwinning chefs, talks, and after-hours evenings. *See Richard Deverell, Page 144*

When Flowers Dream by Australian contemporary artist Tanya Schultz, aka Pip & Pop, is an imaginary landscape of fruits, plants and seeds, inspired by our archives of botanical illustration and focuses on those neglected and edible plants which may prove to be the food crops of our future.

Professor Kathy Wells appointed to the House of Lords. Former Director of Science at Kew, she has been appointed as a non-party-political peer, based on her scientific expertise and experience as an internationally-recognised expert on nature and the relationship between biodiversity, climate change and human wellbeing.



Professor Kathy Wells Image RBG Kew

Tripartite International Partnership for Kew Science. The Africa Team at Kew celebrated a

tripartite collaborative research and academic agreement with Ghent University in Belgium and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Nairobi, Kenya. The agreement stems from a PhD project on East African sweet potato wild relatives, to be conducted by Samuel Paul Kagame and co-led by Ana Rita Simões and her colleagues, Lars Chatrou in Belgium and Anne Muigai in Kenya. The agreement opens up new avenues for a range of collaborative projects, with a strong focus on capacity building, especially important for our Kenyan partners.

JUNE

Milestone for 'Kew for £1' ticket offer. Since the introduction in January of a £1 entry ticket for people in receipt of Universal or Pension Credit, we've welcomed 8,000 visitors using the new low-cost ticket at Kew and Wakehurst. So far, the new scheme has encouraged eight times more visitors than the previous discounted entry ticket which was available to anyone unemployed or on Jobseeker's Allowance, brought in the whole of 2019. Other discounts have now been added.

Marking 70 Years of Her Majesty's Reign. A new series of interpretative panels was put in place around Kew Gardens, profiling plants from our living collection which are native to countries that Queen Elizabeth II visited on tours of the Commonwealth or state visits during her reign. Panel locations include the Temperate House and

Princess of Wales Conservatory, with a panel about poppies by the Verdun bench.

Queen Elizabeth II visited Kew Gardens five times during her reign in 1959, 1969, 1977 and 2004, when she planted a walnut tree and enjoyed a tour of the Gardens, visiting Kew Palace, Svon Vista. the Palm House and the Water Lilv House. On her most recent visit in 2009 she planted a ginkgo



Interpretive panel

Image RBG Kew

tree, now marked with one of the new panels. As part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative, a Fraxinus americana (White Ash) tree was planted at the northern end of the lake to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. Over one million trees have been planted as part of this nationwide initiative.

Guides and Explainers. Seven new Volunteer Information Guides joined the team running the information desk at Victoria Plaza. In April, the team welcomed visitors and answered a whopping 1,964 queries. The Tour Guides have also been busy, leading an incredible 118 tours in April and over 150 tours in May.

Award for Trees of New Guinea book. Kew Publishing has once again picked up an award at The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries annual literature awards. The Award of Excellence for Botany has been awarded to The Trees of New Guinea, edited by Kew's Tim Utteridge and Laura Jennings. This major Kew science output details 693 plant genera of one of the most floristically diverse islands in the world with an extremely rich tree flora. Tim said: 'We are honoured and thrilled to receive this award for The Trees of New Guinea, a book that is the culmination of over 10 years of work by Kew's Asia Team.



JULY

Green Economy and Queer Ecology. Colombian biologist Brigitte Baptist, a longstanding partner of Kew's through her role as Director of the Humboldt Institute, who we worked with on the Useful Plants and Fungi of Colombia project, visited Kew Gardens for the first time. Brigitte is now Dean of the EAN University in Bogota where her work and interests chime closely with much of the work being done by Kew Science. She is also a highly visible transgender woman and LGBTQI activist and pioneer of the concept of gueer ecology: 'There is nothing more gueer than nature'.

The Kew International Medal (KIM) for Professor Sandra Díaz. Professor Díaz was presented with the KIM by Dame Amelia Fawcett - in a ceremony cancelled in March 2020 due to the Covid lockdown - for her defining work on biodiversity, ecosystems, and sustainability. She was co-chair of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy

Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report, which shocked many with its warning of unprecedented rates of decline in biodiversity and the associated impacts on people around the world.

Accepting her award, Professor Diaz said: 'Unless we act now, the planet will look very different before Kew celebrates its 350th anniversary. Kew is more important now than ever before – not only in the UK but around the world. Institutions like Kew make the world a better place.'

Richard Deverell Awarded Honorary Doctorate. Richard was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Royal Holloway, University of London, for his outstanding achievements in improving public engagement and education. The award was Doctor of Science Honoris Causa. Richard became the 17th Director of RBG Kew in September 2012, the first to hold the position who was not a professional botanist, having previously been a Trustee for six years. Richard is also an official Champion for Food Forever, a global initiative that aims to secure biodiversity for the benefit of food security around the world.

Saturday Science Club. I'm Rachel, mum to two kids, Gracie and Ezra. We live locally to Kew Gardens and have enjoyed visiting the Saturday Science Club for several years now. From day one, the children were using microscopes which encouraged their curiosity, looking at things on both a micro and macro scale. The topics were broadly seasonal, and so we journeyed through the seasons from late spring through to autumn, as the programme ran from May to October.



Looking for Bees

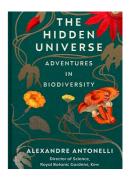
Image RBG Kew

For the second session, we learned all about bees. Ezra loved that one! We saw many different varieties of bee, and we had a key to identify them. The children went to find as many bees as they could, and they were very excited because they thought they found a new species; it definitely wasn't on the identification sheets!

For some children, just touching the soil and finding invertebrates were joyful. But others really wanted to understand more, making links to the habitats, life cycles and individual features of a particular creature. It was a multifaceted way of exploring and interacting with the topic and enabled everyone to participate. Ezra is starting to see how plants and animals interact and is studying these interconnections in a more considered way – his eyes are more open to the world of scientific investigation. As a parent, I couldn't quite believe how much we were receiving from Kew.

The Hidden Universe: Adventures in Biodiversity. Alex Antonelli's debut book reveals the wonders of biodiversity at a genetic, species and ecosystem level, showing how it works and why it's both the source and the salvation of our existence.

Alex said: "I've lived and breathed biodiversity since my childhood days in the rainforests of my home country Brazil, and long before I knew the meaning of that word, I had already decided to dedicate my whole life to it... We are entering an age of extinction, with the dual crises of biodiversity loss and climate change threatening our very life support systems. But I'm no doomsday prophet: there's still time to fix things, and I want to show how."



AUGUST

Kew Gardens' waste review. In spring 2022 we appointed Eunomia to conduct a review of current waste operations at Kew Gardens and recommend how we can improve these practices, to reduce costs and enable us to hit our sustainability and greening government targets, *writes Rachel Purdon*

Our strengths: the large quantities of high-quality compost produced onsite (avoiding waste); the high levels of staff interest in recycling and waste reduction; high levels of segregation of office waste; our large but well-contained site which should allow us to achieve higher recycling rates in future. Our weaknesses: poor segregation of visitor waste; inconsistent waste containers; current lack of ownership for waste contracts and collating waste data.

Vegware packaging was introduced in catering outlets across Kew in 2018 to move away from the use of single use plastics. Kew & CH & Co shifted to plant-based bioplastics (PLAs) and invested in an onsite aerobic digestor (the 'garbage guzzler') which converts biodegradable waste into digestate within 24 hours, accelerated by heat and enzymes. The intention was to use this digestate within the gardens, resulting in a closed loop-system which avoided plastic waste and converted food waste + Vegware into a compost that could be used onsite.

Unfortunately, the quantity of PLA packaging produced is not well suited to this type of accelerated composting process, and it hasn't been possible to use the output from the garbage guzzler within the Gardens. While it can be very difficult to acknowledge when something hasn't worked as intended, I believe that honesty is the best policy, and will be appreciated and admired by other organisations facing similar challenges with single-use packaging waste streams.

SEPTEMBER

Knitting Nature. My name is Shashi, and I'm retired. I used to work in finance, but I've always done lots of different types of activities as a volunteer. I have volunteered for the Scouts, for the Citizen's Advice Bureau, and Homestart, where I worked with young families. I was introduced to Kew by these organisations. That's how

I eventually came to be involved with the Community Learning Programme, and the Knitting Nature programme. It's fascinating!

The programme has helped me to develop a creative mindset and think about the different things I can do with my knitting skills. I've also learned a lot more about plants too. In the past, Kew invited some young scientists to our knitting sessions. They showed us how to separate DNA,



Waving the flag for knitting Image RBG Kew

and we learnt about genes. Then we were challenged to knit some DNA, so we made a visual representation of genetic material! I think that recreating it myself has helped me to understand the science. It was just the most wonderful thing we ever did, since it gave us the opportunity to learn more about how plants share genes.

Grow Wild - Earthwise. The Youth team has been busy delivering Earthwise, Kew's new summer programme. In total 40 young people were offered places for this two-week programme in August. The young people had a packed timetable, focused around designing and conducting their own scientific research into biodiversity and ecosystem health in the natural area of the gardens. Participants also completed practical workshops on field skills techniques, heard from



An Earthwise workshop Image RBG Kew

Kew scientists about live research projects, explored behind the scenes at Kew and Wakehurst and gave group presentations about the findings of their own research gathered over the course of the week. It was fantastic to see the development of the young people, their enthusiasm - and how confidently they were talking like scientists by the end of the programme.

COP27 and **COP15**: Priorities for Government. On Monday 5 September, our director Richard Deverell was among a group of experts invited to attend a meeting jointly hosted by the Natural History Museum and Science Museum to discuss the next steps needed to address the climate and extinction crises. We must find the language to describe the overarching goal to save millions of species threatened with extinction in a way that the 1.5 degree Paris target has done for climate change. Organisations such as Kew, the Natural History Museum and Science Museum have a key role to play here.

There is also a strong need to improve our evidence base to ensure that effective climate and biodiversity policies are developed. This is an area where Kew is making contributions with programmes including Nature Unlocked: The Landscape Ecology Programme, and in partnership with the Kew Madagascar Conservation Centre (KMCC). Further work of this kind must be encouraged.

Treehouses update and our next steps. Following the tender process for a build company, it has become clear that due to the current economic climate, certain supply chain issues and a unprecedented increase in material costs, we will not be in a position to deliver on time and on budget for a launch in April 2023. Further design time is required with the architects to make the savings needed which will incur significant delays to the start date of the exhibition.

Huni Kuin people from the Amazon visit

Kew. Elder Txana Ixã, Sabino, and his nephew, Isaka Mateus visited Kew to share their stories, medicines, chants, art and their views on the current political situation in Brazil. They came to London from one of the most isolated villages by the Jordão River in the Brazilian Amazon where Txana Ixã is one of the most respected elders of the Huni Kuin people, master of singing and connoisseur of traditional medicines.



Elder Txana Ixã, Sabino Image RBG Kew

In the words of the Huni Kuin themselves, Txana Ixã is a "living library", a guardian of the culture and knowledge of his people. He has never left his village to travel so far and this was a unique opportunity both for him and his hosts.

Isaka Mateus is a teacher and singer, who has been dedicated to researching medicinal plants for many years. Accompanying his father, the great Pajé (shaman) Îka Muru, he helped in the creation of a rare book called *UNA ISI KAYAWA* (Book of Healing of the Huni Kuin People of the Jordan River), which catalogued and described dozens of medicinal plants from the forest in partnership with the Botanical Gardens in Rio de Janeiro.

Clog and Apron Race for new Kew Diploma and Specialist Certificate Students.

We welcomed nine new course 60 students and five specialist certificate students to the School of Horticulture and the Gardens, with the C60 students running the traditional Clog and Apron race. Louie de Witt was this year's winner with a time of 1 minute 13 seconds, with James Moon runner-up. Congratulations to both. Course 60 - a warm welcome to our new Kew Diploma C60 students.

OCTOBER

Edible Science, Kew's sustainable new Kitchen Garden. It was surprisingly sunny on the morning of the press launch for Edible Science: Kew's Kitchen Garden, writes Rebecca Consterdine. This bold redesign of the garden highlights the partnership between horticulture and science, and offers an accessible public space in which to trial new species and methods of growing. Based on the site of the original Georgian kitchen garden, which supplied produce to the estate of King George III, the revamped garden prioritises sustainability and addresses biodiversity loss and

food insecurity. What's more, with wide and flat no-mow footpaths, this garden is now fully accessible.

The kitchen garden's urban bed demonstrates different ways to grow in small spaces, including trials of dwarf cultivars of crops such as butternut squash and sugar snap peas, as well as vertical growing and square foot planting. An edible green roof utilises an often-unused space to grow alpine strawberries, thyme and nasturtiums.



Fungi Image RBG Kew

Kew's Kitchen Garden also features a new dedicated fungi bed, providing further

opportunities for experimentation. The focus will initially be on growing recognisable mushrooms in a shaded area – and hopefully inspire visitors to grow their own in similar spaces. With the kitchen garden set to grow winter vegetables for the first time in decades at Kew, there will be something for visitors to see in all four seasons. Definitely worth a wander when you have a moment to spare.

Palm House Refurbishment Update. The Executive Board approved the business case for the proposed net zero carbon Palm House refurbishment project and reviewed and approved a draft trans and non-binary equality policy which outlines Kew's commitment to ensuring that trans and non-binary employees and volunteers are treated with dignity and respect.



Palm House and Waterlilly House Image RBG Kew

The net zero carbon Palm House project has reached the completion of RIBA Stage 2 and is seeking funding to move into RIBA Stage 3 and beyond. The project aims to minimise the carbon emissions of the Grade I and II display glasshouses whilst also upgrading and refurbishing these iconic assets.

Tulips from Amsterdam! It's bulb planting season, *writes Tony Hall.* The Arboretum Team with their current students, apprentices, volunteers, and the Tree unit have been busy planting new bulbs to create some stunning colourful displays for next year.

We purchased 10,000 mixed tulips bulbs sent to us with attached label: 'Tulips from Amsterdam!' These were all planted along Cherry Walk, 5,000 each side. We have been doing this for five years now and every year it draws a crowd, evident from the worn grass around the edges from where photos are taken.

From April to May a mix of pink, white, orange, red and dark purple tulips flower

among the long grass, and weather dependent, bloom simultaneously with the cherry blossom.

The team also planted 10,000 *Crocus tommasinianus* to create a living purple carpet in the grass areas below the new winter garden. The crocus will be in flower throughout February, before naturalising and spreading for many years. As well as being a draw for visitors, and an extension of the winter garden, they are also a great source of nectar and pollen for early foraging insects, particularly bees.

The final crowning glory are the winter aconites – 1,000 small yellow buttercup-like flowers adorning the mound - a splash of yellow amongst the hellebores and snowdrops.



Tulips from Amsterdam Image RBG Kew

21,000 bulbs/corms planted in less than a day. A great team effort!

Professional Gardeners Guild held a Trainee Seminar on October 20-23

Organised by Sarah Wain (1980), John Humphris and Alan Mason. A talk given by Tony Kirkham on his career at Kew, so inspired the 15 trainees that he was begged to continue despite running over time late into the evening.

NOVEMBER

New reciprocal access agreement with the Design Museum Staff and volunteers now have free entrance to any of The Design Museum's paid exhibitions at any time by showing their green pass at the ticket desk. Subject to availability, but you can book in advance to secure your space.

Arboretum Cleaning Supported by Volunteers. Over the weekend of 29 & 30 October an army (that is the correct collective noun) of volunteers supported Sal Demain with cleaning the Arboretum Nursery. Together we hoovered, dusted, scrubbed and polished. At the end of each session Sal rewarded us with tea and cake!

Kew awarded Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge The Formal Learning/Schools Team is pleased to announce that Kew has been awarded the prestigious and nationally recognised Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge for the fifth year in a row. The Council for LOtC states that this award is 'the only national accreditation that recognises both learning and safety for all types of learning outside the classroom providers.' The award is endorsed by the Department of Education.

'Our Future is Botanic' new campaign film launched. Timed to coincide with COP27, Kew launched a further phase of its brand campaign 'Our Future is Botanic' with a new film showcasing the role of plants in our planet's future. The campaign

launched in 2021 and this latest burst reaches out to targeted consumer audiences with an interest in nature and the environment. The immersive film features bold, emotive statements on a future inspired by Kew's work, together with incredible close ups of powerful plants. It showcases how our horticultural and science teams work together to find nature-based solutions to some of our most critical challenges. It's an asset that we will use over a number of years in different ways from staff inductions to fundraising campaigns. The film ultimately asks audiences to join, donate and engage with Kew to help support the vital work that we do.

The making of Mexico. Hopefully, you all had a chance to see Mexico in the Temperate House at Kew Gardens this autumn, writes Rebecca Harfield, Visitor Programmes Manager. I am thrilled with how it turned out and thought I would give you a bit of background as to how we in Visitor Programmes create a public programme like this.



Mexico in the Temperate House Image RBG Kew

I was responsible for planning the objectives for the festival and curating the creative content.

I did a huge amount of research and spoke with many external parties including the Mexican Embassy. It's vital to work with experts to ensure accurate representation of the culture, and to steer clear of stereotypes.

We constantly deal with endless queries from contractors and artists: 'Can I camp on site during install and work every night on my own until 3am for two weeks?' Errrrrrmmmmmm, no. 'We can just drill into the window frames of the Temperate house can't we?' Errrrrrmmmmmmmm, NO!

Installation is exhausting and requires a ridiculous number of snacks. But it's incredibly exciting to see a year of work taking shape. We play rock paper scissors to use Festy, our reliable but only buggy (the loser gets Pontoon, a ridiculously heavy bike - not built for a woman of short stature) to make multiple trips to Oxenhouse Gate to meet the contractors and induct them to our site. The best bit is seeing the finished result: the most rewarding bit is seeing the response of the visitors.

