Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew
Courses
From Autumn 2019
Welcome
to our programme of courses for adults at Kew Gardens.

All profit from these courses and events contributes to the vital work of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Adult education
For course information or enquiries please contact us:
Tel: 020 8332 5641
020 8332 5626
Email: adulted@kew.org
Visit our website at: kew.org/adult-education

Gift vouchers
If you would like to give a place on one of our courses as a gift, we are more than happy to arrange for a special card to be sent, whatever the occasion.

Birthday, anniversary or just to say thank you – leave the arrangements to us! Please contact us for more details.

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### Monthly planner 2019 – 2020

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Arts
Intermediate Botanical Illustration

Monday 28 October – Friday 8 November or
Monday 24 February – Friday 6 March
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutors: Lucy T Smith
Venue: Kew Gardens

This ten-day course provides an opportunity to gain a deeper insight into the work of botanical illustrators at Kew and the methods and materials they use.

Precision is the hallmark of the best botanical illustration, and a range of relevant techniques will be demonstrated and taught. Accurate drawing is emphasised, as is the art of capturing the true essence and colour of a plant. Techniques include drawing in pencil, pen and ink work and watercolour painting using wash and dry brush.

Individual attention to participants allows students to work at their own pace and skill level.

Included in the programme is a tutored visit to Kew’s remarkable collections of botanical illustration in the Herbarium and the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art.

While this course is designed to follow on from Botanical Illustration for Beginners, it can also be taken as a stand-alone course.

Please note that there is no weekend tuition during this course.

Course fee: £750 (£695 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 15 places)
Botanical Illustration for Beginners

Monday 13 – Friday 17 January  
Time: 10.30am – 4pm  
Tutor: Lucy T Smith  
Venue: Kew Gardens  

This entry-level five-day course will introduce you to the range of skills and techniques required for this highly specialised expression of the illustrator’s art. You will learn about the materials, techniques and equipment used by botanical illustrators. Using pencil, pen and ink and watercolour in a series of small exercises, you will begin to learn how to accurately draw and paint plant material.

This course is suitable for beginners and those with different art backgrounds looking to find out more about botanical illustration.

Course fee: £400 (£350 Concessions, Kew members)  
Deposit payable on enrolment: £50  
(maximum capacity 15 places)

Art Masterclass:  
Drawing Spring Bulbs

Wednesday 22 – Thursday 23 January  
Time: 10.30am – 4pm  
Tutor: Penny Price  
Venue: Kew Gardens  

This new two-day course will explore different methods of using graphite pencils to make careful studies of spring-flowering bulbs. With careful observation, a subject can be drawn as a linear illustration or as a tonal study, showing the light source, form and habit of a plant. All abilities welcome as some individual help will be given alongside general teaching of the group.

Course fee: £160 (£140 Concessions, Kew members)  
(maximum capacity 15 places)
Watercolour Workshop: Orchids

**Wednesday 5 – Thursday 6 February**

**Time:** 10.30am – 4pm  
**Tutor:** Deborah Lambkin  
**Venue:** Kew Gardens

This new two-day course will show you how to draw and paint an orchid by practising the observation techniques and accurate drawing methods used in botanical illustration.

Learn how to measure, draw, compose and paint a single flower with a small vignette of the whole plant on one A4 piece of watercolour paper.

After the course, you will be equipped with the knowledge to record other orchids or to enjoy illustrating any plants and flowers of your choice.

**Course fee:** £160 (£140 Concessions, Kew members)  
(maximum capacity 15 places)

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Pen and Ink Workshop

**Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 March**  
**Time:** 10.30am – 4pm  
**Tutor:** Penny Price  
**Venue:** Kew Gardens

Line drawing in pen and ink is a particularly useful skill for botanical illustrators to master. During this new weekend course, we will work with dip pens and black ink on paper and various methods of creating form including stipple, hatching and variation of line will be introduced and practised. We’ll use these techniques to work on a couple of botanical subjects, first drawing in pencil and before transferring to final paper. Beginners welcome – this course is suitable for all abilities. The tutor will provide dip pens and black ink for participants.

