



# PlantNetwork

Connecting gardens, sharing skills

Annual Conference  
**'Connecting gardens; engaging people'**

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

The Botanic Cottage, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

**#horticstogether**

**@plantnetwork**

# Programme

## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April

- 9.30 -10.00 Registration in The Botanic Cottage
- 10.00 -10.15 Welcome and introduction  
Simon Toomer, PlantNetwork Chair
- 10.15 -10.45 Plant collecting partnerships.  
Richard Baines, Curator, Logan Botanic Garden
- 10.45 -11.15 The International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP)  
Martin Gardner, Co-ordinator of ICCP
- 11.15 -11.40 Coffee**
- 11.40 -12.10 Eden on prescription.  
Chris Bisson, Policy Development Manager, The Eden Project.
- 12.10 -12.40 Discussion and questions
- 12.40 -13.40 Lunch**
- 13.40 -14.20 PlantNetwork 21<sup>st</sup> AGM  
Simon Toomer, PlantNetwork Chair
- 14.20 -15.50 Garden Tour  
Jenny Foulkes, Community Engagement Manager, RBGE
- 16.00 -16.30 Scrounging, begging and brass necking it  
Alasdair Hood, Curator, University of Dundee Botanic Garden
- 16.30 -17.00 New opportunities to be part of Grow Wild  
Philip Turvil, Grow Wild Programme Manager, RBG Kew.
- 17.00 -17.15 Discussion and questions
- 17.15 -17.30 Partnership Pitch – open floor
- 17.30 Instructions for Conference Dinner and depart for hotels
- 19.00 Conference Dinner. Meet at Howies, 29 Waterloo Place, EH1 3BQ. (Running late? Contact Pam on 07708 248333)

## Thursday 27th April

- 9.15 - 9.30 **Welcome**  
Simon Milne, Regius Keeper Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
- 9.30 -10.00 **How biological control can benefit gardens and estates**  
Julian Ives, Managing Director DragonFli PlantNetwork Sponsor.
- 10.00 -10.30 **Working across the region and beyond**  
Emma McNamara, Garden and Parks Consultant, National Trust
- 10.30 -11.00 **Treborth Botanic garden; the power of volunteers**  
Natalie Chivers, Curator, Treborth Botanic Garden, University of Bangor.
- 11.00 -11.30 Coffee**
- 11.30 -12.00 **From Gardeners to Citizen Scientists**  
Rosie Walker, Senior Project Officer at The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
- 12.00 -12.30 **Working with science and art projects.**  
Susan Priestley, freelance arts project development and management
- 12.30 -13.00 **Discussion and questions**
- 13.00 -13.50 Lunch**
- 13.50 -14.20 **Working in partnership – growing knowledge,skills and resources**  
Ann Steele, Head of Heritage Gardening. National Trust for Scotland.
- 14.20 -14.50 **Where do we go from here? Lessons learned and next steps for Communities in Nature**  
Liliana Derewnicka, Education Co-ordinator, Botanic Gardens Conservation International
- 14.50 -15.30 **Discussion, questions and next steps**
- 15.30 **Close**

All presentations from our training days and conferences are shared through our website. Our website search facility also allows you to find previous newsletter articles, presentations and training resources.

## Speaker biographies

**Richard Baines**, Curator, Logan Botanic Garden

A former student of Barony College, Dumfries, and Threave School of Horticulture, Castle Douglas. Richard continued his studies at Longwood Gardens Pennsylvania and, at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, where he completed the three-year “Kew Diploma” with honours. After qualifying, he worked with the Parks and Recreation Department of Glasgow City Council before returning to Barony, first as its Head of Horticulture and then as Section Head of Forestry, Horticulture and Environment. In 2007 Richard became Curator of Logan Botanic Garden, a regional garden of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh.

R.baines@rbge.ac.uk

**Martin Gardner MBE**, Co-ordinator of the International Conifer Conservation Programme at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

Martin joined RBGE in 1991 and much of his work has involved collaborating with a wide range of RBGE staff as well as public and private land owners throughout Britain and Ireland in developing a network of over 200 safe sites for threatened conifers. This network is widely recognised as one of the most comprehensive ex-situ conservation networks for threatened woody plants anywhere in the world and now contains 50% of the world's critically endangered conifer species.

m.gardner@rbge.ac.uk @RBGE\_ICCP

**Chris Bisson, Policy Development Manager The Eden Project**

Chris develops and manages projects focussed on horticulture and other biosciences. Having worked in areas of plant conservation, botany and most aspects of horticulture Chris has a broad knowledge of UK and global plant science. Recently Chris has worked on Eden's scientific engagement programme and collaborative projects with Cornwall College whilst trying to promote science as accessible for all and fun and engaging. After spending nine years working in plant records and horticulture-based conservation programmes like the Lizard Juniper Conservation project Chris took up the position of Policy Development manager in 2016 where he now is responsible for much of the scientific programme on the Wellcome Trust funded Invisible Worlds project as well as several other plant science collaborations.

cbisson@edenproject.com @edenscience

**Jenny Foulkes, Community Engagement Manager, RBGE**

Jenny Foulkes has worked at RBGE since 2011 and has a background in both community engagement and horticulture. As Community Engagement Manager at RBGE Jenny is responsible for community activities in the Botanic Cottage and for the Edible Gardening Project.