DECEMBER

New Schools Learning Strategy Published. In development since 2018, with publication delayed by the pandemic, our new strategy demonstrates the key roles that schools, learning and teaching play in upholding the strategic priorities in 'Our manifesto for change 2021–2030'. It emphasises why RBG Kew is a unique learning resource, and marks the inspiring work our schools, teachers and learning and participation department do to train the next generation of plant scientists.

Back in 1859, Kew Gardens trained students to be garden curators. Fast forward to 2022, and our educational offer has developed substantially, bringing over 100,000 pupils annually to both Wakehurst and Kew Gardens, and bringing plant science into the classroom through our Endeavour programme, reaching around 177,000 pupils every year. As an arms-length Defra body and charity, our responsibility lies in continuing to improve and expand our educational offer, and in training the next generation of plant scientists, for the future of our planet.

#PurpleLightUpDay Why was Kewnet purple on 3 December? asks Jessica Harrison, Research Officer. Why was the Elizabeth Gate lit up in purple? Was it some radical new colour scheme for Kew? Was it heralding news of the Palm House getting repainted violet? #PurpleLightUpDay celebrates the UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities, held annually on 3 December. This year, the theme was 'Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of



Purple Light Up Day Image RBG Kew

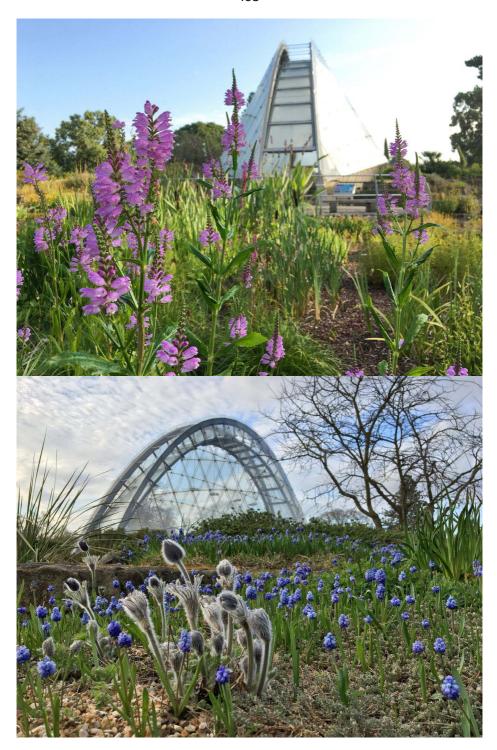
innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world.' It recognises the importance of embedding disability awareness into any attempt to address the vast array of challenges facing global society in the 21st century.

There are around 386 million disabled employees worldwide. In the UK, 22% of the total population has a disability*. These are not small numbers, and yet the issues disabled people face are often marginalised. Furthermore, disabled people themselves are sometimes seen as a helpless monolith, rather than individuals, with individual needs, who have much to contribute to society.

By blazing purple light over Elizabeth Gate, and by turning Kewnet purple, Kew aims to raise awareness of the economic contribution of disabled employees, and to demonstrate their commitment to disability inclusion. Of course, people have value regardless of whether or not they contribute economically, and people with high support needs who cannot work have just as much intrinsic worth as those who have lower support needs and can work. The point is not to rank one sort of disabled person over the other but to spotlight the invaluable contribution disabled people bring to the workplace and to encourage employers to consider their environment, and to work on making it more accessible.

Kew 2022 in Pictures by Matthew Jeffery









The Year at Wakehurst 2022

An update by Ed Ikin

2022 marked the first full year in my new role as Director of Wakehurst, a journey on which I aim to be an inclusive leader, ensure our wild botanic garden resonates beyond our boundaries and run Wakehurst as an effective business. It has been a privilege to work with teams across the gardens and see so much achieved in my first year as Director.

We started in a great position: a healthy, biodiverse landscape, a talented team, and productive partnerships within Kew and beyond. The challenge was making the most of these advantages, using our expertise to pilot innovative ideas, telling compelling stories to entice more visitors and members, and undertaking research to protect biodiversity.

Following the aftermath of Storm Eunice at the start of the year, our gardens swiftly recovered, leading to a year of success. In March, the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions (ALVA) 2021 visitor figures placed Wakehurst as a Top Five Attraction in the South East (outside of London). Our 2021 winter lantern festival, Glow Wild, was awarded Silver Experience and Event of the Year at the



LiDAR scanning as part of Nature Unlocked, Jim Holden © RBG Kew

2021/22 Beautiful South Tourism Awards, setting us up for an exceptional 2022 event.

Over the last few years, we've seen Wakehurst transform from a refuge amidst a global pandemic to a site of pioneering science. Through Nature Unlocked, our landscape ecology programme, Wakehurst has become a living laboratory for Kew scientists investigating nature-based solutions to climate change. On World Biodiversity Day in May, we launched Nature Connectedness, our wellbeing research strand, which aims to empirically measure the benefits of different landscapes on our physical and mental health. Our researchers equipped adult visitors with Heart Rate Variability (HRV) monitors, tracking their heart rate whilst on a walk in the gardens. In an accompanying study, over 1,000 school children filled out pre-visit surveys, and went on a nature walk through a meadow, woodland, or wetland habitat, which was followed by drawings inspired by their time in nature. With this initial study complete, data is being analysed, and results will be shared in 2023.

Further research has been carried out into which native and non-native plant species provide the most benefits to our pollinators, as well as investigations into carbon sequestration across the Wakehurst landscape. Through analysis of soil samples and high-tech drone and LiDAR scanning, we'll build a picture of carbon storage across the site, which we can scale up nationally to influence key policyholders and decision-makers.

When I first took the post of Director in 2021, I was asked what I was most looking forward to in the year ahead. One of my answers 'seeing the American Prairie flower' happened in the summer of 2022, as our six-acre landscape flourished into a sea of yellow. One year after the addition of 50,000 plug plants, this unique horticultural experiment thrived and even came back



The American Prairie, Claire Takacs © RBG Kew

into bloom after a heatwave. The story of our prairie was recounted nationally in the second series of Channel 5's *Kew Gardens: A Year in Bloom*, which featured a different Wakehurst story in each of its six episodes. We also worked with Kew on a successful second series of the podcast *Unearthed: Journeys into the future of food*, with stories told from the Millennium Seed Bank (MSB) and our summer festival, Nourish.

Extreme weather and drought stress following the summer contributed to the fast spread of ash dieback disease, and 2022 marked 10 years since the disease was first discovered in the UK. Following surveys across the site, our arboretum and landscape teams identified the Loder Valley Nature Reserve as a vulnerable area, with diseased trees posing a threat to the public. We announced the closure of the Loder Valley in December, as we embarked on a major felling operation, whilst Kew scientists work to generate a new population of resilient ash. Through genomic research, seed collections and ash propagation trials, we hope to secure a future for ash.

As the year wrapped up, so did our iconic Elizabethan Mansion, enveloped in scaffolding for vital roof restoration work. Due to last over the next few years, we viewed this expansive hoarding as a canvas and are delighted to be working with talented artist Catherine Nelson on 'Planet Wakehurst', a huge photo montage featuring plants from across our landscape, coming soon in 2023. The scaffolding also encouraged us to look to our wider landscape for Glow Wild, as we hosted a trail inspired by nature's spectrum. Despite a cost-of-living crisis, and closures due to extreme snowfall and a burst waterpipe, our ninth Glow Wild welcomed nearly 80,000 visitors and planning is underway for 2023's 10th anniversary celebrations.



Planet Wakehurst simulation image by Catherine Nelson © RBG Kew

As we look to the year ahead, the focus is on extending our reach and ensuring more people benefit from Wakehurst. A key step forward is the introduction of dogs, with a dedicated dog walking route, welcoming those who may not have been able to visit before. We are also enhancing our offer for families, through new wild play initiatives, encouraging the next generation to connect with nature and protect the natural world.

Our landscape continues to evolve, with a Conservation & Research Nursery in the planning stages. This new facility will expand our existing horticultural and scientific expertise to unlock the MSB's extraordinary seed collections, upgrading current facilities to energy-efficient structures and controllable greenhouses.

I'm also excited to share that a new Silk Road Steppe landscape will be created at Wakehurst. This new seven-acre space, currently in the design phase, will reflect the diverse and ornamental plants of the Silk Road trade routes, with work beginning in 2024.

Thank you for your continued support, and I'm looking forward to shaping Wakehurst's next chapter with all of you.

Wakehurst Place Weather 2022

January 2022

Month's total rainfall: 34.4 mm Rainiest day: 13 mm on 8th Rainless days: 14.1 ° C on 1st Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 4 ° C on 25th Highest Min Temp: 10.8 ° C on 1st Lowest Min Temp: -2.6 ° C on 6th

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 4 Windiest day date: 17th Direction: NW Wind speed: 17 MPH

March 2022

Month's total rainfall: 39.0 mm Rainiest day: 15.4 mm on 11th Rainless days: 22

22.2 ° C on 24th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 6.6 ° C on 5th 9.6 ° C on 22nd Highest Min Temp: 0.8 ° C on 8th Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 17th Direction: NW Wind speed: 15 MPH

May 2022

Month's total rainfall: 65.6 mm Rainiest day: 10.5 mm on 20th Rainless days: 27.1 ° C on 17th Highest Max Temp: 15.8 ° C on 11th Lowest Max Temp: Highest Min Temp: 13.5 ° C on 19th Lowest Min Temp: 5.1 ° C on 9th

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date:12th Direction: SW Wind speed:17 MPH

July 2022

Month's total rainfall: 4.0 mm Rainiest day: 2.3 mm on 22nd Rainless days: 39.6 ° C on 19th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 20.7 ° C on 1st 23.9 ° C on 19th Highest Min Temp: 10.3 ° C on 1st Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date:2nd & 20th Direction:WSW Wind speed:13 MPH

September 2022

Month's total rainfall: 151.9 mm Rainiest day: 339 mm on 7th Rainless days: 14 Highest Max Temp: 27.5 ° C on 12th 15.1 ° C on 26th Lowest Max Temp: Highest Min Temp: 17.8 ° C on 13th 5°Con28th Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 27th Direction: NW Wind speed: 15 MPH

November 2022

Month's total rainfall-3297 mm Rainiest day: 53.0 mm on 2nd Rainless days: Highest Max Temp: 19.2 ° C on 13th Lowest Max Temp: 7.0 ° C on 29th 13.4 ° C on 11th Highest Min Temp: Lowest Min Temp: 3.9 ° C on 22nd

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0

Windiest day date: 2 & 25 Direction: SW & WSW Wind speed:19MPH

February 2022

Month's total rainfall: 74 O mm Rainiest day: 21.5 mm on 13th Rainless days: 14.6 ° C on 16th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 7.8 ° C on 10th Highest Min Temp: 8.4 ° C on 16th 0.3 ° C on 11th Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 19th Direction: SW Wind speed: 42 MPH

April 2022

Month's total rainfall: 20.8 mm Rainiest day: 8.1 mm on 6th

Rainless days:

23.4 ° C on 15th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 8.7 ° C on 1st 10.5 ° C on 12th Highest Min Temp: -0.7 ° C on 2nd & 3rd Lowest Min Temp: Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 2

Windiest day date: 7th Direction: NW Wind speed: 29 MPH

June 2022

Month's total rainfall: 35.7 mm

Rainiest day: 5.9 mm on 3rd also on 18th Rainless days:

30.7 ° C on 17th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 16.3 ° C on 5th Highest Min Temp: 17.6 ° C on 18th 7.2 ° C on 1st Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date:19th Direction:NNE Wind speed:16 MPH

August 2022

Month's total rainfall: 75.7 mm Rainiest day: 26 mm on 24th

Rainless days: 20

35.3 ° C on 13th Highest Max Temp: Lowest Max Temp: 21.4 ° C on 17th 19.8 ° C on 14th Highest Min Temp: 11.1 ° C on 6th Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 11 Direction: NE Wind speed: 11 MPH

October 2022

Month's total rainfall: 103.7 mm Rainiest day: 214 mm on 16th Rainless days: Highest Max Temp: 22.5 ° C on 29th 15.7 ° C on 30th Lowest Max Temp: Highest Min Temp: 14.9 ° C on 5th 5.0 ° C on 11th Lowest Min Temp:

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 0 Windiest day date: 24th Direction: SW Wind speed: 20 MPH

December 2022

Month's total rainfall-1409 mm Rainiest day: 37.4 mm on 18th

Rainless days:7-10

Highest Max Temp: 12.7 ° C on 31st Lowest Max Temp: 1°C on 12th 9.4 ° C on 20th Highest Min Temp: Lowest Min Temp: -4.0 ° C on 15th

Nights with air temp below freezing (0.0 ° C and below): 11 Windiest day date: 29 & 31 Direction: SW Wind speed: 20 MPH

Wakehurst 2022 in Pictures by Maude Verstappen





News of Kewites

Alex George in Western Australia welcomes visits from distant Kewites and has news of his latest publications

In 2022 I was pleased to have three visits from Kewites. First, in September, came Jim and Val Mitchell, to see Kings Park and Botanic Garden, followed by a tour northwards. Good winter rains ensured that we had a colourful wildflower season. Later that month, John Whitehead and Brenda March arrived, John especially



With Brian Phillips in the Jarrah-Marri Forest Image Alex George

keen to see some of Western Australia's trees, including the Boab, *Adansonia gregorii* (see John P172 and Jim P175).

Early in November, Sylvia and Brian Phillips flew in for a short stay. We had a stroll around the Botanic Garden and then drove into the hills east of Perth to see some late spring flora in the Jarrah-Marri forest. An area that had been burnt last summer had particularly fine displays of Lechenaultia biloba with sky-

blue flowers. Our flora is adapted to bushfires and regenerates strongly afterwards.

My Kew connection continued with the publication, in November, of *Peter Good: Kew's gardener with Matthew Flinders on HMS Investigator, 1801–1803.* Good was responsible for introducing many Australian plants to English horticulture. He is commemorated in several names, including the leguminous shrub, *Goodia.*

As we head into 2023, I am completing another book started some years ago: Years at Kew: A History of the Australian Botanical Liaison Officer Scheme. This scheme ran from 1937 to 2009, during which period 51 botanists occupied the post, based in the Herbarium. They and Kew benefitted greatly, the botanists from the amazing historical resources in the collections (specimens, library, archives) and Kew from the advantages of developing close collaboration with antipodean colleagues (and being relieved of handling the many requests sent by Australian botanists each year).



Lechenaultia biloba Canning Mills Image Alex George

John Whitehead: Journey of a Lifetime

On the 19th of September 2022 it was the State Funeral of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II, the most remarkable and recognisable person in the world.

On Saturday 17th September, the first day of our three-week visit to Western Australia, Brenda and I were fortunate to share the enthusiasm and flair of Alex George, a prolific Australian Botanist, acting as our local guide to the renowned Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth. We saw a surprisingly public emotional



Alex George with John Whitehead and Brenda March in Kings park Image John Whitehead

scene, with colourful flowers of remembrance displayed as a memorial around the trunk of the Queen's Eucalyptus.

On the 27th of March 1954, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh commemorated their royal visit to Perth by planting a Red River Gum Eucalyptus camaldulensis. The Queen's Eucalyptus has grown into a towering 68-year-old tree and Alex and I measured the girth

of 5.93m at 1.5m and 6m around the base of the trunk. Nearby, on the famous giant Perth Boab *Adansonia gregorii*, we measured the girth of 7.3m at 1.5m and 7.7m around the base. The 36 tonnes Boab tree was gifted by the Gija people of Warmun in the northern Kimberley region and transported 3,200 km to Perth in 2008. Matilda, from the King's Park staff, explained that they are conducting trials of duplicating the northern dry and wet seasons of the tree's natural habitat by covering its root system from local rainfall with a barrier sheet and regulating the seasonal in situ irrigation.

It was springtime in Kings Park and the state flower of Western Australia, the kangaroo paws Anigozanthos were in full bloom. We were privileged to botanise the Banksia collection with Alex George who is a world authority and author of the Banksia monograph, together with Kevin and Kathy Collins. The Banksia is one of Australia's foremost historic and iconic flowers



Brenda with Tom the helicopter pilot approaching Careening Bay Image John Whitehead

symbolic of the first plants seen at Botany Bay where Captain James Cook and botanist Joseph Banks on the ship *Endeavour* first landed on mainland Australia in 1770. Alex George encompasses many aspects of botanical art and history, and is an avid botanical Latin lexicographer. Alex is a good friend of the Ward family and often

features in the Journal of the Kew Guild: he also served on the staff of the Kew Herbarium.

I learned that Alex was the author of the Banksia Book, featuring the amazing botanical art of Celia Rosser. At Merrist Wood College in Surrey in the 1980s, the botanical artist Jenny Brasier was in regular contact with Celia Rosser. We both marvelled at the superb intricate botanical detail of the cone-



John Stanley and John Whitehead measuring the girth of the Marianne North Tree Image John Whitehead

shaped colourful flower heads of genus Banksia in the fascinating family Proteaceae.

In 1972, I joined Merrist Wood College as a lecturer in Arboriculture at the same time as John Stanley, a lecturer in Horticulture. We were now spending a week visiting John and Linda Stanley at their secluded Sweet Chestnut Brae Farm near Nannup, south of Perth, and celebrating Linda's 70th birthday. Linda has published a charming booklet of a wildlife journey, *Grandy's Long Walk* on the Bibbulmun track from Albany to Perth. After 11 years they have now gained Excellence in Food Tourism and developed a niche market by giving their pigs a sweet chestnut mix in their food! They offer farm stays, have a variety of animals, and run a farm shop. Their garden collection has many interesting botanical themes. The wildlife includes the electric blue Splendid Fairy-wrens, colourful parrots, and distant lake and meadow land



Helicopter beach landing next to the Mermaid Boab tree Image John Whitehead

with early morning visits from kangaroos and mobs of Emus. John is also an International Retail Speaker and he took us to the Warren National Park to view the Marianne North Eucalyptus diversicolor (Karri) with a giant burl detail of which abnormal growth is captured in one of the paintings. We measured the tree: girth of 6m at 1.5m (see Alex George mention of the tree in 2019 Journal Vol 17 No 124, Page 469).