**Course fee:** £160 (£140 Concessions, Kew members)  
Maximum capacity: 15 places
Creating a Botanical Sketchbook

Tuesday 5 – Thursday 7 May or
Tuesday 19 – Thursday 21 May
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Lucy T Smith
Venue: Kew Gardens

This three-day course will teach you how to keep a botanical sketchbook. A well-kept botanical sketchbook is an invaluable tool to record your plant drawings, colour studies, field notes and written notes.

During the class you will practise drawing and sketching from life, both indoors and outdoors, and learn how to capture multiple levels of information to help inform your botanical artwork, all while being inspired by the gardens at Kew.

Course fee: £210 (£180 Concessions, Kew members)
Maximum capacity: 15 places

Saturday Beginners
Botanical Illustration

Saturday’s 6, 13, 20 and 27 June
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Lucy T Smith
Venue: Kew Gardens

This entry-level four-day course introduces you to the range of skills and techniques required for this highly specialised expression of the illustrator’s art. You will learn about the materials, techniques and equipment used by botanical illustrators. Using pencil, pen, ink and watercolour in a series of small exercises, you will begin to learn how to accurately draw and paint plant material. This course is suitable for beginners and those with different art backgrounds looking to find out more about botanical illustration.

Course fee: £320 (£280 Concessions, Kew members)
Deposit payable on enrolment: £50
Maximum capacity: 15 places
Kew Certificate in Botanical Illustration

2020/21 programme begins in September 2020

A variety of short courses for the public to study and practise the art of botanical illustration have been successfully established at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew over the last 20 years.

We are now proud to include the addition of an annual programme of study, leading to the Kew Certificate in Botanical Illustration.

Through course modules taught by professional botanical illustrators and self-study coursework, the programme gives a deep and comprehensive knowledge of all aspects of botanical illustration, botanical art and sketching, and nature observation, while benefiting from the unique and historic surroundings and collections at Kew.

Please contact us to receive details of the September 2020 – July 2021 Certificate programme and the full prospectus.
Botany
Introduction to Botany

Tuesday 21 April or Wednesday 22 April
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Gemma Bramley
Venue: Kew Gardens

A general introduction to the world of flowering plants, this one-day course is suitable for non-scientists and anyone keen to develop a deeper understanding of this fascinating subject. With embedded practical sessions and a short, guided walk through some of the Living Collections, the course will cover the variety of plant life, flowering plant structure, pollination, adaptation, taxonomy, and classification. By the end of the day, you’ll have learned how plants are identified by using a botanical key and have a better understanding of the immense diversity of plant life.

Course Fee: £80 (£70 Concessions, Kew members)
Maximum capacity: 12 places

Botany for Botanical Illustrators

Saturday 25 – Sunday 26 April
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Anne Bebbington
Venue: Kew Gardens

A two-day course for botanical artists who want to know more about their subjects. Practical sessions will demonstrate how the study of a plant can become an integral part of the excitement of producing botanical illustrations, informing your artwork by helping you understand its structure and how it works.

The emphasis in these workshops will be on practical botanical work. There will an opportunity to do some drawing, so please bring sketchbooks and pencils.

Course fee: £150 (£130 concessions, Kew members)
Maximum capacity: 15 places
Crafts
Paper Flowers: Poinsettias

Tuesday 19 November
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Nikita Crocker
Venue: Kew Gardens

Join us in making a paper poinsettia, the perfect way to start your festivities. On this one-day course you will learn how to create the ultimate Christmas botanical, receiving expert instruction from the start to finish of your poinsettia plant. And when you take it home, it will last the season and beyond!

All necessary materials will be provided for you in the class, including a variety of richly coloured crepe paper of exceptional quality.

