



Royal Botanic Gardens

# Kew

## Patrons

Supporting Kew in solving the critical challenges facing humanity today

'Kew's work will help protect the world's plants, the basis for all life on the planet. In a time of unprecedented global change, it could not be more important.'

Sir David Attenborough



# Welcome

from our Chairman



Why am I passionate about Kew? To quote Tina Turner, because it is 'Simply the best - better than all the rest!'

Kew has so much to offer. Aesthetically, the gardens are visually stunning. Botanically, they are the most biodiverse place on Earth. Historically, Kew is redolent of its royal heritage. Scientifically, Kew's experts are helping to address some of the most important problems facing mankind today. And if you want something different, there is wild Wakehurst - home to the Millennium Seed Bank.

Kew's magic casts a spell on all who visit. My children (and now our grandchildren) have all benefitted from spending time in the Gardens and this has led to a growing awareness of the natural world, and taught them about the importance of plants.

I hope that Patrons will take advantage of the full and diverse range of programmes on offer at all levels. I would especially encourage you to attend the fascinating 'behind-the-scenes' visits that we will be organising during the year, and hope you will all come to know and love Kew as much as I do.

*Kate de Rothschild Agius*

Kate de Rothschild Agius, Chairman of the Patrons

## Enjoy a close relationship with Kew

### All life depends on plants and fungi.

At least 31,000 of the world's discovered plants have a documented use – including 17,000 with known medicinal properties – while fungi contribute to many contemporary medicines and are the unsung heroes of nearly all terrestrial ecosystems. Their conservation is vitally important.

The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has the largest and most diverse living and preserved collections of plants and fungi – utilised by our team of 300 scientists alongside partners across the globe – placing Kew at the forefront of plant and fungi conservation and science.

### Our Patrons are conserving and protecting the world's plants and fungi.

From banking seeds at the Millennium Seed Bank, to resurrecting the world's smallest water lily (*Nymphaea thermarum*), your support joins Kew's expertise to address the critical challenges facing the world today. By becoming a Patron, you are ensuring that Kew stays at the forefront of plant and fungi science, from supporting apprentices to enabling cutting-edge DNA sequencing.

### Join like-minded people who share Kew's vision and play your part in safeguarding the future.

As a Patron you will enjoy exclusive 'behind-the-scenes' opportunities to witness the important work that you are supporting. You'll have access to the world's leading horticulturists and plant scientists, learn about Kew's royal heritage, and even get to explore other exciting sites, in the past these have included visits to the Royal Academy and The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace.



It was thought that the *Ramosmania rodriguesii* (café marron) had been extinct for 40 years, until a group of school children rediscovered this beautiful plant on the island of Rodrigues, in the Indian Ocean.

Kew has now trained 24 staff in the local area to collect and process *Ramosmania rodriguesii* seeds.

You can still see this survivor plant growing in the Palm House and the Princess of Wales Conservatory.



## Patron levels

### William Hooker Patron

£1,200 per year (£200 membership/£1,000 donation)

- Joint Friends of Kew Membership.
- Regular Patrons e-newsletter.
- Invitation to the annual Kew Patrons' Debate.
- Programme of daytime 'behind-the-scenes' tours.
- Recognition in our donor list and online.

### Queen Charlotte Patron

£2,500 per year (£400 membership/£2,100 donation)

All of the above benefits and

- Invitation to a festive event.
- Programme of evening 'behind-the-scenes' tours and private views.
- Opportunity to hire spaces at Kew for private entertaining at a discounted rate.

### Joseph Banks Patron

£5,000 per year (£675 membership/£4,325 donation)

All of the above benefits and

- Invitation to the Director's Garden Party.
- Invitation to a dinner hosted by the Director.
- Invitation to a private visit of a partner attraction.
- Opportunity to join national and international visits to other gardens (at additional cost).

### Princess Augusta Patron

£10,000 per year (£1,200 membership/£8,800 donation)

All of the above benefits and

- A private tour of Kew or Wakehurst for you and your guests.
- A sapling grown in Kew's tree nursery.
- Bespoke opportunities according to your interests.

Read on to learn more about the people who formed Kew and inspired our Patrons programme.