In our last week in the Kimberley region, we were joined by Clive Hatfield, a Merrist Wood student in 1986, now Arboricultural Officer for Ipswich, Queensland. Our big tree expeditions included the Historic Gregory's Boab near Timber Creek, and the famous Prison Boab near Derby.



John, Matilda and Alex measuring the Kings Park Big Boab tree Image John Whitehead

Three Covid years of not travelling abroad gave us the opportunity to gather extra savings, for a dream trip of a lifetime by helicopter to visit the historic Mermaid Boab Tree at the desolate Careening Bay on the North West Coast. On a brilliant sunny day on 29th September 2022, our pilot Petra flew us from Kununurra to the Mitchell Falls area, and later Tom, the helicopter pilot, landed

us on the beach at Careening Bay where our mission to measure and record details of the Mermaid Boab Tree was accomplished. The base of the giant Mermaid Boab measured 10.42m and the girth at 1m was 11.28m up at the fork of the twin trunks. The historically-inscribed 200-year-old lettering was 3.8m across and the size of each letter was 0.4m. We were lucky with our mission, as the next day would have been cancelled due to the start of the northern wet season and heavy rain storms.

In 1820 on their coastal mapping expedition, His Majesty's Cutter commanded by Philip Parker King struck a coral reef and the crew eventually could not bail out the intake of leaking water. On the Kimberley northwest coast, the ship was careened sideways on a sheltered beach and it took 16 days for the carpenter to repair the damage. Captain Phillip Parker King named the beach area Careening Bay and he

instructed the carpenter to inscribe the ship's name and date - HMC MERMAID 1820 - on the big unidentified twintrunked tree next to the beach ... 200 years ago! The ship's botanist, Alan Cunningham, named the big tree Capparis gibbosa but never published the name formally. Among the new scientific discoveries, he named the Frilled Dragon Lizard Chlamydosaurus kingii, after the Captain.



John and Alex measure the Queens Eucalyptus in Kings Park, Perth Image John Whitehead

Jim Mitchell meets fellow adventurer Alex George

When Two Kew Guild Past Presidents Meet

One of the main reasons for the formation of the Kew Guild in 1893 was to enable past and present gardens personnel who had adventured to take up positions around the world to stay in touch with one another, share their experiences and friendship.

So in September I fulfilled a lifelong ambition and took a flight from Far North

Queensland to Perth, Western Australia, a journey of 6000 km, primarily to enjoy the unique flora of WA but also to catch up with Kewite and Past President Alex George.

And there was no better place to meet than in Kings Park Botanic Garden, overlooking the Swan River, under the infamous Boab Tree. The 750-year-old tree, *Adansonia gregori*i or Gija Jumulu, had arrived in Perth 15 years ago after a six-day 3200 km journey from the East Kimberley in the State's far north, which attracted worldwide attention at that time. Gija refers to the Gija People, the traditional owners of the land where the tree originated: and Jumulu meaning boab.



Western Australian Flora Image Jim Mitchell

Alex's fascinating and thorough knowledge of the WA flora is second to none, and made our excursion worthwhile. A very enjoyable day was had in the Botanic Garden and reminded me why I persevere with my Kew Guild membership.



With Alex George by the Kings Park Big Boab tree Image Jim Mitchell

We returned East on the Indian-Pacific Railway across the Nullarbor Plain via Adelaide, which took three nights for another once-in-a-life-time experience, illustrating once more how large the Australian continent is.

In October we finally said goodbye to Port Douglas and the Barrier Reef and returned home to Manly in New South Wales, after being away for four years.

Mark Brent: Through the shared language of plants

The last year has seen the much-anticipated celebration of the 400th anniversary

of the foundation of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden. The events were somewhat staggered (thanks pandemic!) but gave us the opportunity to highlight some of the wonderful history and botanical collections in this great garden. Two weeks of celebration in July began with a formal Encaenia-style ceremony at the University Church of St Mary the Virgin, which represented a contemporary recreation of the founding ceremony of 1621. This was followed by a Gala lunch in the garden, where it was a great pleasure to meet up with Tim Upson.



Mark Brent & Amanda Lind, Jerusalem Botanic Garden Image Mark Brent

Naturally there were the inevitable formal tree planting ceremonies to mark the occasion involving the now HRH King Charles III, the Chancellor of Oxford University Lord Pattern of Barnes, and the Vice Chancellor Dame Louise Richardson. This gave me the chance to follow in the footsteps of the former Superintendent of the Botanic Garden, Ken Burras (Kew 1954), who celebrated the garden's 350th anniversary. Fifty years later Harold MacMillan's *Styphnolobium japonicum* is still standing by the visitor centre. To celebrate our 400th anniversary, King Charles planted a specimen of *Pinus nigra*, raised from seed derived from a tree that had been felled in 2012 but was much loved by JRR. Tolkien who was regular visitor to the Garden.



lan Leese Bible Path sign Image Mark Brent

Ken Burras who lives locally, reminded us of former Oxford trainees such as Mike Maunder, Christopher Clennett and Rosemary Coleson, who passed through his hands on their way to Kew. Meanwhile Kate Pritchard (Course 35) continues to oversee the Glasshouse collections at the Botanic Garden, alongside Louisa Hall, formerly of Kew's Tropical Nursery. Directly over the fence from us in Oxford, John James (Course 21) is busy keeping the gardens at Christ Church College in rude health. Elsewhere in the University Sophie Walwin (Course 50?) has recently moved on from her position as Head Gardener at Sommerville College to a private estate in Hampshire.

A botanising trip to Israel in 2022 gave me the chance to meet up with Amanda Lind (Course 27) at Jerusalem Botanic Gardens. Amanda has recently been appointed Director of the Gazelle Valley urban nature park in Jerusalem. It was also pleasing to see that Ian Leese is still well remembered at Jerusalem Botanic Gardens.

Rebecca Bower: Travelling again

After a fairly quiet year in 2021, I was able to start travelling again in 2022. In mid-May I went to Phinda Game Reserve in South Africa for three weeks – the same place as I visited in 2019 – where I was volunteering, helping the warden monitor mammals on the reserve. I had some incredible experiences with close encounters with rhinos,

lions, cheetahs and pangolins – including helping take a semi-darted white rhino for a walk!

In August I went on my long-awaited trip to Alaska (postponed for two years because of Covid restrictions). Unfortunately we had a lot of rain and as most of the trip was camping it was very challenging at times! However, on the penultimate day we watched from a small boat as a succession of grizzly bears came to catch salmon trying to get up the river to spawn – it was amazing and made it all worthwhile.



Rebecca with Rhino, Phinda Game Reserve Image Rebecca Bower

We had a great family holiday in Jersey at the end Image Rebecca Bower of August to celebrate my Mum's 90th Birthday, and then my final trip of the year was to the US in November with my friend Margaret. We spent a few days with her son and family in California either side of a week in Arizona where we explored the area around Sedona and the Grand Canyon – incredible scenery and lots of walking was

done.



By the Grand Canyon Image Rebecca Bower

The main change here is that my sister and I are now sharing our house with two Ukrainian ladies, Olha (48) and her daughter Anna-Mariia (26), who moved in in mid-September. They had already been in Exeter for a few months but needed to find new accommodation, so all their paperwork had already been sorted out and they both speak English – Anna-Marija

particularly well – so it has all been relatively easy and has worked very well. What is happening in their country is awful, and Olha's Mum is still living there, but overall they remain positive and are lovely people.

As well as holidays, throughout the year I have been doing all the usual things including my Trusteeships and various volunteering roles, so overall life continues to be very busy and rewarding.

Martin Abrahams: Fifty years on

It is 50 years since I left Kew for a career in Local Government. I had various roles with the London Borough of Ealing, Portsmouth and Exeter City Councils, and Teignbridge District Council, retiring in 2016 but continuing as a judge with Green Flag and RHS South West in Bloom.

There have been many changes over those years in the management and maintenance of public parks and open spaces, with the community taking increasing responsibility for their upkeep. This was very evident in Exeter where many of the



Leo Pemberton and Stewart Henchie in Pinces Garden Image Martin Abrahams

parks had active community groups who had excellent fund raisers. These groups helped to maintain the parks, they erected interpretation signs recording the parks' history, and, by erecting replacement gates and railings that had been removed during the war, helped to restore one park's heritage.

In 2017 I took Leo Pemberton and Stewart Henchie on a tour of the city's parks and University

Botanic Garden to view some of the many fine specimen trees introduced by Veitch's Nursery, which was based in the city. The photograph is taken in Pinces Garden, formerly an Exeter nursery owned by William Lucombe who raised the Lucombe Oak in 1762. Quercus x hispanica 'Lucombeana' (Quercus cerris and Quercus suber).

In retirement a new challenge beckoned: volunteering for the National Trust at Coleton Fishacre near Kingswear in South Devon. The house was built in 1926 in an Arts and Crafts style by the D'Oyly Carte family as their country home, with formal gardens and a stream near the house, with glades and ponds in the lower garden. The sheltered valley garden has sea views with plants from



Terrace Border Coleton Fishacre Image Martin Abrahams

South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and the Mediterranean, grown without winter protection as there are no frosts. The *Strelitzia reginae* is growing on a south facing embankment. The photo was taken in July 2019 and was of great interest to visitors.

Coleton Fishacre is a RHS Partner garden and I am often asked to assist with guided tours for horticultural societies. The garden was visited in July 2017 by Kew Guild members as part of their visit to gardens in South Devon: they were given a guided tour by the Head Gardener.

As Garden Admin volunteer I have been involved with several garden projects, from plant labelling to creating a garden tree trail, and my current project with a garden team member is surveying and recording plants, entering plant details on the National Trust's Iris BG plant database software programme, which allows us to incorporate photographs of plants and update plant records whilst in the garden, using an iPad.



Strelitzia reginae, Coleton Fishacre Image Martin Abrahams

Volunteering is a wonderful way to share your skills and passions as well as make new friends and care for a garden which you enjoy working in. It is good to keep active in retirement, so walking and keep fit classes keep me busy as well as U3a meetings, travelling around the country with a local travel club and enjoying holidays.

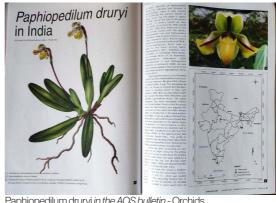
Udai Chandra Pradham: News from the Himalayas

Dear Friends old and new, as we step into the New Year, I am deeply motivated to share few words from Satish Kumar, a world-renowned ecologist, thinker and an educational visionary, from one of his lectures. He says: "Educate your head, educate your hearts and educate your hands." What a deeply insightful statement! As we enter the new age, one can clearly see that we have not only lost touch with our Earth but also with ourselves, and this in turn reflects in our younger generation who are lost in a world that no doubt provides them with new technologies and greater opportunities but which cannot teach them the true essence of life. The wise say that all changes begin from oneself. Is it not time to look into our hearts and change what has to be changed so that we can gift a better and healed world to our future generations? In the Himalayas, we are trying in our own humble way to inspire and motivate young minds through the works that we do, whether it be through plants, writing, painting or through other creative activities that involve not just the minds but hearts and hands as well. There is much more in the news that follows.

January 2022 began with my article on *Paphiopedilum druryi* titled *Paphiopedilum druryi* in *India* being published by *Orchids*, the bulletin of the American Orchid Society

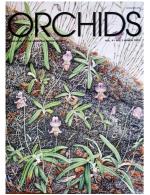
(Vol 91 No 1 January 2022).

Paph. druryi is one of the most charming Indian Paphiopedilum species and the only one in the Genus to be found in South India. My excitement knew no bounds when in March 2022 another article on Paphiopedilum fairrieanum (One thousand Pound orchid), which I have co-authored with my daughter Hemlata, was accepted once again to be published in the AOS bulletin (Vol.91, No.3, March 2022). Hemlata's watercolour



Paphiopedilum druryi in the AOS bulletin - Orchids © Udai Chandra Pradham

painting of *Paph. fairrieanum* in its natural habitat made it to the cover of the bulletin and it was a proud moment for me and Tej when Jean Allen-Ikeson, Chair, Editorial



Hemlata's painting on the cover of Orchids © Udai Chandra Pradham

Board emailed me saying: "Ron McHatton, the overall editor, was completely charmed with Hemlata's finished watercolour of *fairrieanum*," and again "Her work is special! You must be very proud. You can teach technique but you cannot teach talent!"

I registered a new orchid hybrid between *Paphiopedilum* 'Alwine' and *Paphiopedilum fairrieanum* with the Royal Horticultural Society, London, and had the honour of naming it after Marianne Cribb, wife of Dr Phillip J Cribb who was the Deputy Keeper of the Herbarium and Curator of the Orchid Herbarium at Kew. Marianne was a teacher in northern Switzerland when he first met her in 1983 in China while they were both on tours there. She

was born in Karachi in 1952

where her father managed a Swiss trading company and the family only returned to Switzerland when she was 10. She was educated in Zuirich and then taught for 10 years in a middle school in Uster, near Zurich. She has been actively accompanying Phil on many trips to hunt for orchids and he said that she was his main orchid spotter!

In September, a young and enthusiastic group of students from Princeton University, USA, paid us a visit. They were in India during their gap year semester in order to explore the rich art, cultural and natural heritage of India. The group was led by a tutor of experiential



Paphiopedilum Marianne Cribb © Udai Chandra Pradham

learning, Sharon Sittling, who hails from Kalimpong and runs these wonderful experiential learning classes for students from abroad. While Hemlata (my daughter)



Hemlata discussing her artworks with Princeton University students © Udai Chandra Pradham

and Sumrita Gotamay (her ex-student) displayed their botanical paintings and talked about botanical art, plant conservation and sustainability through art, I spoke to them about Orchid hybridizing and its scientific and commercial importance. The students were absolutely fascinated to gain new knowledge and insights into fields that are lesser known in the academic world.

In November, Tej and I were invited to judge a Flower Arrangement Competition (the first of its kind) organised by the Silk Route Festival Committee and Mani Trust, Kalimpong, West Bengal, India, in conjunction with the first Silk Route Festival, highlighting the importance of the then-frontier trade-route that linked Tibet to India via Kalimpong, while celebrating the history, heritage sites, ethnic diversity and culture of these areas, thus exposing Kalimpong's rich cultural amalgamation. The theme of the Festival was 'Kalimpong – City of the Seven New Years.' The

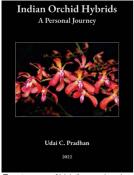
competition was attended by many novices from Kalimpong, and we were happy to see so much enthusiasm amongst the old and the newer generations. Tej and I were honoured to be able to share our thoughts, ideas and experiences with many of them and we hope such events take place more often to encourage the cut flower industry, as well as creativity in the hills.



Udai and Tej judging the Kalimpong Flower aggangement competition © Udai Chandra Pradham

In between all these activities, I was occupied with writing and finalising my new book *Indian Orchid Hybrids - A Personal Journey*. The family came together to help me with the editing and compiling all the bits together. It was finally published during end December 2022! This book, which took me over three years to complete, not only illustrates and highlights the important aspects of orchid commerce but also describes and illustrates some 50-plus captivating Indian Orchid Hybrids that I had made and registered with the RHS, London since the early 1980s. It is also a culmination of ideas, information, and experiences exchanged with plant

people, organisations and institutions all around the world over the past 65 years. In Appendix I of the book, I have included the list of Registered Indian Orchid Hybrids from 1977 until October 2022. In Appendix II, I have also included the International



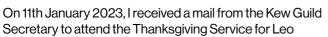
Front cover of Udai's new book © Udai Chandra Pradham

Orchid Registrar Julian Shaw's contents between iv-cvi (pages iii- cxx) in the Sander's List of Orchid Hybrids, 3 Year Addendum, 2017-2019, with permission from the Royal Horticultural Society, London, so that it may benefit hybridisers and Orchid enthusiasts around the world. The book was dedicated to the late Ganesh Mani Pradhan, whose contribution to the Orchid world, especially Indian Orchids, has been immense! It was released by his wife Sangeeta in a quiet and humble ceremony that was held at Ganesh Villa (their residence in Kalimpong), with just their family and us.

Hemlata's School of Natural History Art once again came to life after the Covid lockdowns, with a couple of projects that were very dear to her. One was to create a tiny forested area within the school compound with local trees and shrubs, which would make good homes for the local and migratory birds as well as for smaller animals that keep making their way into the school premises. The second project was to have a natural pond near this forested area for the birds, animals and insects. Some past students, teachers and young volunteers came

together for these projects. Local fruit trees and shrubs that will make great hosts for butterflies, bees etc have also been planted. Classes began with a group of very young students, between 5 to 9 years from Kalimpong and its surrounding villages attending her Natural History Art workshops.

In May, two outstation students from Bangalore and Kolkata, India, joined Hemlata's Botanical Art Course for Beginners, which she has been offering bimonthly to senior students since 2020. Sumrita Gotamay, one of her ex-students, is completing an internship at the school, teaching young children about natural history art while also establishing herself in the field of botanical art. Presently Hemlata is preparing for an upcoming exhibition of paintings by her students in Patan, Kathmandu, Nepal.





Young students of HTNHA learning about the natural world through art © Udai Chandra Pradham

Pemberton. I recalled Leo, my Principal/Supervisor of Studies at Kew back in 1970s, with great respect and fondness. (You can read more about my interaction with him as a student in *The Journal of the Kew Guild, 2017, Volume 17, Number 122. Pages 225-226.*) The last time I met Leo and his wife Mary was back in 2002 when Tej and I had made a trip to England to attend Hemlata's Convocation Ceremony. Dr Phillip J Cribb

had accompanied us to Leo's home and I remember being welcomed by the couple

with much warmth and love.

As the New Year dawns dear friends, may we realise that the young generation is in dire need of guidance at this moment, especially after the world was hit by the intensity of the pandemic. May we also realise that true education begins at home (even if that means re-educating ourselves first), for it is the only way we will be able to spread the light of knowledge and truth that will in turn give birth to more responsible and compassionate generations who will emerge as the ambassadors of change in the new world.