Course fee: £70 (£60 Concessions, Kew members) (maximum capacity 12 places)

Paper Flowers: Tulips

Thursday 12 March
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Nikita Crocker
Venue: Kew Gardens

This one-day course will introduce you to the intricate art of paper flower making, which has seen a popular resurgence in recent years.

We will be creating tulips and our tutor, Nikita Crocker, will take you through the step-by step process. We’ll start by making the simplest tulip type and, once this is mastered, we will explore techniques to create the more flamboyant varieties. You’ll be able to take home all the tulips you make in a bunch of stunning colours.

All necessary materials will be provided for you in the class, including a variety of richly coloured crepe paper of exceptional quality.

Course fee: £70 (£60 Concessions, Kew members) (maximum capacity 12 places)
Paper Flowers: Foxgloves

Tuesday 12 May
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Nikita Crocker
Venue: Kew Gardens

This one-day course will introduce you to the intricate art of paper flower making, which has seen a popular resurgence in recent years.

We will be creating foxgloves, one of the quintessential English garden flowers. Tutor Nikita Crocker will take you through the step-by-step process and show you a variety of foxglove types to make and take home.

All necessary materials will be provided for you in the class, including a variety of richly coloured crepe paper of exceptional quality.

Course fee: £70 (£60 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 12 places)

Paper Flowers: Peonies

Thursday 17 September
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Nikita Crocker
Venue: Kew Gardens

This one-day course will introduce you to the intricate art of paper flower making, which has seen a popular resurgence in recent years.

We will be creating the double bomb peony, a full and fun flower. Tutor Nikita Crocker will take you through the step-by-step process and there will also be the opportunity to explore and practice with the form to create different sizes, colours and shapes.

All necessary materials will be provided for you in the class. These include a variety of richly coloured crepe paper of exceptional quality, so you'll be able to take home peonies in hot and bright reds, magentas, corals, pinks and softer pastels.

Course fee: £70 (£60 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 12 places)

Save! Book all four paper flower courses for £250 (£230 concessions, Kew members). All dates must be booked in one transaction to claim this offer.
Botanical Perfume Making Workshop

Tuesday 23 June or Thursday 2 July
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutors: Sara Lucia and Kew Volunteer Guide
Venue: Kew Gardens

In this fun, fascinating and practical one-day workshop you will be introduced to the magical world of natural perfumery by a professional perfumer.

Following a morning tour of perfume-related plants and flowers in the Gardens, led by one of our award-winning Volunteer Guides, you will spend the afternoon creating and making your very own perfume from scratch, including blending and pouring into a beautiful glass bottle to take home.

An extensive range of pure essential oils, such as rose, geranium and jasmine, will be available to sample and you’ll be able to learn about the different fragrance families. Under expert guidance, discover how to structure and make your perfect perfume blend, using only essential oils and Perfumers’ alcohol.

Course fee: £100 (£80 concessions, Kew members)
Maximum capacity: 12 places
Garden design
Designing Your Own Personal Garden

Thursdays 10 and 17 October and 7 and 14 November
Time: 10.30am – 4.30pm
Tutor: London School of Garden Design
Venue: Kew Gardens

The aim of this four-day course is to help you with the first steps to designing your garden. We’ll look at how you can get to know the constraints of your space and develop ideas and an outline plan. We’ll then look at how you put that plan into action with practical sessions on how to approach construction and develop a planting design.

Week 1: Getting to know your garden
Week 2: Developing a plan
Week 3: Detailing and building your garden
Week 4: Planting for your new garden

This course is aimed at amateur gardeners who are keen to develop their gardens. It will be classroom based and provide useful design tools and approaches for the amateur gardener. Some knowledge of garden plants will be useful but not essential.