PLEASE NOTE for Gift Aid purposes we are required to indicate the commercial value of any benefit we may offer to Patrons (William Hooker £200, Queen Charlotte £400, Joseph Banks £675, Princess Augusta £1,200). Any voluntary donation above the agreed values of benefits will be eligible for Gift Aid; it is possible to purchase Patron membership without making this donation.



## The inspiration for our Patron levels

Kew has a history rich with botanists and scientists, some of whom have inspired the names of our Patron levels.



### William Hooker (1785–1865)

Sir William Hooker was an English botanist and botanical illustrator, who became the first official Director of Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1841, a position he held until his death in 1865. The construction of the Palm House is one of his most notable projects.



### Queen Charlotte (1744–1818)

Queen Charlotte was an amateur botanist who, along with her husband King George III, helped expand Kew Gardens – the King and Queen used Kew as their family residence. As part of their marriage settlement, King George III gave her what is now known as Queen Charlotte's Cottage.



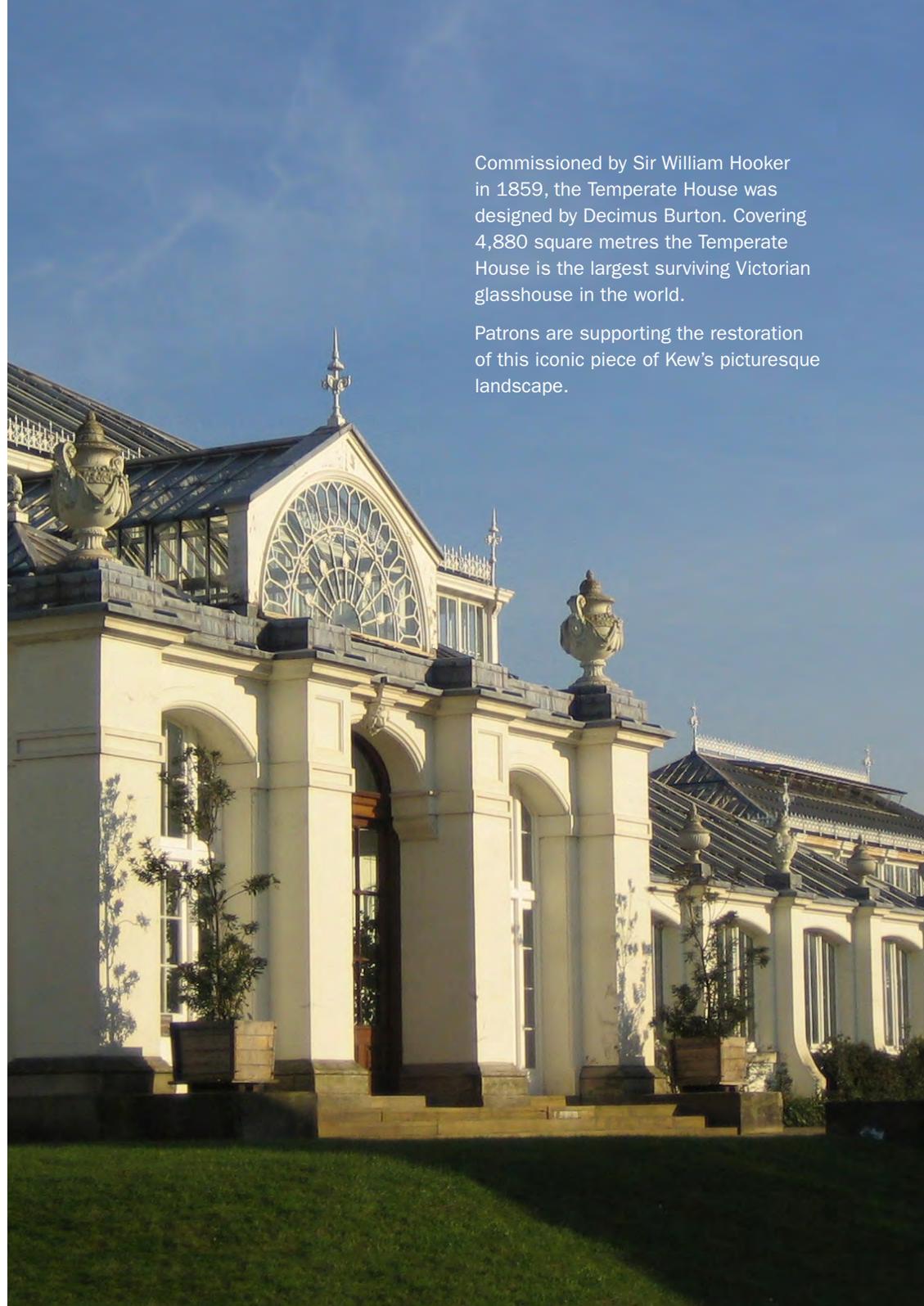
### Joseph Banks (1743–1820)