Mary, Leo, Udai and Phil © Udai Chandra Pradham

We send you and your families our warmest wishes for 2023. Udai

Yoke van der Meer: My time at 'Marroncello', Arezzo, Tuscany

After spending just a week back in April 2019 with my friend and former classmate, Esther, I decided I would like to spend a bit longer this time. In 2019 it had just been to get a flavour of what I imagined was a very down-to-earth and romantic way of living up in the beautiful oak-wood clad hills near Arezzo, Italy. But the Covid virus prevented all the travelling after that first visit in 2019 and only this year I finally managed to get out there again, and stayed for three weeks.

This way of living is not for the faint hearted! Basically it is very natural, going to bed early and getting up early as well. The days are busy with necessary things to do, but with plenty of breaks and good, honest food, mostly all fresh vegetables from the garden and bread made by Esther. Other items are bought on the local market in Arezzo or brought over from Germany by Thomas, Esther's partner, who travels frequently between the two countries to run his wholesale herb business.



The farmhouse at Marroncello

© Yoke van der Meer

The house is a typical old Tuscan Farmhouse and when Thomas found it nearly 40 years ago trees were growing in it! Whilst he was doing it up, he lived in a small wooden house a bit higher up the hill, still used for casual labour and friends/family. Water comes from the stream which runs past their house and is piped from about 700 metres above by gravity through a thick plastic pipe.

Electricity is through the Solar Panels fixed on the bathroom/conservatory next to the typical Tuscany type roof with clay tiles. Occasionally a small Chinese generator facilitates a washing machine and ironing! Heating is by ovens fired with the copious oak wood logs in an around their estate.

There are about three hectares (six acres) of land around the house and up the hill, for crops and fruit trees, and a stable and yard for the 26-year-old stallion, East. There is



The house and roof with Solar Panels from above © Yoke van der Meer

a large shed for drying herbs, a work shed, a polytunnel and other small sheds for storage. The steep land has been made more easily accessible with terraces.

I was fascinated watching the growing 'sun-line' on the hills opposite each morning. The sun does not hit the house and parts of the land until mid-late morning, when it



The Sun-line on the hills opposite at 9.35am © Yoke van der Meer

comes round the hill in the east, which are covered in mainly gold-leaved oak, with the occasional evergreen of Italian cypress, Juniper or Pine. The gold will slowly give way to the vivid green of spring I imagine.

The soil is a well-drained, grey/brown, sandy loam with plenty of shale-like stone which is the base rock you can see on the badly worn tracks around. Heavy rain had washed a lot of the surface away: awkward to walk on, especially for East the Stallion.

Many different types of (fruit) trees and crops have been grown during the 40 years Thomas has lived here. They aren't all easily established as the soil has to be improved and there aren't enough people for all the watering and weeding. A pickaxe

was used for weeding brambles and scrub on the stony slopes! It was all new to me, having worked my entire life 'on the flat'.

It is also very much about living with the weather. There were frosts most nights during my stay and one night the thick water pipe in the woods burst, which cut off our water supply. The water can also be in short supply during a dry summer. Partly because the wild boars, which live in the woods, bite through the pipe!



Loekie the cat © Yoke van der Meer

Solar energy is only there when there is enough sunshine! Wood to heat the stoves is not 'free', but has to be cut first and then into logs and smaller sizes to fit the various stoves. In the cold months especially this can be a major task each day. Also kindling needs to be gathered. Good kindling is made with the dead stems of Spanish/Rush Broom or *Spartium junceum*, which grows everywhere around on the dryer slopes. Also pine cones and dried tangerine peel are used as firelighters.



East the Stalion grazing near the house

© Yoke van der Meer

Then there is the toilet! This is a fabulous throne situated further away and above the house. It is a bit of a climb to sit, stare *et cetera*; but it is so simple and clean with just a sprinkle or two of some brown oak leaves. 'It' all collects in a large bucket, which needs to be emptied when full, to break down into harmless organic matter. Rotted organic waste from the kitchen is also used to improve the soil for the crops.

The night sky was a sight to behold: Orion, the Moon, Venus and Jupiter were clearly visible. Temperatures varied from frost at night and early morning and then to spring-and early summer temperatures during the day. It was a wonderful experience to spend these three weeks in these beautiful surroundings.

Pamela Holt: Ireland Extra

A full write-up of my trip to Galway in June will appear in the next journal, however here are two photographs taken of Diamond Hill in Connemara National Park.



Diamond Hill in Connemara National Park Image Pamela Holt



Pamela Holt on the summit of Diamond Hill Image Pamela Holt

I went on to take a further 10 days exploring both Northern Ireland and the Republic, camping and staying with friends. Many properties, parks and National Trust properties were visited including a day spent in the garden and grounds of Tullynally Castle, home of Thomas Pakenham, with its wonderful collection of trees and hardy plants.



Pamela Holt with friend and student Image Pamela Holt

Kylemore Abbey Image Pamela Holt

Kylemore Abbey, once the home of the Duke and Duchess of Manchester and now run by the Benedictine order of Nuns, has undergone restoration of its six-acre walled garden, shown here with a student and my friend from Westport.

100 YEARS AGO

A digest of 1922's Journal, compiled by Richard Ward

The 1922 Kew Guild Journal, edited by Guild Secretary A Osborn of 191 Kew Road, Kew, had the Guild Rules printed inside the front cover. (Actually the 1922 Journal mostly reports events of 1921!)

The AGM was held at the Holborn Restaurant at 6.30pm in May.

The Annual Dinner saw 137 members attending, and their names appeared in the Journal.

The Association of Kew Gardeners in America met in Massachusetts.

The Central Africa (Uganda) branch of the Kew Guild was formed.

The War Memorial in Kew Gardens was unveiled during the year.

The Swimming Club held the 1 mile race in the Thames from Brentford Ferry gate to Kew Bridge.

A hundred men painted the interior of the central portion of the Palm House in six weeks.

Many fascinating reports and letters from overseas Kewites were published. As were lists of Kew staff from the Director to sub-foremen, student gardeners, improvers and women gardeners - with a note saying: 'Our lady members in particular will learn with regret that the employment of women gardeners at Kew will be discontinued after March 1922.'

Kewites who Mapped the World

One of the things that is so awe inspiring about the Kew Guild and its Kewites is the far-reaching effect of their training at Kew. In view of two of our Kewites referring to the mapping of the Australian coast I just throw this in for good measure:

Alex George published his book on Peter Good, Kew's Gardener with Matthew Flinders on HMS Investigator, 1801-1803. While navigator and cartographer Captain Matthew Flinders is well known, indeed celebrated in Australia, for his tireless and detailed mapping, this son of Lincolnshire is virtually unknown here in Britain.

However, Flinders' remains were discovered in London in 2019 during the excavations for the infamous HS2 rail project, in an area that had been built over by the expansion of Euston Station in the 19th century. His



Flinders and Trim statue by Mark Richards at Euston Station, London Image Network Rail

grave was identified by a breastplate bearing his name. Fittingly, there is a lovely statue of Captain Flinders, with his cat Trim, at Euston Station, London, unveiled by HRH Duke of Cambridge in 2014 but recently moved away from the main concourse, to be better seen and not just sat on by commuters checking the departures board.

So why the cat? Well, Flinders' log documented the extraordinary relationship he had with Trim, who clearly had more than the normally allotted nine lives. A book by Ruth Taylor, *The Cat and the Captain*, was the result of her research, at the National



Maritime Museum, London, into ships' cats. Trim was so much more than a rat-catcher that he became the lynchpin of her book.

Although aimed at children, it nonetheless documents in a lively style the heroism of Flinders and his crew, and the extraordinary privations they suffered on their voyage. To read this alongside Alex George's book on Peter Good, who was employed to assist the expedition's

botanist Robert Brown, illustrates how far this gardener from Kew travelled, and the extreme conditions he would have suffered in order to achieve what he did.

Next year Flinders is to be reinterred with a fitting ceremony. Hopefully people will then become more aware of this remarkable Lincolnshire seaman, and the ambition and achievement of Kewite Peter Good.

The Cat and the Captain: Trim the Cat & Matthew Flinders, Ruth Taylor, Little Steps Publishing.

Japanese Resurrection

Pamela Holt visits the Japanese Garden at Cowden, Scotland

The Japanese Garden at Cowden near Dollar, sits at the foot of the Ochil Hills in Clackmannanshire, Scotland. It is testament to one woman's fascination with the Far East. Ella Christie was the first woman from the West to meet the Dalai Lama, and one of the first women to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society.

Inspired by her solo travels to Japan, she chose the gifted female designer Taki Handa to create the seven-acre site in the grounds of Cowden Castle in 1908; the first and only Japanese garden of its size and scale to be designed by a woman. Taki Handa studied at Doshisha Woman's College in Kyoto, the Royal School of Garden Design in Nagoya and Studley College.

Ella installed a Japanese gardener to care for the site.



Japanese Garden at Cowder Image Pamela Holt



Japanese Garden at Cowden Image Pamela Holt

On Ella's death in 1949 Cowden Castle was inherited by her great nephew Bobby Stewart. Due to lack of a buver the castle was demolished in 1955 and the estate closed to the public. Over the years the garden became run down and neglected, and despite security fencing, vandals broke in during the 1960s. destroying the authentic bridge and hurling many stone lanterns into the water features.



Japanese Garden at Cowden Images Pamela Holt

Bobby's daughter Sara then took on the park and woodland, and in 2014 created a charitable trust to restore the historic garden. With the aid of grants, restoration has taken place with the involvement of world class experts, including renowned Japanese architect and garden designer Professor Masao Fukuhara. He was responsible for the restoration of the Japanese garden at Kew and Tatton Park.



Japanese Garden at Cowden Images Pamela Holt

Although work is not quite complete, the garden opened due to popular demand in 2019. This enabled my visit in 2021, whilst staying with my father's cousins nearby.

Head Gardeners of Dorset's Estates - 100 years

Anne Kaile is researching the under-recognised men behind the scenes

Dorset is one of the more rural counties of England even to this day, and its great estates, although smaller in number than perhaps some other counties, have remained in the same families for generations. It tends to be the family names that get the recognition for the gardens they have developed over the years, but without the help of knowledgeable and well educated Head Gardeners, this would not have been the case.

It is the story of the Head Gardeners from the start of the reign of Queen Victoria to the commencement of World War II that is being explored, their backgrounds, their contribution to the estate gardens of Dorset, and to horticulture and to life in general.

Several were trained at Kew; two or three went on to work for Kew in its overseas botanical gardens as Curators. Others undertook plant breeding, became well known exhibitors of fruit and vegetables, show judges or contributors to the main gardening magazine of the day, *The Gardeners' Chronicle*. Mr Turton was the inventor in the 1920s of a way of supporting the fruits of melons by means of soft netting.



Mr I Turton
The Gardeners' Chronicle July 23 1921



Looking up to castle from ginkgo lawn June 2021 - Sherborne Castle Image Sherborne Castle Estate

In 1871 Mr Turton obtained employment at Kew where he remained for one year, and after several other gardening positions on estates in the south he became Head Gardener to Major Wingfield Digby, Sherborne Castle. Dorset.

First new record for *Golfballia sp*. in 50 years and a new species variant

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Introduction

Golfballia ambusta Dennis. is an enigmatic phalloid species recorded sporadically across Europe and East Africa (Dennis, 1962). Described by R.W.G. Dennis (1910-2003) in 1962 from collections from Lancashire and East Africa, an additional specimen, deposited in the RBG, Kew Fungarium, was collected in 1971 (K-M230940) by Nigel Hugh Sinnott. This remained the last known collection of the species, despite reports of the species being common in North America (Ross, 2013).

Whilst some authors record the species as non-fungal in origin and a deliberate hoax (Nelson, 1986; Smith, 2023), such claims remain speculative and sit in opposition to the high quality of work conducted by Dennis. Rather we consider such claims in parallel to *Prototaxites* Dawson, an anatomically unusual fossil whose status as a species has been similarly disputed but which ultimately remain unresolved (Graham et al., 2010a, 2010b). Doubtless, however, these speculations into the nature of *Golfballia ambusta* have contributed to the dearth of formal records of the species and have also likely contributed to a lack of research in this rather distinct species. Fortunately, recent interest in under-recorded fungi has increased largely due to the Lost and Found Fungi project (https://fungi.myspecies.info/content/lost-and-foundfungi-project), operated by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from 2014-2020. Though *Golfballia ambusta* was not selected as one of the 'Top 100' target species, the project created a suitable atmosphere in which such species could be investigated and the distribution and abundance revisited.

The specimens were found on Rushmere Common, part of the wider Suffolk Sandlings: an area that "consists of a mosaic of heathland and arable on low plateaus of Pliocene and Pleistocene crag deposits, seldom more than 50 m above sea level and with leached, acid, and sandy soils" (Armstrong, 1973). All specimens were found in a patch of burnt gorse (*Ulex europaeus L.*) about one and half hectares in diameter in an area that had been subject to a fire the previous year (BBC, 2022). Despite extensive searching, the authors were unable to find the species sensu

stricto as described by Dennis, however, a variety of the species *Golfballia ambusta* var. rushmerea was found and deemed new to science. It is described and illustrated herein.

Materials and Methods

The descriptions of the new variety is based on morphological examination of fresh material, which was photographed and recorded in the field, collected, and dried. The holotype collection of the new variety was deposited in the National Museum of Wales Herbarium (NMW), with a paratype deposited at the Royal Botanic Kew Fungarium (K). Ipswich Museum (IPS) refused the offer of a voucher specimen. Despite several attempts, we were ultimately unsuccessful in extracting DNA from any of the collected specimens. This prevented molecular analysis.

Taxonomy

Golfballia ambusta var. rushmerea P.S.J.Sm., J.W.B.Sm., S.E.Sm., & N.E.C.Sm. var. nov. Figure 1

Mycobank Number: 848281

Volva globosa, 4cm diametro. Peridium ± 1 mm crassum, in juventute album, in maturitate inter luteum brunneum et roseum brunneum; velum cum fragmentis elongatis dessicatis, duris, atratis. Sporae ignotae. Hab. in ericetum ambustum, sub *Quercum*, Rushmere Common, Suffolk.

Volva is spherical, tough, and light-brown to pinkish brown in colour and about 40mm in diameter and appears to maintain dark veil fragments that dessicate to a hard and fragile state, often forming stalagmite-shaped formations at the base of the fungus and reaching around 20-30mm in length. The taste, whilst not recorded, is assumed to be strong due to the acrid environment.

Habitat and distribution: Solitary or scattered on soil in burnt heathland. Only known from Rushmere Common in Suffolk, United Kingdom.

Holotype: United Kingdom, Suffolk, Rushmere Common, in burnt heathland under Quercus sp., 02 April 2023, S.E. Smith, P.S.J. Smith, and J.W.B. Smith (NMW; Object Entry Number: E001687)

Etymology: The variety epithet rushmerea is proposed in recognition of the site of discovery: Rushmere Common.

Additional specimens examined: United Kingdom, Suffolk, Rushmere Common, P.S.J. Smith 0001. 03 April 2023; same location 03 April 2023 J.W.B.Smith 0001 (K; K-M 1436217); same location 04 April 2023 S.E.Smith, J.W.B. Smith and P.S.J.Smith 0002-0010.

Discussion

Whilst it is always a pleasure to rediscover a species thought lost to history, the large quantity of sporocarps found of this distinct species in a highly frequented public space raises substantial questions, perhaps the most important being: does the

general public know what a fungus is? We fear that the answer leans towards the negative. However, the recent success of popular mycology texts such as In Search of Mycotopia (Bierend, 2021), Entangled Life (Sheldrake, 2020), and The Mushroom at the End of the World (Tsing, 2017) indicates that this is likely to be changing for the better. Hopefully, we will not have to wait another 50 years for another verified record of *G. ambusta*.

The abundant presence of Golfballia ambusta var. rushmerea in burnt ground, with

no specimens found outside the area subject to fire, suggests the species may be pyrophilous. Pyrophilous fundi remain poorly understood, with substantial debate existing around what constitutes a pyrophilous fungus and how they might be classified (Fox et al., 2022). The exact relationship between G. ambusta var. rushmerea and its environment is unclear however, it is hoped that further investigation will help clarify its life history, particularly in relation to its reproduction given a consistent inability for previous research and our own to identify spores.

Finally, we consider the finding of the species on an area of land that also functions as a golf course (see Armstrong, 1973)



Figure 1: Illustration of Holotype and Habitat. 1a Google Map Screenshot of collection location, 1b. Photo of collected specimen in situ. 1c. Photo of specimn in habitit showing burnt U. europaeus and Quercus sp. Location of specimen marked with a white circle.

to be non-incidental. An analysis of previous research found that, in the majority of cases, golf courses had higher ecological value when comparted to green-area habitats related to other forms of land use (Colding & Folke, 2009). Furthermore, golf courses have been found to support a greater diversity of tree species compared to nearby farmland (Tanner & Gange, 2005) and have also been recorded as hotspots for some rare plant species—in part due to beneficial land-management practices (Carey & Brown, 1994). Suitable land-management practices are recognised as key to fungal conservation (Dahlberg et al., 2010) and so golf courses have the potential to act as areas of high fungal diversity. That they also provide leisure and sporting activity, which provides an opportunity to engage the wider public through promoting education and awareness about fungi. The main risk is that an eager amateur might mistake fungal sporocarps for a golf ball...

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An Ethnobotanical Garden in Britain?

Yoke van der Meer would like to leap from virtual to actual

I am a former Kew Student (Course 24: 1986-1989!) and have been a member of the Kew Guild for several years.

Academically, it was very hard work for me to be a Kew Student with all the study and projects to be completed! But looking back, all those years ago, it was wonderful to be part of this magnificent Botanical Garden.

Plants are my life and passion and I am sure many fellow Kew Guild members feel the same. I've been self-employed for 10 years now and work as a horticulturist and professional gardener.