The course is run in collaboration with the London College of Garden Design, the leading training college for professional garden design

Course fee: £480 (£430 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 25 places)

Designing a Summer Border

Thursday 16 July
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Richard Wilford
Venue: Kew Gardens

From the beginning of June to the end of September, the summer garden can be a riot of colour. But when starting to plan a summer border, knowing what to plant where can be daunting. This one-day course is run by the designer of the magnificent Great Broad Walk Borders in Kew Gardens, Richard Wilford, and will introduce basic concepts of planting design to help you create a beautiful summer border. Focusing on planting styles, structure, form and, of course, the huge range of colourful, summer-flowering herbaceous perennials, there will be plenty to inspire you. The course will include a walking tour around parts of Kew, including the Great Broad Walk Borders.

Course fee: £80 (£70 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 20 places)
Horticulture
Orchids for beginners

Tuesday 18 February or Wednesday 4 March
Time: 10.30am – 3.30pm
Tutor: Laurence Hobbs
Venue: Kew Gardens

This one-day course aims to give you the knowledge and confidence to be able to grow orchids successfully in your own home. Beginning with an introduction to the wonderful world of orchids, the tutor will then advise on the best kinds to grow and the steps involved in keeping them looking their best.

Course fee: £70 (£60 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 30 places)
Plant Propagation

Tuesday 31 March
Time: 10.30am – 4.30pm
Tutor: Christine Lavelle
Venue: Kew Gardens

This one-day course will provide a helpful introduction to the various methods you can use to increase your plant numbers. Come and learn how to propagate vegetables, shrubs, herbaceous plants, house plants and all types of bedding. We'll discuss the time of year to take cuttings or sow seeds, and which types of pots and compost are suitable. We'll also cover the environment and care that each type of plant requires after propagation.

Course fee: £80 (£70 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 25 places)
Vegetable Gardening for Novices

**Tuesday 7 April**  
**Time:** 10.30am – 4.30pm  
**Tutor:** Christine Lavelle  
**Venue:** Kew Gardens

Have you just acquired an allotment or vegetable patch and want to boost your vegetable growing skills? This one-day workshop, taught by Christine Lavelle, will introduce you to the most commonly grown vegetable crops and show you how best to cultivate them.

You’ll also learn about pests and diseases, crop rotation, fertilisers, green manures and composting – giving you the confidence to get the most from your plot.

**Course Fee:** £80 (£70 concessions, Kew members)  
**Maximum capacity:** 25 places

An Afternoon of Roses

**Wednesday 24 June or Tuesday 30 June**  
**Time:** 2pm – 5pm  
**Tutor:** Martin O’Halloran  
**Venue:** Kew Gardens

Home to 170 different species and cultivars of rose, our magnificent Rose Garden is designed to be a floral feast for the eye with bold plantings of mixed shrub roses.

Join us on this new half-day outdoor course, based in the Rose Garden, to discover how we grow and care for these popular flowers. Learn about pruning, watering and other cultivation techniques, plus discussion of different cultivars. Gather some top tips from our Kew expert on how to look after your roses at home to keep them at their flowering and fragrant best.

The course fee includes a delicious full afternoon tea served in our elegant restaurant, The Botanical, after the course from 4 – 5pm. Please advise if any special dietary requirements on booking.

**Course Fee:** £75 (£65 concessions, Kew members)  
**Maximum capacity:** 15 places
Photographing Trees

Wednesday 23 – Thursday 24 October
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Edward Parker
Venue: Kew Gardens

This popular two-day course is designed to explore ways of producing superb photographs of trees. It will include tuition on how to photograph the whole tree as well as details of bark and leaves. In addition, it will look at how using different techniques – such as directional and soft lighting, colour and composition – can enhance the final image, as well as teaching you how to get the most out of your digital equipment.

We’ll start with an illustrated introductory talk including tree and forest photographs from around the world, before heading out into the Gardens to gain inspiration among Kew’s impressive arboretum. The first day will be spent exploring the capabilities and limitations of your equipment. As the course progresses, we’ll evaluate your images and find out how to work with camera limitations, making them part of the image-making process.

During the course you’ll be given basic instruction on how to download, store and enhance digital images.