Sir Joseph Banks was a British naturalist and botanist, and advisor to King George III. Sir Joseph was responsible for collecting exotic plants from across the British Empire, and even sailed with Captain Cook on his epic voyage on the *Endeavour*.



### Princess Augusta (1719–1772)

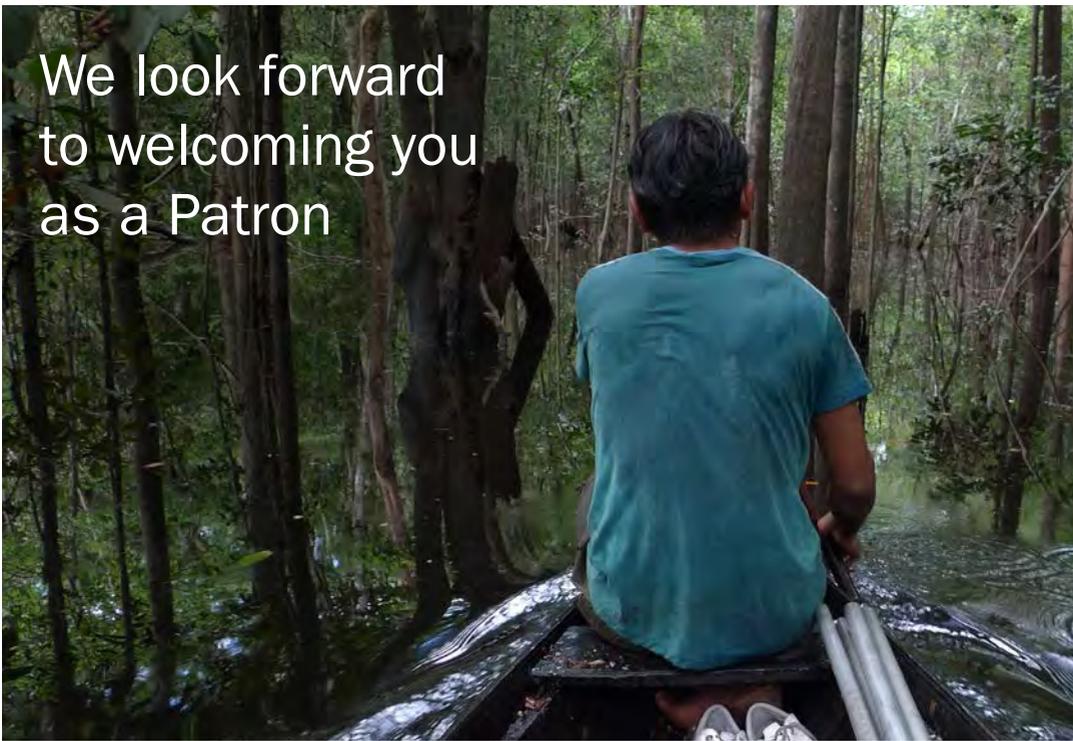
Princess Augusta, mother of King George III, helped establish the Gardens at Kew and is celebrated as Kew's original founder. In 1759, Princess Augusta started an ambitious nine-acre garden around Kew Palace. She also inspired the building of the Chinese Pagoda which you can still see in the Gardens today.



Commissioned by Sir William Hooker in 1859, the Temperate House was designed by Decimus Burton. Covering 4,880 square metres the Temperate House is the largest surviving Victorian glasshouse in the world.

Patrons are supporting the restoration of this iconic piece of Kew's picturesque landscape.

We look forward  
to welcoming you  
as a Patron



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The bird of paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) flower was first introduced to Britain in 1773 by Sir Joseph Banks, who named this exotic flower in honour of Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III, who lived at Kew for many years.

Kew has now collected and stored seeds of this South African native plant at the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst.

You can see this flower on display in the Princess of Wales Conservatory.

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