But from 1998 to 2009 I was the Head Gardener of Rodbaston College, now South Staffordshire College of Further Education. The best job there for me was looking after the National Collection of New World Salvias. It is such a diverse and beautiful

genus. Many of those, as you might be aware, come from Mexico. A particular rich area for them is the State of Oaxaca.

So, this led me to travel to Oaxaca on two guided tours in 2004 and 2006. My last trip was in 2008 and I stayed for 2½ months, living and working for the Society for the Study of Biological Resources (SERBO) as well as the Jardin Etnobotanico de Oaxaca. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jard%C3%ADn_Etnobot%C3%A1nico_de_Oaxaca). This stay was made possible because about half of the costs came from a Kew Guild Bursary.

I was immediately taken by the existence of an 'Ethnobotanical Garden'. Although I do love the concept of Botanical Gardens, the Ethnobotanical Garden is particularly good as it celebrates the



Entrance of Jardin Etnobotanico de Oaxaca Image Yoke van der Meer

native plants and their uses of a particular area or country. At the Ethnobotanical Garden in Oaxaca they did this by creating a beautiful architecturally designed garden in which there were designated areas that displayed the present day or traditional uses of the plants in Oaxaca State.

When I got back from my trip I found out that there were very few real ethnobotanical gardens in the world, and I've been dreaming of establishing one ever since!



Garden layout: The various plant uses Image Yoke van der Meer

This needs a large investment as well as, probably, a large piece of land, although it would work as part of a large existing park or garden, as long as it can accommodate the various habitats in which the native plants like to grow. Although as we professionals know, this is not an impossibility and plants are adaptable.

But to make a start at least, I have been doing a 'Virtual' Ethnobotanical Garden since 2018. This is through a WordPress website blog covering one entire plant family at a time which can be found in the British Isles. I've tried to find all known or traditional, as well as the benefits for wildlife.

I've been using Clive Stace's Flora of the British Isles as my base-Flora, and have already written about several plant families, but there are still

many to do. See www.wonderfulweedweekly.co.uk/index-of-native-plant-families/

As I am not too clever with social media, my work doesn't get much attention or followers, and I wonder if there is any interest perhaps by members of the Kew Guild? Or if there is any possibility of help with this big task, either practically or financially, in order to get a much bigger audience for what I believe is very important for people to learn more about. Or even to get real ethnobotanic gardens established?



Oakaca: Trees for fruit, wood, medicine, etc and cacti display in front with coloured rocks from various geological areas in Oaxaca Image Yoke van der Meer

About me:

I've been interested in plants and nature in general since my youth. After training as a florist back in the Netherlands I decided to come over to Britain to learn more about plants and general horticulture, and I finally had a placement on the Kew Diploma in 1986. Now working as a freelance horticulturist/professional gardener I enjoy being part of the local allotment and doing community work, but am also more and more interested in our native plants. I've started writing my own blog about our 'Wonderful Weeds' in a Virtual Ethnobotanical Garden and aim to write about all the native plant families growing on the British Isles, particularly with their ethnobotanical uses.

The Society for the Study of Biological Resources of Oaxaca (SERBO, A.C.) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) founded more than 20 years ago, which does research on the biotic resources of Oaxaca, the most biodiverse state of Mexico, and to promote their conservation. SERBO cooperates with local communities by teaching the



'Nature is our most inspiring garden' Image Yoke van der Meer

importance of conservation and management of the local flora and fauna.

One of the more important areas of research is the making and management of geographical information systems to design useful maps for making decisions at different levels of responsibility. SERBO includes the most important herbarium,



Nature's Garden Image Yoke van der Meer

SERO, of Oaxaca with more than 20,000 specimens.

Ethnobotany is the study of a region's plants and their practical uses through the traditional knowledge of a local culture and people. An ethnobotanist strives to document the local customs involving the practical uses of local flora for many aspects of life, such as plants as medicines, foods, intoxicants and clothing.

Richard Evans Schultes, often referred to as the "father of ethnobotany", explained the discipline in this way: Ethnobotany simply means... investigating plants used by societies in various parts of the world.

Charles Frederick Ball (1879-1915) A life recovered

Brian Willan

The name Charles Frederick Ball, I must admit, meant very little to me. I knew he had been my grandmother's first husband, that he had worked at the (then Royal) Botanic Gardens in Dublin before the First World War, that he had been killed in Gallipoli in 1915. I remember my late aunt Eileen, before she died in 2004, telling me that – as a small girl – she had once met him.

But when my mother died in 2018 I discovered a small metal box containing dozens of letters which Fred (as he was known to his friends and family) had written to Alice, his future fiancée and wife, between 1911 and 1914. She had kept them safe, as did my mother after her, though I knew nothing of them. But from these letters a fascinating picture emerges of their developing relationship, of life in pre-war Dublin, and of the part he played in Irish horticulture. Further research, at Kew and elsewhere, revealed much more. I had no idea of how interesting and important a figure he was.

Born in Loughborough in 1879 – his father had a chemist's shop in town – Fred had a couple of years at the local grammar school before leaving at the age of 16. Fascinated by botany, he decided to go into horticulture. He served his



Charles Frederick Ball Image Liffey Press

apprenticeship with William Barron & Son (landscape gardeners and nursery) in Elvaston in Derbyshire, and then had a spell with Peter Barr & Sons (famous for its daffodils) in Long Ditton, Surrey. For somebody who was keen to advance his career in this profession the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, was the obvious next step: 'I should very much like to enter Kew to gain further knowledge in the gardening line,' he wrote when applying in May 1900, adding that he had been 'trying to prepare myself for some time.'

From records in the Kew archives, and back numbers of the Kew Guild Journal, it is clear that Fred was one of the ablest of his contemporaries. He worked first in the Temperate House, under William Dallimore, then – after being promoted to sub-foreman – in the Herbaceous and Alpine Department under Walter Irving, who considered Fred to be 'exceptionally clever and capable'.

Other sources lend support to his assessment. Fred was Joint Secretary of the Kew Gardens Mutual Improvement Society in 1902-03, attended all 22 of its meetings, and won the Hooker Prize that year for his paper on 'Hardy Conifers'. He was secretary of the British Botanical Club, and evidently somebody who was popular and well liked. 'I was often associated with him on the cricket field, and in botanical rambles no one was more generally liked than Ball' – so said John Besant, a future

colleague of Fred's at the Botanical Gardens in Dublin, many years later.

And of course he was a member of the Kew Guild, attending its dinners both during and after his time at Kew. A splendid photo survives in the Kew archives of the Kew Guild Dinner at the Holborn restaurant in London in 1905 in which Fred can clearly be seen. He made a number of lifelong friendships while at Kew, among them Herbert Cowley, who



Kew Guild dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, London, May 29th, 1905 Image RBG Kew

later made a career as a gardening journalist, and Eric Brown, who joined the colonial service in Uganda.

But it was in Dublin that Fred really made his name. He went to the Botanical Gardens, Glasnevin, in 1906, initially as an outside foreman but was quickly promoted to the position of Assistant Keeper by the Keeper, Frederick (later Sir Frederick) Moore. The Botanic Gardens played an important part in Ireland's drive to transform its agriculture, enjoyed government support and relatively generous funding, and Fred was in his element. He had a passion for plant breeding. Most successful and long lasting was his work on Escallonia – his best known hybrid was *Escallonia 'C.F.*



Escallonia 'C F Ball' Kilmacurragh July 2014 Image Liffey Press

Ball' which was named after him and remains popular to this day. He loved plant collecting and made several trips to Europe between 1909 and 1913, writing them up in the Gardeners' Chronicle and other journals.

Perhaps his greatest contribution was as editor of the monthly journal *Irish Gardening*. He edited this very successfully from the beginning of 1912 and it thrust him into the centre of Irish botanical and horticultural life. Nobody doubted that he was Sir Frederick Moore's obvious successor when the time came for him to retire.

Alice Lane, when Fred met her in 1911, was 19 years old, the youngest daughter of a well to do Anglo-Irish Dublin family. He was keen to marry and eventually – in December 1914, and after several proposals – she agreed. But by then their world had changed. After the outbreak of war in August 1914 Fred enlisted in the 7th Battalion, Royal Dublin Fusiliers and was sent to the Curragh military camp for training. He managed to secure two days special leave so they could get married.

Sent out to Gallipoli, Fred's love of plants and flowers shone through despite the awful conditions he and his colleagues faced. He wrote back to Sir Frederick Moore to tell him him about what he found, and he sent back a consignment of seeds to Glasnevin.

A little over a month after landing at Suvla Bay Fred died after being struck by shrapnel from a Turkish shell on 13 Sept 1915. He had been going to the aid of a wounded colleague.

His loss was deeply felt. *The Irish Times* called him 'one of the best known botanists and horticulturists in Ireland'. His mother left perhaps his most fitting epitaph. 'Few men,' she told the Imperial War Museum in 1917, 'were better beloved by all who knew him, or gave up happier prospects than he did when he went to the Dardanelles.' Among the memorials in England and Ireland where he is remembered is in the Temple of Arethusa at Kew, where he is the third of 37 names of the Kew Guild and staff at Kew who were killed during the First World War.

Like the others he deserves to be remembered.

This article is based upon the author's recently published book, *Charles Frederick Ball: From Dublin's Botanic Gardens to the Killing Fields of Gallipoli* (Liffey Press, Dublin, 2022).

News of Honorary Fellows

Making it rock 'n' roll

Sir Tim Smit screams about horticulture at Eden in Morecambe



Tim Smit Image: Ben Foster/Eden Project

We were really excited to be awarded £50m towards the £100m Eden Project in Morecambe. Four years in the planning, an array of silver muscle-inspired buildings look out across Morecambe Bay to the hills and peaks of the Lake District beyond. This extraordinary Bay, where the tide comes in faster than a person can run, is an ecological jewel for marine life, and a Heathrow for birds.

To the North and East you can see weather systems forming. This is the most stunning living theatre of the rhythms of life. Inside these structures, located next to the fabulous Art Deco Midland Hotel and across from the beautiful Winter Gardens, are stunning plant exhibitions, marine installations and soundscapes, revealing the systems that shape us and all living things in a way never before attempted.



Morecambe Eden Project, Artists impression

Everything is about cycles. Our mission? To reveal them.



Morecambe Eden Project, Artists impression

Morecambe is not in any way a replica of Eden Cornwall. We have never wanted to repeat ourselves and those of you who saw our steam punk version of a science centre at Terra, the hub of EXPO 2020 in Dubai, or who have seen online our huge project in Qingdao in China, will notice an increasing theatricality and embrace of

technology within a natural stage set, and

will understand that we are unashamed about bringing popular culture and science close together.

The messages we need to get across are existential. All of us have a duty to use the

crafts and sciences at our disposal to grow marvellously, sustainably and most of all inspiringly. Our role in life is to scream about the importance of horticulture and wider agronomy, to exorcise the notion that its ambition is limited: that it is an applied science as much as medicine, pharmacy or engineering. To make it sexy and rock 'n' roll to attract the best into probably the most important career on earth.

Recovery and discovery

Professor Dr Adil Güner, Director of The Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanik Bahçesi, on post-pandemic happenings

Following two years' silence due to the pandemic, 2022 was a recovery year. The number of visitors to Nezahat Gökyiğit Botanic Garden (NGBB) reached 400,000. Approximately 2,500 attendees joined our educational programmes, 2,100 of whom were young children.

An important event for NGBB in May last year was the visit of Sally Grainger, a Roman food historian. A Turkish scientist, Prof Dr Mahmut Miski, suggests that the Turkish endemic Ferula drudeana is probably the same plant as the extinct and ancient herb Silphion of Roman times. Mrs Grainger prepared meals to compare the taste of Ferula drudeana and F. asafoetida. You can read an article about the subject on www. nationalgeographic.com/history/article/miracle-plant-eaten-extinction-2000-years-ago-silphion.



Generous sponsor Mr Ali Nihat Gökyiğit

Apart from many usual activities, a new volume, 3a of Resimli Türkiye Florası, (Illustrated Flora of Türkiye) was published, comprising mainly the Orchidaceae and Iridaceae families. A revised 2nd edition of Volume 1 was printed this year. I hope that three more volumes, 3b, 4a and 4b, covering the monocots families, will be published later this year.

Lastly, but sad news from me, our sponsor Mr Ali Nihat Gökyiğit passed away on 25th of January this year. He was 97. He has been not only a generous sponsor of both the Botanic Garden and the *Illustrated Flora of Türkiye* project, but also an outstandingly generous contributor. Without his enthusiastic contribution and constant support, NGBB would not have developed so many diverse activities.

A day of inspiration

Mike Fitt on the horticultural apprentice and trainee Discovery Days he initiated through his role as Chairman of the Royal Parks Guild

Since the formation of the Royal Parks Guild in 2006 one of its aims has been to support, mentor and inspire apprentices undergoing training in the Royal Parks. In 2010 the Guild ran its first apprentice masterclass which focussed on the art of garden and show judging. Over the years various topics have been covered, including wildlife conservation, plant naming and interpretation, access and engagement, landscape design and garden history.



Masterclass 2017 - Why Plants Matter

Spurred on by the popularity of the masterclasses, in 2017 the Guild decided to extend its reach and invite horticultural apprentices and trainees from across the UK: these events remained free of charge to all who wished to attend. With the scale of the event growing from the original 30 or so students to 150 or more it became clear that the facilities needed to support the initiative had to be large enough to accommodate the increase

in numbers. Likewise, the amount of sponsorship needed to run the event, and volunteers required to act as hosts, speakers and guides, had to be increased.

Without doubt the most important element of putting on such a masterclass would be finding a suitable, large-scale venue with many stories to be told. Behold, up stepped Richard Barley and his team at Kew with the generous offer to host the first of the new style masterclasses, which was to be titled *Why Plants Matter – The World of Botanic Gardens*. Held in the School of Horticulture, with various tours around the gardens, the event proved to be a great success.

Returning to Kew in 2019 for what was now called a 'Discovery Day', delegates were introduced to *The World of Horticulture and Its Opportunities*, with the event moving to the Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre – and it was packed to the rafters! By this time the Kew Guild had kindly joined in to provide valuable added support and sponsorship.



Masterclass 2017 - The World of Botanic Gardens

The feedback from delegates was very positive, as can be seen in the example below:

"Thank you for a day of Inspiration, Knowledge and without any doubt 'Discovery'. My thanks to the Royal Parks Guild, Kew Gardens and all the contributors/organisers



Discovery Day 2019

who so kindly gave their time to make this day a very special and memorable one for me."

The masterclasses, now called 'Discovery Days', have grown from those small green shoots some 12 years ago to become a really important platform for those who are starting out in horticulture and just beginning to

contemplate the possibilities and opportunities offered by their chosen career. As well as Kew, a more recent event has been held at the QEII Olympic Park and last year, RHS Garden Wisley. The 2023 event is being hosted by Historic Royal Palaces at Hampton Court Palace.

Bringing Peace to the City

Niall Kirkwood on the greening of Bangkok

This last year I have been engaged in research and on-site investigations on the landscapes and gardens in the City of Bangkok, Thailand – the former 'Venice of the East', replete with canals, gardens and royal estates all set with the watershed of the Lower Chao Phraya River. Working with graduate students from Harvard University we visited public parks and gardens such as Chulalongkorn Centennial as well as revisiting the Khun Samat Chin, a coastal area with depleted mangrove forests undergoing replanting (*Rhizophora mangle*) and tidal plant communities.

A new inner city park, Benjakitti, is part of a drive to create a greener, more liveable Bangkok by 2030, by bringing shade, peace and quiet to the hot, cacophonous city. City residents currently enjoy just seven square meters (75 square feet) of urban green space per person. The new, semi-wild, 41-hectare (101-acre) extension mixes the old with the new. The landscape architects retained more than 1,700 of the site's original mature trees -



Benjakitti Park: Calm amid cacophony

Tualang (Koompassia Excelsa Taub), and Banyan (Ficus benghalensis) and then planted almost 7,000 others — most of them saplings — to create pockets of forest throughout the park.

Water plays a central role. A series of ponds and islands creates a wildlife-friendly wetland environment, and also acts as a treatment system, filtering waste water from nearby communities. Over the year, I have carried out guest lectures on topics related to landscape and introduced vegetation communities at Fu-Jen University, Taipei, Taiwan; Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China; Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.



Water: Wildlife-friendly wetland

Finally, in March 2023, I received the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)

Award for Outstanding Educator in Landscape Architecture in the United States.

Social horticulture

Peter Thoday on plants' effect on human health and wellbeing

As an Honorary Fellow of the Guild I get the occasional note from the Journal Editor asking what I have been up to lately. Well in a long professional life I have been up to many things - but unfortunately not lately!

One interest that ran through a lot of my work while at the University of Bath was in what is now called Social Horticulture. It is a broad term which includes the contribution that plants and their cultivation can make to human wellbeing and mental health.

I was recently credited with being in the vanguard of this subject, but people have related to plants in this way throughout history. In Britain there are long established examples of both gardens and gardening being used in the care of special groups such as the residents of psychiatric hospitals and care homes.

In the early 1970s my small group were among the first horticulturists to consider how our profession's skills could assist those using horticulture as a therapy. The work produced several novel solutions to difficulties faced by handicapped gardeners. It soon became very clear that for horticulture to be a successful therapy users must get worthwhile results. Half dead plants do not booster self-worth: on the contrary they are yet another blow to self-esteem. Social horticulture within the public realm starts with the recognition that plants and plantings significantly enrich

many people's daily round, and make a difference to the way they view the world, and indeed themselves.

The last half century has seen a growing recognition of this, and that public horticulture has a deeper than cosmetic value. Wellbeing and mental health are now considered when appraising such diverse features as Britain in Bloom competitions, house plants in offices, establishing wildflower meadows, urban woodland and street trees, the provision of allotments, and the value of the suburban garden. Such benefits are now to the fore when evaluating the success of such large projects as the High Line in New York and the Olympic Park in London.