Course fee: £180 (£160 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 12 places)
Digital Photography for Beginners

Tuesday 11 – Wednesday 12 February
Time: 10.30am – 4pm
Tutor: Edward Parker
Venue: Kew Gardens

This two-day course is designed for camera-owners who would like to know the basics. It will explain some of the basic principles of photography such as focus, exposure and composition as well as many of the practical aspects such as how to download and store images, and some advice on basic processing. Most of the time will be spent practising techniques by using cameras out in the beautiful gardens at Kew. There will be many opportunities to ask questions and review your images, and those taken by the group, as well as an opportunity to learn a host of top tips.

This course is suitable for people with any camera – compact, bridge or DSLR. It is useful to bring along instruction books, if you have them, and you will need to make sure your batteries are fully charged and that you have a memory card with some free space on it.

Course fee: £160 (£140 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 12 places)
Macro Photography Workshop

Thursday 26 March
Time: 10.30am – 4.30pm
Tutor: Marcus Clackson
Venue: Kew Gardens

Want to dive into the extreme close-up world of macro and still life photography?

Then come on this one-day course and learn the techniques for capturing detailed and exciting nature macro photos both in the studio and outside in the Gardens (weather permitting).

Using daylight, constant and flash lighting as well as other techniques to get the best out of each subject, we will be working with various flowers and objects from nature.

N.B. It is recommended to bring a camera that can focus close-up, or that has a macro feature. The tutor will also have cameras set up that can be used – please bring a standard SD card so you can take the photos away afterwards.

Course fee: £90 (£80 Concessions, Kew members)
(maximum capacity 12 places)

Spring Photography Masterclass

Saturday 4 April
Time: 10.30am – 4.30pm
Tutor: Clive Nichols
Venue: Kew Gardens

Be part of a small group on this one-day course devoted to practical outdoor photography amid the spring delights of Kew Gardens, with instruction and guidance from one of the world’s most successful flower and garden photographers. After an introductory lecture, you’ll spend the day in the Gardens (and possibly in one of the glasshouses) which presents a wide variety of photographic challenges. The tutor will be drawing your attention to the trees, plants and views making up the spring picture at Kew and sharing hints and tips for the best ways of capturing them. Suitable for proactive improvers. Sandwich lunch provided.

Course Fee: £170 (£150 concessions, Kew members)
Maximum capacity: 12 places
Photo walks
Kew in Autumn

Tuesday 15 October
Time: 10.30am – 12.30pm or 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Tutor: Marcus Clackson
Venue: Kew Gardens

Join us as we celebrate the splendour of autumn with a seasonal photo walk devoted to improving your photography and capturing the delights of Kew Gardens at this special time of year.

Experienced photographer and tutor Marcus Clackson will cover a wide range of photographic techniques from macro to landscape. Capture everything from iconic buildings and glasshouses to inspirational gardens and landscapes – and, of course, the spectacular autumn colour – all under his expert tuition and guidance. Grow your portfolio and see your photography skills blossom!

Suitable for photographers of all abilities looking to improve digital camera technique.

Course fee: £80 (£60 Concessions, Kew members) (maximum capacity 12 places)
Terms and conditions

**Bookings**
To reserve a place on any of the courses, please call 020 8332 5641 or email adulted@kew.org with a contact telephone number. We’ll call you back during office hours to take your booking. We can also forward our bank details if you prefer to pay via transfer.

For one-day courses, the full course fee is due at the time of booking. For certain courses, a non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking (see course description for details). The balance of payment is then due four weeks before the course begins. No reminder will be sent.

The course fee listed already includes admission to the Gardens enabling you to attend your course.

Please note the minimum age for course participants is 18.

**Concessions**
Concessions on our courses are offered where possible. Senior citizens (60+), students in full-time education, people who are unemployed, and Kew members can claim the concessionary rate listed for each course. Proof of concession is required before your application can be dealt with, so this should accompany your booking.

**Confirmation**
A confirmation will be sent for each booking on receipt of the course fee or deposit. Course confirmations will normally be sent by email if an address is supplied.

