



CSGGA Newsletter

November 2021

RHS Affiliated Membership Number: 10570237

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The History of Kew Gardens

Pamela started out by telling us that the name Kew first appeared on a map dated 1327 as Kayo and means a landing place on a spur of land. Certainly from about 1700 the Royal family enjoyed going down the river landing in Richmond to enjoy their palace and grounds.

Pam trained at Kew Gardens gaining a diploma in Horticulture. At the time Wisley would only take male students so Pam applied to Kew and found herself in the company of a young Alan Titchmarsh. Kew would not now

be the ideal choice for a Botanic Garden as the soil is very poor being mainly sand and gravel. It covers 300 acres and is the amalgamation of three estates. In 1721 the Prince and Princess of Wales took Ormond Lodge which is no longer in existence as their summer residence and in 1727 appointed Charles Bridgeman to design the first garden and William Kent to provide some architectural structures. However, it was in 1759 that Prince Frederick and Princess Augusta started the creation of the Botanic Gardens. They appointed William Ayton as the first head gardener and began the building of the Orangery. William Chambers designed the ten-storey Pagoda decorated with dragons and he also erected a number of Temples. George III appointed Capability Brown to bring landscaping to the garden. In 1772 The Queen's Cottage was built for Queen Charlotte and this was later used by Queen Victoria and her family for picnics.

Joseph Banks was appointed Director and he oversaw the transportation of a large number of breadfruit plants from Tahiti to the West Indies to feed the slaves on the plantations. This subsequently led to the infamous Mutiny on the Bounty.

Under George IV the garden suffered a decline and in 1838 it was passed from the Crown to the State. In 1841 Joseph Hooker took over the landscaping and also created a directory of plants. The giant water lilies were brought to Kew and a special house was built for them but they would not flower until Joseph Caxton working at Chatsworth House succeeded and brought one to London to present to Queen Victoria.



The Palm House was built between 1844 and 1848 and was initially heated by a coal-fired boiler which had a large flue and chimney. To disguise this it was built into a campanile-like structure and is no longer used. The Temperate House had to be closed for several years while the unsafe wooden structure was replaced with aluminium.

We then saw slides of Kew Gardens over the years – Ancient trees, Sensory Garden, Mediterranean Garden, The Pagoda, Evolutionary House, Japanese House, Millennium Walkway, Alpine House, the Rock Garden and much more.

Pamela made us all realise how much more there is to see in Kew Gardens and how it deserves to be visited at all times of the year. **Jan Bradley**



Next Month's Christmas Party

Book a place by sending a cheque payable as above (with details of attendees please) to:

Jan Bradley, 23 The Lager, CSG, HP8 4DH tel: (01494) 874704

e-mail janbradley4@btinternet.com with details if paid by bank transfer.

The price is £22 per head. Cheques made out to **CSG Gardens Association** please, or BACS transfer 20-02-06 account 80256587. Places are limited so first come first served. We need confirm numbers to the caterers, so book as soon as possible please. Crockery and cutlery will be provided but please bring your own drinks, nibbles and glasses.

We will be featuring our competition for Best Table Arrangement to fit within a 9 inch cube, but **please don't include real candles**. Your arrangement can be as decorative and imaginative as you like, with fresh or artificial material, or even edible! Not limited to one per table, so we'd like to encourage everyone to have a go – both men and women!

Catering and Staff by "To Dine For" Chalfont St. Peter.

*Teriyaki salmon with spring onion, mange-tout and sesame seeds
OR Beef Bourguignon*

*Vegetarian Option to be requested when booking
Vegetable Chile with chickpeas, lentils coriander and lime*

*Roasted new potatoes with garlic, lemon and rosemary
Griddled courgette, Broccoli, onion and beans
Honey roasted caramelised carrots, parsnips butternut and onion*

Dessert Served at table

*Mini trio of desserts – Lemon cheesecake, chocolate tart, meringue with raspberry and crème fraiche
Cheese and biscuits
Coffee and chocolates*

M's Action Diary for June

- Late flowering clematis can be pruned to soil level. Give all clematis a feed of well-rotted manure or bonemeal.
- Leaves under trees and shrubs do no harm, look attractive and may be left to rot down naturally. But in areas such as rockeries, leaves cause plants to rot, and also provide hiding places for slugs and snails, so remove them.
- Make leaf mould by filling black polythene sacks with leaves, press them down and water if they are dry before tying the top securely. Punch holes in the sack to allow some air exchange as the leaves rot. It usually takes about 2 years.
- Plant new deciduous trees and shrubs, and move badly positioned ones.
- Tidy perennials by cutting down the stems to ground level, add to the compost heap.
- Plant tulip now.
- Penstemons and Salvia Hotlips can be trimmed to tidy, but delay main trim until April/May.
- Clean out old bird nests from nesting boxes and sterilize them.
- If you feed wild birds it is important to remember that you need to keep up regular feeding during the winter. A small but constant supply is better than an irregular burst of food.

Green Gardening Tip – Water Butt

Saved rainwater is so valuable in spring, summer or even autumn but in winter not so. Here are some ideas:



1. Water house plants
2. Use in vases of cut flowers (this is particularly useful in crystal vases as there is no lime scale stains)
3. Use in a bog garden
4. Top up ponds
5. Use to flush the loo. This will save at least 5 litres per flush, reduces the limescale and saves money too!

For advice on what it's safe to use for cleaning water butts, and greenhouses go to [Greenhouse cleaning / RHS Gardening](#)

Gardening Podcasts

If you short of things to do during the dark winter months, you might enjoy listening to Garden Organic's popular podcast. It will give you inspirational tips and advice on organic growing.

Hosted by Chris Collins and Sarah Brown, this popular monthly podcast has been a huge hit for gardeners and growers. Winner of the Gardening Media Guild 2020 Podcast of the Year.

Click to listen now to the [November episode](#). Topics include how us gardeners can [mitigate climate change](#) , plus the wonderful secret world of bees with Jean Vernon.

Gardening advice includes:

[Preparing for winter](#)

[Leaf mould and mulches](#)

[Protecting your plants from frost](#)

[Planting for bees](#)

Your CSGGA Committee

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Committee Members:

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New Committee members are always welcome. We are a friendly bunch! Please contact a committee member to find out more if you're interested in joining us.