It has been a great pleasure to see plants and their cultivation recognised for their contribution to life in today's world by reducing stress, fostering wellbeing and aiding mental health.

When a watering can is not enough

Roy Lancaster reflects on the victims of a hot summer

A good deal of my time last summer was spent in our garden endeavouring to keep plants alive! A hosepipe ban necessitated the use of a watering can, and I soon found myself prioritising which plants to leave until the next evening. I could not hope

to satisfy the demands of the well-established trees so I concentrated my efforts on those shrubs, climbers and perennials I considered most precious or meaningful to me, which included many of my own introductions from the wild. Even so, Rodgersias shrivelled before even flowering only to reappear in autumn just in time to be zapped by early frosts.

Walking around my garden today (early March 2023), enjoying the flowering displays of my snowdrops, hellebores and that of my ever reliable mahonias and *Daphne bholua* it might appear that nothing has changed except for the big evergreen *Tasmannia lanceolata* and the *Viburnum odoratissimum* var *arboricola* not to mention the



The real McCoy: Clematis lanuginosa

big *Embothrium* in my neighbour's garden, all of which have died. I await with dread the arrival of another summer to discover the full toll of casualties.

Putting aside the above and the effect of the Biblical rain and frost which followed, I was cheered by the performance of many other plants, among which the following two particularly stand out.

Melanoselinum decipiens, a statuesque monocarpic umbel from Madeira (and the Azores) which flowered in its third year before seeding and dying. It required a stepladder for me to photograph the huge umbels – the size of a cartwheel sporting masses of tiny white flowers which attracted bees and other insects in variety.

Meanwhile, in July I was thrilled to see several flowers opening in succession on my *Clematis lanuginosa*, the real McCoy which more than one authority on the genus suspected as being extinct in cultivation. Originally introduced to Britain by Robert Fortune in 1850 this species played an important role in the raising of a number of popular large-flowered garden hybrids, notably 'Jackmanii' and 'Nelly Moser'.

As for my travels I will particularly remember a weekend with my wife Sue and two friends in the Wye valley where I finally realised a long held



Realised ambition: Roy admiring Tilia cordata in the Wye Valley

ambition of walking through native woodlands of small-leaved lime *Tilia cordata*: tall-stemmed trees on steep slopes above a tidal river. Their canopies were already on the turn from summer green to a bright autumn yellow. Magic!

Regeneration

Tim O'Hare on bringing Jubilee blooms into cities

My 2022 marked the completion of several long-term projects for which I have been the project Soil Scientist. These included the regeneration of Battersea Power



Installing 10,800 tonnes of soil at the Tower of London

Station, a vast 42 acre brownfield wasteland that was transformed over three phases into a place for people and for nature. Then Mayfield Park, Manchester's first new park for over 100 years was completed: and the first phase of RHS Garden Bridgewater, the stunning new 156 acre RHS Garden in the heart of the North West near Salford.

To celebrate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, I was invited to join the



Transformed: from grass sward to 'Superbloom' meadow

design team of Grant Associates and Nigel Dunnett Studio, tasked with transforming the Tower of London's moat from a mown grass sward into a series of biodiverse-rich flowering 'Superbloom' meadows. The project brought diversity of nature to this urban environment and the moat successfully became a welcoming new habitat and a green haven for pollinators, insects and seed-eating birds. I was responsible for the specification, blending, testing and over-seeing the installation of

10,800 metric tonnes of imported soil that was specially blended to have the correct characteristics for the 20 million seeds of 29 species that were sown.

Further afield, I continue to work on the Oman Botanic Garden project, which is now well into its construction phase. When completed, the 420 hectare site will host the largest collection of Arabian plants in the world. To support this diverse range of plants, we have developed a series of growing media ranging from highly saline, Sabkha soil to a granular media to support the succulents.



Diversity: the moat round the Tower of London became a haven for pollinators, insects and seed eating birds

Forty years on

Richard Bisgrove, feisty and fighting fit!

Most of 2021 was, as for so many people, dealing with the effects and after-effects of Covid 19. Late in 2021, though, I was diagnosed with bone cancer so my 2022 began with chemotherapy sessions four, five and six. The diagnosis was made by chance when the radiologist was making a routine check for something else and before I had any symptoms. I had no ill effects of the chemotherapy or the cocktail of pills and injections between sessions (except for losing my hair) and at the end of my treatment I was declared to be 'in complete remission', so I was extraordinarily lucky. The only danger to my health now is of dramatic rise in blood pressure if anyone criticises the NHS.

After visiting our son in Dresden in early May and a Devon holiday with all the family in June, life settled into what, pre-Covid, was normal: nine weeks of lectures in Oxford

for the alumni of various American universities from July to September, garden history lectures to Kew Diploma students in October, with visits to Cliveden and Stourhead, and various one-off lectures to horticultural societies around the country.

One November lecture was to the West End (Woking) Horticultural Society, started 40 years ago by one of my fellow students from University days. I gave the inaugural lecture and one to celebrate their 25th anniversary. I suspect the reason for being asked to give the 40th is that neither of us was confident of being here for the 50th!



Sunset, Kew Gardens

Image Matthew Jeffrey

Obituaries

Harold Graham Heywood

14th September 1944 - 17th January 2023

Our Chairman, awarded The Queens Award and British Empire Medal

By Eira Heywood

In 1961 I first met Harold at St Paul's Youth Club, Monton, Eccles, and was introduced to him through my best friend at Winton High School, Gwyneth Sheridan. A few weeks later he asked me out and our first date was to the cinema in Eccles to see *Breakfast at Tiffany*'s. We had to walk there and back, about three miles, as there was a thick fog and no public transport was running.

Soon into our friendship I found out that in 1954 Harold, who was then about 10 years old, and his younger brother Malcolm, had been adopted by the Heywoods, who could not have any children of their own.

From 1961 we remained close friends. I started work as an office junior at Slater Heelis Solicitors in Greater Manchester. Harold took up a post at Bangor University as an improver apprentice in the horticultural department. We regularly wrote to each other and sometimes Harold was able to visit, especially when he was home visiting his mum and dad Heywood in Monton.

In 1966 Harold applied for the three year diploma course at Kew Gardens and to his great surprise, following a very harrowing interview, succeeded in securing a place. He often would say: "I owe so much to Kew, Kew gave me the opportunities I could only dream of." He never lost that gratitude all his life; it really meant so much to him.



Harold (Graham) and Eira Heywood

I moved to London in 1966. I often met up with Harold, and we decided to share a flat together at Church Street, Twickenham. We would walk the path from Twickenham to Richmond on a weekend and talk of our future plans once his diploma course had finished. In 1969, having successfully secured his Kew Diploma (of which he was enormously proud), we reluctantly left Twickenham and moved to Teeside, North Yorkshire where Harold took up the post of a technical assistant in the Parks and Recreation Department. We lived in a tied cottage, No10 West Side, Nunthorpe

Village, near Middlesbrough. In November 1970 our first son, Julian David, was born. In June 1972 we left Teeside and moved to Warrington. Harold, always ambitious and wanting to improve himself, secured the post of deputy to George Crowder who was the Chief Officer in charge of Warrington Parks, Recreation and Cemeteries.

In August 1972 our second son, Lee Graham, was born. We lived in a beautiful old house within Walton Hall Gardens called Bridge House, and George and Eileen Crowder lived in the annex of what we called The Big House, which had been home to the owner of Greenall Brewery.

In June 1982 we left Warrington and Harold took up the post of deputy to Geoff Schofield, who was the Chief Officer of Parks and Recreation at Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council (MBC). Whilst in post Harold diversified and was in charge of a number of initiatives including Bolton Show, Bolton Marathon, The Butterfly World at Queens Park, and the introduction of a small gauge railway and carriage rides pulled by shire horses in Moss Bank Park. He was also in charge of the inception of The Water Place, a new leisure facility in the heart of the town centre which was opened by HM The Queen and Prince Philip.

Harold took the reins after Geoff Schofield retired, and was acting Chief Officer for two years before taking up a newly created post as Manager for the Halliwell Action Team - a multi-agency information drop in for Bolton MBC.

Harold retired from Halliwell Action Team, but felt he was not yet ready for retirement and secured the post of Deputy Manager at Age UK, Ashburner Street Centre, Bolton, under the leadership of Gareth Evans. Harold also managed the Learning Centre, Farnworth. It was at this time in 1997 that Harold completed a M.Sc at the University of Salford: Growing and Learning, Action Learning and Research. Harold was a great believer in continuing personal development. He was often involved with the tea dances and lunch and leisure clubs, which he really enjoyed.

Harold finally retired in 2012 but felt as though there was still a challenge left in him and formed Bolton Adult Autism Support Group, BAAS, a charity that supported families impacted by autism.

In 2020 Harold and I were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Services. The citation reads: "Working to improve the lives of families impacted by autism in Bolton".

In 2021 Harold and I were awarded the British Empire Medal.

Harold's life was a life well lived; he is someone who has made our world a brighter better place. Bolton Adult Autism Support Group is his legacy: he took a great deal of pride and joy in his achievements, which are a living lasting memory and the grateful hearts of all those he helped and supported.

Tony Overland was one of the many who enjoyed working with Harold. He recalls: My first recollections of Harold, known as Graham, was when I was working for Manchester Parks Dept and we were members of the IPRA. Meetings were held in Manchester or Liverpool and I think we were on the committee. Graham worked for Bolton, eventually becoming Director Dates Manchester 1965 to 1970.

Later, after many years of non-involvement I attended a Kew Guild meeting in the Lecture Theatre and bumped into Graham and renewed our acquaintance. Since then we have met on many occasions and Graham and Eira have visited us at our home.

I proposed Graham for President at a Trustees meeting and he was happy to accept. He played a major role as President elect at the last Dinner when our Patron HRH Princess Alexandra attended.

It was a very sad day when Eira phoned me with news of his passing. He and Eira were very much involved with the Autism group they founded in Bolton and were delighted when they received the BEM medal for the work they undertook to set it up and manage for the benefit of local people. He was a very kind and genuine person with a real desire to help: he was very conscientious and reliable, and always willing to become involved.

Professor Grenville 'Gren' Lucas OBE BSc FLS FRGS

1935 - 2023: Committed botanist and conservationist

Born in Cardiff, Wales, in 1935, Gren's interest in wildflowers was encouraged by his mother, a teacher, who helped him deal with what he felt was his undiagnosed dyslexia. On leaving school he was first employed as an industrial chemist working for a Distillers' Company subsidiary, British Resin Products, which helped create the eponymous armour for the British Army's Chobham tanks.

While attending the University of Hull, whose department of botany was headed by Professor Ronald Good, he developed an interest in plant taxonomy and phytogeography. He graduated in 1958. It was at Hull that he met his future beloved wife Shirley; they were married in Kenya during his first overseas assignment at the East African Herbarium in Nairobi, Kenya. Gren had previously worked in the herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, as a research student sponsored by the Colonial Office. The preparation of the multi-author *Flora of Tropical East Africa* continued throughout his time at Kew, whose staff he joined on returning from Africa in 1962. The project was completed in 2011.

Gren's field experience in Africa had heightened his commitment to plant conservation. In 1972 he was the British representative at a treaty on international

trade in endangered species. He exerted much influence on how the provisions on plants, as opposed to those to do with animals, were drafted. CITES, as the Convention became known, was at the heart of Gren's conservation activities for the

decades that followed, with the UK's CITES Scientific Authority for Plants based at Kew, and firmly under his control.

In 1974, Gren was appointed as head of a new Conservation Unit, and arranged for Kew to host the Threatened Plants Committee.

In the 1970s and '80s, Gren was a pioneer of global plant conservation and Kew grew to be the centre of plant



Gren studying the specimen of Linnaea borealis at the Linnean Society Image: The Linnean Society of London

conservation efforts. He convinced and cajoled botanists to provide information on which species were in danger, and in 1978, with the assistance of Hugh Synge, the IUCN *Plant Red Data Book* was published. The growing team soon had a database of many thousands of at-risk species of plants from around the world. The Unit also helped train customs officers in how to spot illegal plant imports, and it eventually became the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), based in Cambridge.

Gren also kickstarted an initiative for botanic gardens to become more involved in conservation, leading to the establishment in 1987 of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI) under the auspices of IUCN. One of the outcomes of this initiative was the innovative Kew Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst Place in



Gren being presented with the Linnean Gold Medal by David Cutler in 2007 Image: D Pescod, The Linnean Society of London

Sussex. Throughout this time Gren was widely sought as a board member, adviser and lecturer. He was a stalwart supporter of the Council for Nature, served for two terms on the board of English Nature (now Natural England), and became a Trustee of WWF-UK.

Under his direction Kew's publishing activities were greatly expanded. He acquired the rights to publish Curtis's

Botanical Magazine from the Royal Horticultural Society, and continued to support the house journal *Kew Bulletin*. Having been appointed as Keeper of the Herbarium and Library in 1984, the focus of his work shifted somewhat, and after stepping down from the Keepership in 1995, he was appointed as head of a newly created Information Services Department at Kew, embracing computer services, library, media resources and publications.

In his retirement, Gren found a new focus for his energies at the Linnean Society of London, having joined as a Fellow in 1960. Having managed Kew's entry into the digital age, Gren now energetically pursued the aim of making the Linnean Society's historic collections accessible online.

For his services to conservation, he was awarded an OBE in 1980, the Orde van de Gouden Ark (Order of the Golden Ark) by Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in 1985, and the Busk Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1997. He received the Linnean Society's Gold Medal in 2007, only its third recipient. The Society's executive secretary wrote that 'anyone who has worked with Gren knows how committed he is to the Society and how well he deserved the Award'.

Gren's openness, drive and love for nature impacted everyone he met, and encouraged hard work or the good of the natural world. He will be sorely missed.

First published by the Linnean Society by John Edmondson FLS (Additional information is courtesy of Hugh Synge, who died in 2018; his friendship with Gren helped inform this obituary.)

John Sales

1933 - 2022

Head of Gardens, The National Trust, for three decades

John Sales, who died on 29 December 2022, aged 89, started work in nurseries near Swanley in Kent, growing cut flowers and salad crops, firstly commercially and then for the Kent Horticultural Institute, where he also attended day release classes. Two years of service in the RAF were spent reasonably agreeably in Malta, and his horticultural interest was sustained by a correspondence course.

In 1953 John went back to Swanley for a one-year National Certificate Course in general horticulture. He did well and stayed on for a course in Commercial Glasshouse Crops. His mentors were Roy Gunton, later Head of Horticulture at Oaklands, and Kewite George Brown, who subsequently returned to Kew as Assistant Curator and was for many years editor of the Kew Guild Journal.

After a few weeks at Hampton Court and a six month session as an Improver at Kew

he applied for a course at Kew, starting in 1956. He was in distinguished company: his colleagues on the course included Alan Hart, Tom Risely, Allan Paterson, Hans Overeynder, Tom Muller and Ben Jacobson. John enjoyed spells in Tropical Pits, the Decorative Dept, T Range and the Temperate House Pits. Sir George Taylor was then Director and Bill Campbell was Curator.

In 1957 he won his National Diploma in Horticulture and he received prizes for his work as Secretary to The Mutual Improvement Society. He left Kew in the spring of 1958 and worked for a few months in Ealing Parks, Parks Department before becoming Assistant Lecturer in Horticulture at the Essex Institute of Agriculture (now Writtle College) under Austin Healey. He was there for 12 years.

John was responsible for introducing one of the first Ordinary National Diploma sandwich courses in Amenity Horticulture. His long interest in historic gardens led to him taking a role as Horticulturalist with The National Trust. After three years he was appointed to succeed Graham Thomas as Chief Gardens Advisor.



John Sales wearing his medal of honour

His input has been very comprehensive, not least due to his travels throughout Britain as well as to conferences in most west European countries, and also to Poland, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA.

In the late 1970s he edited a series of books on the Gardens of Britain and wrote West Country Gardens (Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Avon). He served on the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), now Plant Heritage, and served on the Council of The Garden History Society for years. He was a governor of Pershore College, Warwickshire, and was a member of the RHS Gardens Committee. His expertise was used in many national arenas, including judging at the Chelsea and Hampton Court shows.

As well as being an ardent professional John was a keen home gardener in his 2.5 acre garden near Cirencester. He appeared with Roy Lancaster in Channel 4's Garden Club. He was a keen photographer so able to deeply enrich his lectures at many universities and colleges and those to The Garden History Society and Institute of Horticulture. In 1990 he was awarded a Medal of Honour by The International Gardens Institute. In 1991 the RHS awarded him their highest award, a Victoria Medal of Honour.

John was someone who not only learned a lot but passed so much on to others.

Dr Iris Turner

Died 2022

Awarded the Kew Medal for outstanding contribution to Kew Gardens

By Peter Hamblin (Minusio, Switzerland)

I first met Iris Turner (née Batten) in 1965 when I started my PhD research at Sir John Cass College, Department of Chemistry, Jewry Street, London EC3. At this time she was undertaking research for an MSc degree in chemistry as a part-time student.

Prior to this she had completed a BSc General Degree of the University of London (which covered Mathematics, Chemistry and Geography). She then joined the teaching profession with a view to teaching chemistry in secondary schools.

After I had finished my PhD in 1968 I remained in contact with her, mainly at



Dr Iris Turner

Christmas time. In subsequent years I found out that she had completed an MSc in Environmental Pollution Science at Brunel University. This was a one day a week commitment.

She also completed the Royal Horticultural Society's course in Horticulture. At this point in her career Iris was asked to provide part-time teaching in Soils Science at Kew Gardens as part of her full-time appointment in the same higher education

institution. She was subsequently awarded the Kew Medal by Alan Titchmarsh for her outstanding contribution to the gardens at Kew.

She wrote The History of Borough Road School/College from its Origins in 1798 Until its Merger with Maria Grey College to Form West London Institute of Higher Education in 1976 (Paperback).

In October 1985 she joined the institution of Environmental Sciences, and was one of the 25 longest standing members. In 1994 she worked with Roy Waller to produce the report *The Environment and the Professions*. She also contributed towards a text book *Understanding Environmental Issues* as well as a longitudinal study of the careers of former students in the environmental field.