**Waiting lists**
All courses are limited in number and will fill up quickly so please book early to avoid disappointment. If a course is fully booked, your name will be added to the waiting list. If a place becomes available, we will contact you.

**Gift vouchers**
Gift vouchers may be purchased for either a place (or places) on a specific course (subject to availability) or for a certain amount to cover or partially cover the cost of a course. In each case they will be valid for two years from the date of issue.
Refunds
As the booking is made for a specific date and time, it is not possible to issue a refund or exchange once you have confirmed your purchase. Please make certain that you can attend a course before booking a place.

Course materials
Please note that course materials are not provided unless stated in the course description. Materials lists will be issued to participants where appropriate.

Cancellation of courses
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew reserves the right to cancel any course if it becomes necessary to do so. Students who have booked places will be notified as soon as possible and may then transfer to other courses, dependent on availability, without loss of course fee or deposit. If they prefer to withdraw their bookings, course fees and deposits will be refunded in full.

Personal information
We respect any personal data you share with us. For more details on how we use your information, see our privacy policy at kew.org/privacy.

Accommodation
Courses at Kew Gardens are non-residential. For details of accommodation in the Kew area, please visit www.visitrichmond.co.uk

Access
We want you to enjoy your visit to Kew Gardens. Please contact the adult learning coordinator, before booking your course, if you are mobility impaired or have any special needs or requirements.

Adult education enquiries
Email: adulted@kew.org
Tel: 020 8332 5641
020 8332 5626
Visit our website at: kew.org/adult-education

If you would like to give a place on one of our courses as a gift, we are more than happy to arrange for a special card to be sent, whatever the occasion. Please contact us for more details.
About Kew Gardens

Awarded World Heritage site status in 2003, Kew Gardens is one of the most beautiful and historic gardens in the country. Its 300 acres contain a wealth of living plant material as well as comprehensive collections of preserved plant specimens, ethnobotanical products and artefacts, botanical paintings and books. It is situated 10 miles from the centre of London and is served by mainline trains from Waterloo or by underground (District Line).

Many Kew courses are held in the education centre above The Botanical cafe. Formerly known as Museum No. 1, this grade II listed building, opened to the public after refurbishment in 1998, is superbly equipped for our varying courses and overlooks the magnificent Palm House.
The tutors

**Anne Bebbington** gained wide teaching experience in her career as a botanist and ecology tutor for the Field Studies Council. She specialised in wildflower courses for adults, both in Britain and further afield in Europe, Canada and Australia. In retirement, she is a natural history illustrator, working mainly in pen and ink. Over the past four years she has run a series of very popular botanical workshops for artists. Her book *Understanding the Flowering Plants – A practical guide for botanical illustrators* was published in November 2014. She is a founder member and past President of the Institute for Analytical Plant Illustration.

**Gemma Bramley** is a research leader (Asia) in the Identification and Naming department at Kew. As an experienced communicator, she teaches on the Tropical Plant ID course, runs the NERC Applied Plant Taxonomy, Identification and Field Survey Skills course, and is a coordinator on the Kew/Queen Mary University of London MSc module on Plant Taxonomy and Diversity.

**Marcus Clacketson** is based in Twickenham riverside. With a successful commercial career spanning over 25 years, he is also an Ambassador for Olympus cameras and runs regular workshops and events covering many aspects of photography and photographic technique. Coming from a fine art education, Marcus draws inspiration from many sources, which can be seen in the passion and excitement with which he approaches every project.

**Nikita Crocker** has always been a lover of nature and found the art of paper flower making perfectly married this love with her creative passions. She uses real specimens from the natural world to study and break down the structure of each variety of flower and then pieces together her paper creations. She is the founder of Wild Paper Florist, a business making paper flowers for wedding bouquets and decorations. She thoroughly enjoys teaching people the art of paper flower making and seeing the delight of pupils when their handmade flower suddenly comes together before their eyes.