J.Foulkes@rbge.ac.uk

## **Alasdair Hood, Curator University of Dundee Botanic Garden**

I have worked in the horticultural industry since 1976 (after a faltering start as an apprentice boat builder but that's another story). Working initially in a traditional family run nursery I completed a higher national diploma in horticulture at the then West of Scotland Agricultural College and some years later an Master's degree in Environmental Management at the University of Durham. I have worked at Dobbies when it was a large wholesale nursery, The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, Durham County Council Playing Fields section, Houghall College Durham as a horticultural lecturer and Elmwood college in Cupar as head of the Horticultural Department. I took up my current posts as Curator of the UODBG in 1998 with no intention of staying so long. My particular interests are arboriculture and the conservation of native Scottish plants. My hobbies include sailing, hill running and the sport of triathlon and I should say I still build the odd boat.

a.d.hood@dundee.ac.uk

## **Philip Turvil, Grow Wild Programme Manager**

Philip Turvil leads 'Grow Wild'; the national outreach initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Through Grow Wild, over three million people have taken positive actions online and where they live to change lives and transform spaces by growing and sharing native wild flowers. Grow Wild was voted the UK's Best Environment Project in the National Lottery Award 2016 on BBC1.

Before joining Kew, Philip managed Master Gardeners; Garden Organic's national volunteer mentor network sharing food growing advice. He previously worked in practical/education roles at botanic, heritage and zoological gardens, and was a horticultural advisor for the BBC and London 2012. Philip gained an honours degree in horticulture (University of Reading) and masters in management (Bath University). He was a finalist for Journalist of the Year in 2011 and 2012 (Garden Media Guild).

P.Turvil@kew.org @Philip Turvil / linkedin.com/in/PhilipTurvil

@GrowWildUK

**Emma McNamara**, Gardens and Parks Consultant, London and South East Region, National Trust.

Emma provides support and expertise in all aspects of plantsmanship, horticulture, garden design and the management of designed parkland landscapes, by applying appropriate technical and consultancy skills to enable properties to achieve sustainable standards of conservation, access and presentation. Emma is currently undertaking a PhD in spatial analysis of visitors for conservation management of cultural heritage sites 2015-2020

Emma ran a garden design and historic restoration business in Winchester and France, 1996-2012. She also taught RHS General horticulture 1&2, and garden design at Sparsholt college, Hants 2004-2007. Project managed restoration of many historic gardens in Northern France and in the U.K.

Emma.McNamara@nationaltrust.org.uk

Julian has worked in horticulture since his career started as a trainee gardener at the RHS Harlow Carr gardens in Harrogate. He studied commercial horticulture at Writtle Agricultural College before joining a horticultural sundries company as a technical sales representative.

After gaining a valuable insight into the supply needs of commercial growers, Julian left to join the pioneering biological control company; Koppert Biological systems. For over ten years he advised growers on the use of beneficial insects (natural enemies of plant pests such as parasitic wasps and predatory mites) and pollinators before moving into management of the UK branch of Koppert. Julian then decided to take his knowledge of biological control into the consumer sector, co-founding Just Green, a mail order company supplying natural pest control products before moving on to form Julian Ives Consultancy and now Dragonfli Ltd.

The Professional arm of DragonFli provides biological control products for use in professional horticulture by growers, research facilities, sports turf managers, amenity areas and large estates. Some of these products are available through the Dragonfli website shop but most are supplied after consultation with Dragonfli. We can then provide tailored advice and trade price lists for our extensive range of biological control products.

DragonFli supplies Natural Gardening Solutions. Supplier of BEEPOL Bumblebees, Beepol Villas, Roots Boost Mycorrhiza, Natural & Biological Pest Controls.  
[www.dragonfli.co.uk](http://www.dragonfli.co.uk) [julianives@dragonfli.co.uk](mailto:julianives@dragonfli.co.uk) @DragonfliLtd

**Natalie Chivers**, Curator, Treborth Botanic Garden, University of Bangor

Natalie gained a MEnv in Environmental Science from Bangor University before training with the Royal Horticultural Society and Gothenburg Botanic Garden. She then studied for an MSc Plant Conservation at Bangor before starting as Curator in August 2015.