Some of us have had the good fortune to have known Iris for many years and recognised her important contributions concerning the environment. We will miss her sense of humour, wise counsel and long lasting friendship. It is sad to say goodbye.

Tony Schilling

1935 - 2022

Transformer of Wakehurst Place

Antony David Schilling, who has died aged 83, was born in Brighton in 1935. He was Curator of Wakehurst Place from 1967 to 1991. He oversaw huge developments there, and restored order, revolutionising its redevelopment with a phytogeographical approach, with renewed plantings after the devastating storm of 1987.

Following a horticultural apprenticeship at Hendon and Studentship at Cambridge University Botanic Garden (1957-1958) he became a student at Kew (1958-1961). This was followed by three years there as Gardens Supervisor, and a two-year secondment to the Royal Nepalese Government, working in the National Botanic Garden of Nepal (NBG) in Godavari. This was a start to a career that led to the importation of many plants, particularly from the Himalayas and China.

From Nepal he went to Wakehurst Place, and ran it for 23 years. But his work in Nepal continues to inspire. In the following post, from the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, **Dr Mark Watson** describes his influence:

"Tony's groundbreaking work at the NBG is continued by a vibrant team of dedicated staff led by Dipak Lamichhane, and his legacy continues to grow, quite literally, with the trees and shrubs he collected that are now in research collections, and preserved plant specimens in herbaria. Today visitor numbers to NBG

have increased beyond all expectation. The Garden is a resource for schools, to teach about plant science, and a place for the residents of urbanised Kathmandu to relax, watch birds and enjoy plants.

Tony Schilling's remarkable contribution to horticulture and botany in Nepal was recognised in 2019 by the award of a Certificate of Appreciation by the Government of Nepal's Department of Plant



Tony receiving an Appreciation Award from The Plant Resources Dept in Nepal for his installation of the botanic garden there.

Resources (Ministry of Forests and Environment) during the celebration of their 59th anniversary and 20th Plant Resources Day. Tony said: "I feel deeply touched that the Nepalese people have honoured me in this way, and I am incredibly gratified

to know that what started as a small venture has now matured into a fully-fledged, internationally recognised botanic garden. As far as I know, it's the only botanic garden in the world which has banned the use of plastic, showing the rest of the world where to follow."

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) staff recently worked with Dipak and his team to create the Biodiversity Education Garden at the NBG. Tony's advice and guidance about the garden at which he had worked 50 years earlier was invaluable. Crucially, he advised which Nepalese species would grow well and which would not."

Dipak Lamichhane says: "Tony maintained his connections with Nepal, and was always eager to hear of developments at the National Botanic Garden (NBG), pressing us to send photographs whenever we visited Kathmandu. Tony was full of praise when he saw the improvements and new initiatives at the garden, and was particularly impressed by images of the long lines of neatly dressed school children waiting excitedly at the garden entrance. We fondly remember him for his generosity, kindness, wealth of knowledge, adventurous spirit, wicked sense of humour and cantankerous jibes."

Tony has had a career of committees - RHS Floral B; Joint Floral; Rhod and Camellia, Int Conifer Register; Kew Magazine Advisory; Hillier Arboretum Management and Standing Advisory Panel Meeting. He has published many papers and books, as well as having plants named after him. Two Hedichium cultivars were named after his children, Stephen and Susan.

In February 1991 he married Victoria Hallett, a dendrologist and Registrar of The Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI). She died exactly three years earlier than Tony, and her death led him to establish a bursary to support the Tree Register in her honour: many commemorative trees have been planted.

In retirement he became involved in horticultural and travel consultancy. His knowledge has been linked to his travels abroad, to Norway, Nepal, Rhodes, Crete, Cyprus, Turkey, Poland, USA, Australia, China and Bhutan and New Zealand.

Dipak Lamichanne adds: We fondly remember him for his generosity, kindness, wealth of knowledge, adventurous spirit, wicked sense of humour and cantankerous jibes. He lives on in the hundreds of 'Schilling' collections growing in gardens across the UK, and in the hearts of those he touched during his long and active life."

Leo Pemberton

1928 - 2022

Profoundly influenced many horticultural careers

By Graham Burgess

The Kew Guild Journal is not sizeable enough to take all the commendations associated with Leo Pemberton. What he achieved as Supervisor of Studies RBG Kew, which began in 1963, was amazing.

Leo Pemberton was widely respected and significant in both arboricultural and horticultural education, chairing the Arboricultural Association (AA) from 1992 to 1993. During his long career he was a principal examiner for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), the Royal Forestry Society (RFS), the AA, and City & Guilds. Leo was awarded a Veitch Memorial Medal by the RHS in 1988, given to "persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement

and improvement of the science and practice of horticulture". In 1998, he was presented with the Institute of Horticulture award for his contribution to horticultural and arboricultural education at Kew School of Horticulture.

He worked at Reading University, Pershore College and Swanley College before taking the post of Supervisor of Studies at Kew between 1963 and 1989. For those 25 years he was responsible for shaping the careers of many horticulturists and arboriculturists on the world-renowned Kew diploma, including Peter Bridgeman, John 'Log' Whitehead, Alan Titchmarsh, Peter Thurman, and Tony Kirkham. Tony, vice president of the AA, said: "Regardless of whether they had the right qualifications or not Leo would be prepared to give them a chance on the course. He was a listener and never wanted to hear about problems, only solutions."



Leo Pemberton in typically flambuoyant attire Family picture

When you applied to study at Kew, what mattered to Leo was not gender, race or even age: it was that you could apply the appropriate skills in order to benefit to what Kew had to offer. You had to be clever, hard-working, and you had to have good aspirations at your core. Then - just like a plant that needs the appropriate conditions to thrive - you were given space in which you could learn, certainly, while also developing your own roots as a foundation for an ongoing career.

Students were exposed to cleverly designed lectures on topics ranging from the structure and life of plants to the application of that knowledge in the horticultural industry or in landscaping. Regular identification tests led to the development of a mindset that meant, as a student, everywhere you looked and saw plants you tried to apply the correct nomenclature. You had access to lecturers' knowledge, but were allowed to have your say and to learn how to speak in public.

When Leo looked at my CV and saw I had no special experience with cacti and succulents, my first three months were with Mr MacDonald in cacti and succulents. I therefore not only had access to expert knowledge on those plants but also a life-changing link to Mac, who was an Egyptologist. Leo gave far more than could be



Leo in Teignmouth (with Stewart Henchie)

expected when accepting somebody to learn at Kew.

Chris Kidd, Kew Guild Chairman 2022, agrees: "Leo was regarded almost as a supernatural being, such was his authority. He was important in the industry and so many people owe him their careers. Whether or not he liked them, they did well. Even after retirement Leo maintained the kudos that meant a word from him ensured a student a good interview for a place at Kew."

Leo's children, Veronica, Paul and Claire, describe the background that made the man: Dad was born on Trafalgar Day in 1928, in Thames Ditton, Surrey, to parents who met one another as next door neighbours. Aged 11, he was sent as an evacuee to live with an elderly aunt in Australia,

on a farm. He had to chop logs in the winter and blocks of ice in the summer to sell as substitute fridges, making him self reliant. Making the best of any opportunity was a strategy he encouraged in others.

Although, aged 17 he would have liked to stay in Australia after the war, he felt duty bound to return to his parents. The interruption in his education meant he just failed to matriculate, which ruled out university. Living in Kent, he found work with fruit farmers. His clear aptitude in supervising the pickers and learning about the trees meant he was encouraged to attend classes at the Kent Institute of Horticulture: he was awarded a Ministry of Agriculture scholarship. Progressing to take the two-year Kew Certificate, he then applied to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, for training. After a spell with Ealing Parks, his application was successful.

Under Bill Campbell, he became interested in horticultural education, and was employed as a reader at the University of Reading, studying for the National Diploma in Horticulture. He then returned to the Kent Horticultural Institute. There he met and

married 'the girl next door', Melda, a physiotherapist, in 1958. After a year lecturing in Worcester, Leo and Melda returned to the Kent Horticultural Institute where Leo was appointed as a senior lecturer, and the family grew to three children, Veronica, Paul and Claire. They then moved to Sunbury, which was home for the rest of Leo's life. He was Apprentice Master for the Royal Parks before, in 1964, becoming Director of Studies at Kew. He developed the newly inaugurated three-year Diploma, still considered the foremost qualification in horticulture.

Leo retired in 1988 as Melda was seriously limited by MS. As their children married and grandchildren arrived Leo helped Melda to continue her interests and helped to care for their first grandchild so their daughter could study. They were very active in the local community, particularly in the local church, as their strong Christian faith profoundly affected their whole lives.

Following Melda's death in 2004 Leo threw himself into yet more activities, including a new marriage and the acquisition of two adult stepchildren with whom he developed warm relationships. His style of dress, always singular, became ever more distinctive with bright colours and multiple patterns. In later years he often prevailed upon his friends to drive him round Sunbury with flowers from Kempton Market to give a little treat to all his lady friends.

He loved visiting people and gardens, he had an enquiring mind taking especial interest in the lives of his three children and nine grandchildren. In his retirement he continued to inspire others and took pleasure in the successes of his family, his students and his colleagues. People mattered to him: and he provided wise counsel and opportunities to many. He will be remembered with gratitude.

The Annual Kew Guild Dinner 2022 in Pictures 26th May 2022

Special Guest, HRH Princess Alexandra, Patron of The Kew Guild Guest Speaker Richard Deverell

Images by Graham Heywood





Minutes of the meeting of the Kew Guild CIO Registered Charity number 1174033

The Kew Guild Annual General Meeting Meeting held on Saturday 10th September 2022, at 2pm at the Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre, RBG Kew

There were 25 members and 8 guests at the meeting.

Attendance:

Trustees

Graham Heywood (President)** Richard Barley
Robert Brett Sylvia Phillips*

Chris Kidd (Immediate Past President and Award Scheme Chairman)

- * Trustees standing down at this meeting
- ** Trustee for re-election

Officers:

Sara Arnold joined the meeting remotely.

Members:

Gemma Brown Graham Burgess Gordon Fraser Jean Griffin Harvey Groffman Peter Halstead Colin Jones Jill Marsden Tony Overland Jonathan Rickards Simon Owens Sara Redstone Martin Staniforth Wendy Staniforth Alan Stuttard David Taber Richard Ward Sparkle Ward Mike Wilkinson

Guests:

Gemma Brown (partner of Gordon Fraser) Eira Heywood

Julian Heywood Sam Healey (quest of Peter Halstead)

Jan Overland Marilyn Owens
David Richardson (quest of Martin Staniforth) Di Stuttard

CIO 2022-23.001 Welcome by the President

The President welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild CIO. The meeting was opened at 2:05pm.

Before the meeting started, CK paid tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Majesty King Charles III.

It is 32 years ago today since CK became a student and is very pleased to be here today to welcome everyone to the AGM.

CIO 2022-23.002 Apologies for absence

Trustees:

Maxine Briggs, Dave Simpson*.

Officers:

Jennifer Alsop, Ros Whistance and Tim Woodcock

Members:

Phyllida BarkerPamela BlackNick BoyesUrsula BuchanKatherine ChallisMike Clift

David Cutler John Edmunds Raymond Evison Tricia Fisher **Hugh Flower** Clive Gordon Mike Griffin David Hardman Judy Hancock Allan Hart Joan Hart Carol Hart Bob Ivison Rea Leach Tim O' Hare Jean Peach Rod Peach Peter Styles **David Taber** Liz Tite Tim Upson John Whitehead Tom Wood Joan Woodhams

There were five Trustees, one Officer (non-voting) and 20 voting members present at the meeting.

CIO 2022-23.003 Notice of death of members

Dr Jennifer Edmonds, Professor Keith Jones, Dr Iris Turner.

The President asked members to observe a minute silence to remember those who have passed.

CIO 2022-23.004 Secretary's report - Sara Arnold

The minutes of the Kew Guild AGM 2021 were approved by Trustees and will be distributed to the membership with the Notice for this AGM.

The Kew Guild CIO met five times on zoom. All of the meetings were quorate in accordance with the CIO (three or one quarter of trustees).

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.

This will be my last meeting for the Guild as I am stepping down for personal reasons. I wish the Guild all the best in their new direction.

Proposal: to accept the Secretary's report.

CK thanked SA for being a magnificent secretary over the many years in post and there was a round of applause.

Proposal: to approve the Secretary's report

Proposed: Richard Ward Seconded: Richard Barley Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2022-23.005 Treasurer's report – Jennifer Alsop and Tim Woodcock

CK gave his thanks to Jennifer Alsop. A replacement has not been found for JA as her role is more than a treasurer with her input and knowledge. So the role has been divided up. JA will remain in an advisory role and the Portfolio holder, Gordon Fraser, heads a team of Tim Woodcock and Michael Fawdry. As the Guild grows it will be very important to grow this team further. CK ensured members had read the treasurer's report and asked if anyone had any questions. There were none.

Kew Guild CIO - charity number 1174033 - Trustees report and annual accounts for the year-ended 31.12.2021

Summary information

In 2021 income totalled £35,259 (2020: £56,309) and expenditure totalled £54,237 (2020: £49,750).

There were unrealised gains on the Guild's unrestricted and restricted investments of £92,136 (2020: £37,951). Overall, in 2021, the restricted funds increased by £1,975 (2020: £7,839) and the unrestricted funds decreased by £20,953 (2020: increased by £36,671).

£139,749 in restricted funds, £506,435 in designated funds and £225,356 in the unrestricted general funds have been carried forward to 2022.

Detailed information

The Guild's capital is invested in CCLA's Charities Official Investment Funds (COIF). In 2021, these generated £19,462 (2020: £18,483). £4,877 (2020:£4,781), designated as restricted donations, was received from the Kew Guild unincorporated charity (charity number 306064) – Note 1.

Subscription income of £8,895 (2020: £9,734) was received.

Awards, grants, and prizes		2021	2020		Comments	
Awards and grants	No	Value	No	Value		
Awards made by the Awards sub-committee	5	£6,563	9	£7,000	2020 awards deferred to 2021	
Grants to institutions	3	£32,405	3	£8,500	£30,405 to fund one student on Kew's "Introduction to Horticulture at Kew" course. £1,000 for the Vicky Schilling Bursary (through The Tree Register) and £1,000 to support a "Discovery Day" held at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park	
Prizes						
Horticultural	5	£475	6	£575		
Science	2	£250	2	£250	New awards from 2020	

£7,699 (2020: £4,777) was spent on producing the journal, which was of an excellent standard, this included the cost for additional copies to distribute to Affiliate members. Other expenditure, including admin costs, was £5,316 (2020: £4,775).

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 were made on these investments. £187,804 in permanent endowment funds was carried forward to 2022. 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.

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

Proposal: to approve these accounts Proposed: Richard Barley Seconded: Robert Brett Decision: Approved

Proposal: to approve the appointing of an Independent Examiner for the annual accounts of 2021.

Proposed: Jean Griffin Seconded: Colin Jones Decision: Approved

Proposal: to approve the Treasurer's report.

Proposed: Tony Overland Seconded: Richard Ward Decision: Report approved

CIO 2022-23.006 Membership Secretary's report – Dave Simpson

1. Current Membership as at 19/8/2022 with 2021 comparatives

	2022	2021
Patron	1	1
Honorary	9	9
Honorary Fellow	19	18
Standard	260	282
Standard (student)	9	15
Affiliate	107	-
Total	405	323

Over the past year, there was reduction in the number of paying members (standard and standard (student) categories). However, countering that, we have recruited 107 affiliate members among the Kew staff, students and volunteers, of which 43 are staff, 30 are students and 34 are volunteers. One new Honorary Fellow was appointed. The forward challenge will be to retain the affiliate members as full, paying members once their affiliate year has been completed.

2. Expired and Cancelled memberships

Emails were sent in April 2022 to members who had not renewed by the end of the 'grace' period (31/3/2022). Despite these prompts, the number of standard members is down by 12 and standard (student) members down by six compared to 2021. Many of the students have re-joined as affiliate members.

We continue to receive subscription payments from former members whose standing orders were not cancelled. Continued attempts to contact these people have met with little success because we do not have up to date contact details for most of them. Without such information there is little more we can do.

3. Payment methods

143 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. I stand down as Membership Secretary (and Trustee) at the AGM. We are currently seeking a new Membership Secretary and we will soon have a new database linked to the Guild website, which should make the job of a future Membership Secretary much easier.

As in 2021, I would like to thank Jen Alsop who has greatly helped with updating me about membership subscription payments and Andy Clark for his continued support of the current membership database. This is an important area for growth. CK will play a role in membership in the interim of finding someone to replace DS. CK hopes to double the membership.

CK asked for questions on the membership report

Gordon Fraser asked about the affiliate membership. CK reported that this has been successful and is looking forward to the main membership growing when the affiliate membership converts to full membership. The new web site is underway, and CK was hoping it would be live by now. The Guild hasn't kept up with the times and the fellowship we have created over the last century has worked well, but needs to be expanded for the here and now. We need to create content for this new web site, but the real work has to be cone by those in Kew and we are moving significantly closer to that goal with Trustees such as Richard Barley playing an active role in the Guild. Afiliate members have received one copy of the Journal for free, to find out what the Guild does and who we are. CK is confident this initiative will work, but input should continue and CK commits to that role.

Proposal: to approve the Membership Secretary's report.

Proposed: Harvey Groffman

Seconded: Martin Staniforth

Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2022-23.007 Editor's report - Ros Whistance

CK mentioned that the Ward family had received the KG Medal for their long service as Editors of the journal.

Ros Whistance would like to thank Sparkle and Richard Ward for everything they have done to try to ease her into the role of editor of the Journal. They have given her so much advice and help, without which she would be even more daunted than she is in taking on this role. Congratulations to them on the latest issue. It is full of great reading.