**Laurence Hobbs** gained an honours degree in plant biology before setting up business as an orchid grower. He is the managing director of Laurence Hobbs Orchids Ltd, which has been established in Sussex since 1987.

**Sara Lucia** is a British independent perfumer who lovingly handcrafts her beautiful perfumes by blending the most precious, highly prized and fine-quality ingredients. She has been running botanical perfume workshops for the last five years for a variety of clients.

**Deborah Lambkin** is a professional botanical artist. She has been the official orchid artist for the RHS Orchid Committee since 2005.
Christine Lavelle is a lecturer in horticulture and ecology at Writtle College, Chelmsford, UK, and an external examiner for the School of Horticulture at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She trained at the National Trust for Scotland's Threave School of Practical Gardening and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Christine was assistant head gardener at Levens Hall topiary gardens in Kendal, and hardy ornamentals team leader at Askham Bryan College in York. Her main areas of work are organic growing and wildlife gardening. Together, Christine and her husband Michael Lavelle won the Garden Media Guild Practical Book of the Year Award in 2003 and 2008 for their books Organic Gardening and How to Create a Wildlife Garden (both published by Lorenz Books).

Clive Nichols is one of the world’s most successful flower and garden photographers. He has won many awards for his work and in 2005 was voted Garden Photographer of the Year by the Garden Writers Guild. His work has appeared in countless magazines, books and calendars throughout the world and he is in constant demand as a lecturer and teacher.

Martin O’Halloran is a Gardens Manager at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with particular responsibility for the rose garden.

Edward Parker is a specialist tree and forest photographer who, over the last 20 years, has worked in more than 40 countries around the world. He is co-author and photographer of the major book Ancient Trees – trees that live for a thousand years and has worked on numerous tree and forest-related projects for organisations such as WWF, Tropical Forest Trust, and The Tree Council of the British Isles. He has written more than 30 educational books and his photographs have been on exhibition at Kew Gardens, Downing Street, and Horniman Museum, as well as having been used at UN Earth Summits. Photographing Trees is his latest book.

Penny Price is a botanical artist, having initially trained as a teacher and then as a professional lettering artist. Having painted all her life, she decided to become more specialised in the art of botanical painting and trained for the Diploma in Botanical Art and Illustration (EGS) gaining a distinction in 2013, Chelsea. She was awarded a Silver Gilt medal by the RHS in 2014. She presently teaches part-time at the Chelsea School of Botanical Art and runs courses in Cambridge University Botanic Garden. She is an artist member of three Florilegium Societies, including one in Sydney, Australia where she has also exhibited her work. Her mission is to help others achieve pleasure and skills in the art of botanical painting.
Lucy T Smith is a freelance botanical artist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She has received many awards for her work, including the 2004 Jill Smythies Award for Botanical Illustration, awarded by the Linnean Society of London. She won first prize in the Margaret Flockton Award for Scientific Illustration, at the Royal Botanic Garden Sydney (2017), as well as Highly Commended awards in the 2005, 2006 and 2008 competitions. She has also received two Gold Medals from the RHS. As well as her freelance work, Lucy produces paintings for private commissions and exhibitions.

Richard Wilford has worked at Kew since 1989 and is now the manager of garden design. He designed the Great Broad Walk Borders, which opened in June 2016. He has a diploma in garden design from the London College of Garden Design and over 29 years’ experience at Kew, where he has worked on the Rock Garden, Davies Alpine House and managed the herbaceous and grass collections. He has also written books on alpines and bulbs and writes regularly for Kew magazine. He is a member of the RHS Bulb Committee and judges Floral Marquee exhibits at RHS shows.
To protect our Living Collections, plant material supplied for practical classes will be drawn from a variety of sources and may not be from Kew Gardens or Wakehurst.

We use fresh and dried plants or plant-derived materials on many of our courses. If you think you may have an allergy to any of these, please contact your doctor for advice before enrolling on the courses.