As Curator of the Garden, Natalie has the responsibility for managing the living collections, which comprise over 2000 species. Her key areas of responsibility include planning the future direction of the collections, overseeing the sourcing and documentation of new and diverse species, driving the landscaping and design of the garden and promoting the use of the collections for research and teaching.

[n.j.chivers@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:n.j.chivers@bangor.ac.uk)

**Rosie Walker**, Senior Project Officer at The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)

Rosie works for TCV as the Senior Project Officer for the mid-week volunteer group in Stirling. The groups carry out various practical works including; bog restoration, Rhododendron removal and school grounds developments. The group is very diverse in ages, abilities and backgrounds and currently we have over 40 regular volunteers!

After studying Zoology and Conservation, Rosie went on to volunteer with TCV before going into her current role. As well as delivering practical conservation projects across the central belt of Scotland, Rosie also delivers citizen science, OPAL and nature themed workshops and sessions for children and adults from various backgrounds and abilities.

rosie.walker@tcv.org.uk

**Susan Priestley**, Freelance arts project and development manager

Susan Priestley graduated with BA (Hons) in Fine Art (Printmaking) and has worked in a variety of roles, including Exhibitions Officer at a gallery, an Arts Development post for a local authority, and as Director of an independent visual arts agency. She has been a freelance arts, heritage and learning consultant and project manager since 2001 and works on a range of arts-based projects and contracts with and for galleries, museums, organisations and individuals. Susan has long had an interest in the links between art and horticulture, both in a visual sense and in terms of the crossover between art and science. She has initiated and managed a number of projects in this vein, including: public art commissions linking art and landscape; an arts engagement programme for Kielder Water & Forest Park; and Ten Plants, Ten Printmakers – a collaboration with Moorbank Botanic Garden in Newcastle linking ten printmakers with ten research scientists. She lives in Northumberland.

susan.priestley2@gmail.com

**Ann Steele**, Head of Heritage Gardening, National Trust for Scotland

Ann began her gardening career as a volunteer with the National Trust for Scotland at Inverewe Garden. She went on to study at Askham Bryan College, York and Cambridge University Botanic Garden. After a spell of nursery work she returned to the Trust to work at Arduaine Garden, Argyll on its acquisition by the charity. She became a Gardens Adviser for the Trust in 1996 – a post she held until recently. In that post she worked with most of the Trust's gardens at different times, though with a general focus in the west; this led to her becoming the Trust's plant health and biosecurity lead, following outbreaks of *Phytophthora ramorum* and *P. kernoviae* in some gardens there. Following a recent restructure in the organisation Ann was appointed to a new senior role – Head of Heritage Gardening (policy) - in November 2016.

asteel@nts.org.uk

**Liliana Derewnicka**, Education Co-ordinator, Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)

Liliana Derewnicka has a BSc, from the University of Glasgow in Molecular and Cellular Biology, and an MSc, from Imperial College London, in Science Communication. In her current role, as BGCI's Education Co-ordinator she is involved in developing, delivering and supporting public engagement activities in botanic gardens around the world. BGCI's Communities in Nature programme, which seeks to support botanic gardens to work

towards social justice, has become an underlying ideology of the department. Therefore, participatory and inclusive approaches are encouraged in each strand of Liliana's work. Currently, Liliana is involved in project management of BigPicnic, BGCI's Horizon 2020 project; encouraging public debate on food security across Europe and in Uganda. Liliana is also supporting the development of the course content for LearnToEngage – a new modular blended learning course funded by Erasmus+. LearnToEngage aims to build botanic gardens capacity in interpretation, science communication, working with diverse audiences and research and evaluation.

[liliana.derewnicka@bgci.org](mailto:liliana.derewnicka@bgci.org)

# RESOURCES

## **Plant collecting and conservation: Garden and Collections Management - Legal Frameworks and processes**

### **The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

Opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties up to now, the Convention has near universal participation among countries. The Convention seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous and local communities, youth, NGOs, women and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety is a subsidiary agreement to the Convention. It seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 170 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Secretariat of the Convention and its Cartagena Protocol is located in Montreal.

[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

## The Nagoya Protocol

*The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity* was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, and entered into force on 12 October 2014. The Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources. By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being. To date, 68 Parties have ratified the Nagoya Protocol.