It is always difficult to jump onto a moving train, and particularly one so venerated. RW understands how important the Journal is for members, whether because they are in far-flung parts of the world or simply because Kew is such an important part of their lives - so the Journal has to be a good read as much as a vessel for the necessary information such as reports and accounts. News of Kewites, as just one example, is so much more than keeping up with members - it is an education about a specialism or a part of the world. The Journal makes fascinating reading, and so receiving articles, and photographs, for the next Journal is very exciting.

Ros gave her thanks to Alex George for offering to proof read. The offer is gratefully accepted.

Proposal: to approve the Editor's report Proposed: Colin Jones Seconded: Richard Barley Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2022-23.008 Award Scheme report - Chris Kidd

CK said that this remains the best job in the Kew Guild and he intends to sum up the number of grants issued, where they have been etc. This will be all recorded on our new web site. CK paid full tribute to Allan and Joan Hart for setting up the scheme in the first instance and over the years, the Guild have given away in excess of £10k each year, often more.

The awards have been extended for a final time to September 2023 – they were suspended during COVID.

The KGAS met on Thursday 9th March 2022 and 14th July 2022 at 4pm to consider applications for awards and the nomination for the Honorary Fellowship of the Kew Guild.

Present in March 2022 were Chris Kidd, (chairman) Maxine Briggs (secretary) Marcella Corcoran, Gillian Leese. Silke Strickrodt. Richard Wilford and two student representatives.

Attending via Zoom in July 2022 were Chris Kidd, (chairman) Maxine Briggs (secretary), Silke Strickrodt, Richard Wilford, Dave Simpson and two student representatives.

A total of £16,485 from the five named Funds and General Funds was available at the March meeting to be made as awards. Eleven applications had been made, all were successful after individual discussion.

Awards made in March 2022

Jennifer Wright, Touring Norwegian Gardens, Awarded £1200 from Redman Fund Lewis Barret, Trip to SA – biodiversity hotspots, Awarded £1000 from Leese Fund Francesco Gorni, Visit Chicago Bot. Garden, Awarded £700 from Leese Fund

Carol Hart, Holland Visit, Awarded £200 total, £100 from Redman fund, £100 from general funds

Caleb Job, Travel to Sabah, Borneo, Awarded £1000 from Woodhams Fund

Jack Kinsey, Travel to US botanic gardens, Awarded £900 from Redman Fund

Josef Kreidt, Travel to study conservation work in California, Awarded £900 from general Funds

Hattie Moore, North East USA, Awarded £1200 from Redman Fund

Vicki Thompson, Attend AETFAT conference in Zambia, Awarded £500 from Arnold Fund

Ellie Edmonds, Travel scholarship to Chile, Awarded £1000 from Dallimore Fund

Cecily Eltringham, Travel scholarship to Hawaii, Awarded £1200 from Redman fund

Of a total fund availability of £16.485 for 2019, £9,800 was awarded leaving £6685 available for the July 2022 meeting.

A total of £6685 was available at the July meeting to be made as awards. Three applications had been made, all were successful after individual discussion.

Awards made in July 2022

Francesco Gorni, Chainsaw training course, Awarded £750 from Dallimore Fund Richard Moore, MSc course at the University of Edinburgh, Awarded £2000 from General funds Svenja Jührend, Chainsaw training course, Awarded £250 from Dallimore Fund Covid 19 continues to blight travel awards made since 2019, highlighted by two applications discussed. It was agreed by the committee that a further, and final, extension of availability of awards made during this time be made, provided the successful proposals remain changed only by date. This decision was ratified by Trustees at their following meeting.

George Brown Memorial Award

A nomination for the George Brown Memorial Award was received, made by Allan Hart, for Cyril Gyles, a Second nomination from Graham Heywood was received for Tony Overland. CK paid tribute to TO for his input into the annual dinner over the last 5-6 years. After discussion both proposals were agreed unanimously and both nominees accepted.

Allan Hart received the Kew Guild Medal at the annual dinner 2022.

Fellowship of the Kew Guild

A Honorary Fellow's Nomination was received, one made by Chris Kidd for Dr John David. After discussion the committee unanimously supported the nomination. Dr David has accepted the award to be presented at the annual dinner in 2023. The perception of science and horticulture as being two separate things.

Proposal: to approve the Award Scheme Report

Proposed: Simon Owens Seconded: Harvey Groffman Decision: Report approved.

CIO 2022-23.009 President's report - Chris Kidd

CK said that the Guild has made condierable progress in his term as President and reflected on his involvement with the KG since starting as student rep. Meetings used to go on for 3-4 hours, with very long and drawn out discussions. At the time the committee was huge and things took a long time to discuss. The Guild is now a more outward looking organisation. CK had concerns when the Guild became a CIO, as often meetings were not quorate. So as an organisation a sensible move was to make the number of attendees at meetings much smaller.

Since becoming President, CK has experienced two deaths, moved four times and been through a divorce. CK thanked his partner Liz for putting up with him. CK was the only person who had not been president, and when nominations were on the table, he was the only one that had not taken up the role. Nobody else could have done what CK has done. During his term, CK has regorganised the board and the Guild get more done in an hour than we did in four hours. Trustees now have specific jobs within their portfolio and have personal responsibility for their role. New things are under way. Support for the Horticulture programme and Discovery Days is ongoing. We have increased capacity and governance and Gordon Fraser will be heading that up. Rob Brett is responsible for edudation and Graham Heywood for Alumni and Fellowship. We are making membership wider and have the opportunity to widen the Guild family. More benefits of being a member in the year to come are in the pipeline, including a membership card. Maxine Briggs is our Communications portfolio holder and our new web site is going to make a trememdous difference to the way we operate and will be the biggest pool in our recruitment. The work in the background by Max has been a monumental effort, alongside her Kew day job. Fundraising will be crucial to the Guild and CK has made some proposals for this and his commitments will continue as Immediate ast President. We need to step up and fulfill and support the ambitions we have. In order to grow membership we need to do things, and in order to do these things we need to increase the membership. Starting is the hardest thing to do. The support in the room and Trustees will enable us to do this.

At our AGM in 2021 the KG Five Year Plan was enthusiastically adopted. We now have a mandate as a CIO from the Charity Commission, and direction for the next five years alongside high expectations from our members. To reinforce this and hold us to delivery, we have adopted a Cabinet approach to the Board,

chaired by the President, and each Trustee takes ownership of a program area as their portfolio:

- 1. Education
- 2. Kew Guild Awards
- 3. Alumni and Fellowship
- 4. Communications and Promotion
- 5. Financial Capacity and Governance

Some Trustees are natural fits for each role. Some program areas use inputs from multiple Trustees and officers, but the portfolio holders are responsible for operation, reporting and management. As the KG handbook is completed, the minutae of KG tradition will be adopted onto the appropriate Trustee. This approach should enable smooth running, accountability and ultimately a surer handover. Portfolio holders are required to find their own replacements one year prior to retirement, the incoming Trustee working as companion during the period. In addition the Cabinet has Trustees without portfolio to give balance and widen the pool of skills.

Full reports of programme areas are given elsewhere at this AGM, but to summarise:

1. Education Portfolio holder Rob Brett

Since the AGM the latest Discovery Day has taken place at the Olympic Park, organised by KG Advisor Mike Fitt. The first Introduction to Horticulture programme has been very successful. The outcomes for all participants in these groups has been positive, we will be supporting both in the coming year.

2. Kew Guild Awards Portfolio holder Chris Kidd

The Awards scheme supported 14 applications in 2022, utilising the maximum funds available under restriction. Two George Brown Memorial Awards were made, and an Honorary Fellowship created.

3. Alumni and Fellowship Portfolio holder Graham Heywood

The Affiliate Membership concept has been enthusiastically accepted by the Director and Chair of RBG Kew Trustees. A joint letter of welcome from the Director and President will accompanied each gifted journal, which were delivered to the School of Horticulture ready to distribute. Over 80 individuals took up the Affiliateship, increasing membership by c20%. Conversion rates to full membership will be the biggest test.

Becoming a full member of the Kew Guild must will be made very easy. To facilitate this we have commissioned a full revamp of our website, enable joining through a single webpage, complete with direct debit set up and gift aiding, remove as many steps and clicks as possible. This will be our single biggest tool to grow the Kew Guild.

At our full capacity Annual Dinner we were graced by the presence of Princess Alexandra. Director Richard Deverell accepted the invitation as Guest of Honour and spoke proudly of Kew's heritage and future.

Members will shortly receive a personalised membership card to take up benefits, special offers, manage membership online and access Kew.

4. Communications and Promotion Portfolio holder Max Briggs

We have increased communications through Kew Net announcing the Affiliate membership, alongside a regular drumbeat of information on KG activity. Max Briggs has driven the set up and content of a new website that will be future proof and allow us to promote our fellowship and charitable work better than ever before.

5. Financial Capacity and Governance Portfolio holder Gordon Fraser, TBC

In the absence of Harvey Stephens due to ill health, this portfolio has been managed by Chris Kidd and Jen Alsop. We have been joined by a financial Advisor, Michael Fawdry and seconded Gordon Fraser as Advisor. Gordon is standing for Trusteeship to take on the Portfolio holder role, and has already proven invaluable in building the role.

Fundraising will be crucial to growing the Kew Guild and is a priority for Trustees in 2023.

Trustees reviewed finances in 2022 and have recommended an increase in subscriptions to be voted at the AGM. This is the first increase in subs for many years, and comes with a background of national inflation and increased spending by the Kew Guild to maintain its essential operation. He proposal is to increase annual full membership to £30, with no change to student subscription.

The year since our 2021 AGM has seen change implemented throughout the Kew Guild and its activity. This has been positive and feedback on direction has been supportive. Personnel change forms part of all transformation processes alongside natural retirement, role changes or reactions to the challenges that life brings. There is a feeling the Kew Guild is now relaunched and re-assertive. The combined skills, dedication, advice, and frankly - hard work from all involved has made this possible. I give personal gratitude to everyone involved.

Proposal: To approve the outgoing President's report

Proposed: Robert Brett Seconded: Colin Jones. Decision: Report approved

CIO 2022-23.010 Annual subscription rates

It is proposed to increase the annual subscription rates for members from £27 to £30. Student membership will remain the same at £15 per annum. The subscription goes to the running costs of the Guild – the joruanl and professional fees.

Tony Overland pointed out that this increase is quite substantial. TO said a smaller increase should be introduced now. When we have previously increased substantially, we lost a number of members. Migrating away from standing orders to DD was good, but an increase of £3 is too much.

The new membership card will encourage new membership – and CK proposed that if current members introduced new members, there is a 25% discount for both. The new web site will be the first point of call as to what the Guild does and people will be able to join via the web site by DD and the whole joining process will be more automated. CK to communicate the subscription increase to members.

GF asked about the timing of the web site and when it will be up and running. CK hoped it would be live by this AGM, but is due by the end of September. Full capability will take a little longer and users will need to be trained on how to use this.

CK suggested the Guild consider giving something back in return for the subscription increase as poepole may not be able to manage the £3 a year. Students are the lowest economic level and their subs remain the same. Within the rest of membershiop £3 is not a high amount and said he understood that there are other pressures on our finances at present. He went on to add, that it's not what the Guild can do for you, but what you can do for the Guild and this increase will enable us to do so much more. There will be a surplus within the Guild as costs have dropped.

CK asked for a raise of hands to accept the increase in subscription rates and there was overwhelming agreement.

Proposal: to approve the subscription rates as above.

Proposed: Harvey Groffman

Seconded: Graham Heywood.

Decision: Full member subscription rate increase of £3 per annum for 2022-23 approved.

CIO 2022-23.011 Retiring Trustees

Sylvia Phillips, David Simpson and Harvey Stephens.

Remaining trustees – Richard Barley, Robert Brett, Chris Kidd, Graham Heywood, Maxine Briggs, Brita von Schoenaich.

CIO 2022-23.012 Nomination of Trustees

Gordon Fraser – proposed by Chris Kidd, Seconded by Robert Brett. Gordon will head the finance portfolio.

Colin Hindmarch – proposed by Chris Kidd, Seconded by Robert Brett. Colin will enter without portfolio but will add his expertise and experience as an advisor and strategic thinker.

Silke Strickrodt – proposed by Chris Kidd, Seconded by Robert Brett. Kew graduate. A younger trustee and a strong asset to the Guild.

These three nominations were approved by trustees and SA has carried out Fit and Proper Persons Checks and all pass these checks.

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

With the election of these trustees, the number of Trustees remains at 9.

Proposal: to approve the new trustees and extend trusteeship of GH.

Proposed: Simom Owens

Seconded: Jean Griffin.

The nominations were approved unanimously.

CIO 2022-23.013 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 2022-24 is as follows:

President Graham Heywood

Vice President Robert Brett
President Elect Richard Barley

Immediate Past President Chris Kidd

Treasurer Tim Woodcock

Secretary CK will take over in the interim

Editor Ros Whistance

Membership Secretary Chris Kidd Archives Officer Christina McCulloch Kew Gardens Representative Richard Barley

Proposal: to ratify officers as above.

CK asked trustees and officers to declare any conflict of interest. There were none.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone for their input to the Kew Guild during the year.

CK added that Trustees have a repsonsibiliuy within their portfolios to replace themselves when they retire so there is continuity. This is included in the Trustee job description.

Proposal: to ratify officers as above.

Proposed: Martin staniforth

Seconded: Jean Griffin

There were no objections, decision; approved

CIO 2022-23.014 Awards

The George Brown Award for 2022 has been awarded to: Cyril Brown and Tony Overland. Presentations will be carried out at the Annual Dinner in 2023.

Honorary Fellow Dr John David.

CIO 2022-23.015 Result of Prize Day

The student prize day was postponed to the 14th October due to the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth.

CIO 2022-23.016 Inauguration of continuing President Graham Heywood

CK said when he took on the role and asked many past presidents for their advice. GH will be a great president.

CK asked GH to come forward and passed the President's ribbon to GH to a round of applause.

GH thanked everyone for coming and commented that the usual beautiful array of flowers in the lecture theatre is not there this year. GH said he had hoped there would be students here, but nonetheless

committed to talk to students associated with Kew. Graham outlined his early life and said that he never imagined standing as president of the Kew Guild.

Graham talked of his commitment to giving back and paid tribute to all former trustees and members of the Guild for their support. He thanked TO for the annual dinner, and said he was very optimistic about the future. Change is never easy or quick. There is nothing permanaent but change.

MS commented that the Guild need to communicate to members better.

CIO 2022-23.017 Date of next Annual General Meeting

Saturday 9th September 2023, venue TBC.
The Annual Dinner for 2023 is planned for Thursday 25th May.
The meeting was closed at 3.45m.

The Kew Guild CIO Statement of Financial Activities For the year ended 31 December 2022

		UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	ENDOWMENT	TOTAL		
		FUNDS	FUNDS	FUNDS	2022	2021	
INCOME FROM:	Note	£	£	£	3	£	
Incoming resources from generated funds							
Donations and legacies	2	363			363	1,935	
Income from Investments							
Investment income and deposit interest	3	17,033	3,239		20,272	19,462	
Income from charitable activities							
Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge							
Events and other membership activities:							
Membership subscriptions		8,140			8,140	8,895	
Annual Dinner		4,245	-		4,245	-	
AGM Soiree		-	-		-	-	
Other events and income		25,985	-		25,985	90	
Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education	n/						
Awards and prizes:							
Donations and legacies	4		6,475		6,475	4,877	
Total income and endowments	_	55,766	9,714	-	65,480	35,259	
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Expenditure on Charitable activities Advancement of horticultural and botanical knowledge							
Events and membership activities:							
Website project		54,804	_		54,804	901	
Journal of The Kew Guild		5,098	-		5,098	7,699	
Annual Dinner		4,984	_		4,984	-	
AGM Soiree		-	_		-	-	
Newsletter		-	-		-	187	
Presidents' name bars		-			-		
Presidents' medals			-				
Archivist		-	-		-		
Other events and membership activities		25,985	-		25,985	-	
Encouragement of horticultural and botanical education	n/						
Award making: Awards	5	-	10,800		10,800	6,563	
Prizes	5	375	25		400	725	
Student fellowship		-	-		-	-	
Kew Guild Medal		917	-		917	441	
Grants to institutions		(1,000)			(1000)	32,405	
Other Expenditure							
Membership database		43	-		43	-	
Administrative costs		8,100	-		8,100	5,316	
Other expenditure		-	-		-	-	
Total expenditure		99,306	10,825	-	110,131	54,237	
Net Income/(Expenditure) before investment		(43,540)	(1,111)	-	(44,651)	(18,978)	
gains/(losses)							
Net gains/(losses) on investments:							
Unrealised/realised movements on investment assets	8	(73,261)	(14,218)	-	(87,479)	92,136	
Net income/(expenditure)		(116,801)	(15,329)	-	(132,130)	73,158	
Transfer between funds					-		
Net movement in funds for the year		(116,801)	(15,329)		(132,130)	73,158	
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward as restated	12	731,791	139,749	-	871,540	798,382	
Total funds carried forward	12	614,990	124,420		739,410	871,540	

The Kew Guild CIO Balance Sheet As at 31 December 2022

		2022			2021
	Note	3	3	£	£
Fixed assets					
Investments	8		625,671		758,443
Current assets					
Stock of Kew Guild medals		2,205		3,087	
Debtors	9	6,189		8,740	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	145,098		144,562	
Total current assets		153,492		156,389	
Liabilities					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(39,753)		(43,292)	
Net current assets			113,739		113,097
Total net assets			739,410		871,540
The Funds of the Charity:					
Restricted funds	12		122,920		139,749
Unrestricted general fund	12	164,237		225,356	
Unrestricted designated funds	12	452,253		506,435	
Total unrestricted funds			616,490		731,791
Total Charity funds			739,410		871,540

The financial statements will be approved by The Trustees in June 2023 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 2022 were £165,966 (2021: £187,804). The dividend income received annually £4,975 for 2022 (2021: £4,877) is donated, as restricted donations, to the CIO to be used for awards and prizes in accordance with their original purposes.