The full text of the Nagoya Protocol is available at:

Nagoya protocol on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization to the convention on biological diversity; text and annex

© 2011 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. To download: [www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/abs/doc/protocol/nagoya-protocol-en.pdf)

## **Information on Access and benefit Sharing (ABS)**

The ABS-Clearing-House

<https://absch.cbd.int/>

BGCI webpages

[www.bgci.org/resources/abs/](http://www.bgci.org/resources/abs/)

EU Regulations:

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/international/abs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/international/abs/index_en.htm)

You Tube

ABS Simply Explained

## **Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs)**

A Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) is a document used to outline the terms under which material is supplied. CBD-friendly MTAs generally set out permitted uses of material, terms for supply to others, requirements for benefit-sharing, and usually, non-commercialisation. Many gardens now use a standard form, to which extra terms can be added where necessary (for example if the material was acquired under a more restrictive permit).

*Extract from Botanic Gardens Conservation International  
[www.bgci.org](http://www.bgci.org)*

## **International Plant Exchange Network (IPEN)**

A model for the acquisition and the exchange of living plant material within the botanic gardens community in respect of the ABS requirements of the CBD. IPEN is a voluntary registration system intending to facilitate the botanic gardens plant exchange

in accordance with the CBD provisions. IPEN is characterised by the following aspects:

- only for botanic gardens according to the definition by the BGCI
- IPEN covers only the exchange of living plant material, meaning living plants or parts of plants
- only for non-commercial exchanges: Plants must not be sold for profit or used for any kind of commercial activity
- IPEN includes a documentation system (IPEN numbers, that makes the origin of the plant material traceable at any stage of plant exchange

The backbone of the network is the IPEN Code of Conduct, a three-page document stating the unified policy of the IPEN member. This covers acquisition, maintenance and supply of living plant material by the gardens as well as benefit-sharing. The Code further provides a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) to be used for exchanges with institutions that are not member of the IPEN network.

Abstract from [www.bgci.org](http://www.bgci.org)

## **International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP)**

The ICCP, established in 1991, combines taxonomic, conservation, genetic and horticultural research with international capacity building for conifer conservation.

Conifers are among the world's most threatened groups of plants yet contain some of the world's most ecologically and economically important species. 211 of the world's 615 conifer species (34%) are currently listed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) as being of conservation concern. Principal threats include logging, uncontrolled forest fires, open-cast mining, and conversion of forests to pasture and arable land.

The work of the ICCP, based at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, in helping to conserve some of the world's most threatened conifers is discussed. Methods used by the ICCP include both in situ conservation (the preferred method, though not always the safest) and ex situ conservation. As part of the latter, the ICCP has developed a network of 'safe sites', where plants collected in the wild as seed or cuttings can be grown. Plants in 'safe sites' are carefully monitored and biological data recorded. 'Safe sites' are also a way to communicate conservation of threatened plants to the lay public. An example of this is the Chilean Temperate Rainforest Project at Benmore Botanic Garden, where threatened conifers from Chile are displayed in a re-creation of a Chilean temperate rainforest habitat.

[http://www.ishs.org/ishs-article/615\\_45](http://www.ishs.org/ishs-article/615_45)

<http://www.rbge.org.uk/science/genetics-and-conservation/conifer-conservation>

## **Identifying threatened plants**

The most comprehensive database of conservation assessments of plants. Organised and hosted by Botanic gardens Conservation International.

- Search over 242,000 conservation assessments, representing over 150,000 taxa.
- Find out if a plant has a global or regional conservation assessment
- Find out if a plant is considered threatened

[www.bgci.org/threat\\_search.php](http://www.bgci.org/threat_search.php)

For more information on CBD, Nagoya Protocol and ABS please go to our website and also look at our Nagoya Training Day resource booklet from 2015.

## **Developing strategies for your garden**

### **Action Plan for Botanic Gardens in the European Union**

There are around 800 botanic gardens in Europe and in most countries these are linked through national botanic garden networks, of which PlantNetwork is one.

The Action Plan sets out for botanic gardens in the EU more than 30 objectives on science and horticulture; heritage and culture; conservation of biodiversity; education, training and awareness; networking and co-operation; capacity building; and funding to

implement the Action Plan. It provides an EU wide framework and shared set of priorities and defines a role for botanic gardens in the 21st century, with common agreed targets. Its purpose is to provide a methodology for examining an institutional response: What is its mission, is it clearly understood and defined; what are its roles in botanical research, conservation, education and horticulture; can all staff be involved in the preparation of a response to the action plan?

The Action plan, currently under revision, provides an opportunity for gardens to review current policies, management practices, procedures, management, resources and facilities. It is an ideal base from which to develop your policies, management plans and plan future projects and is relevant to all gardens, not just botanic gardens. It is a good starting point to help develop your mission statement, define core aims and by contributing to some of the plan's objectives will help raise the profile of your garden.

[www.botanicgardens.eu/action/actionplaneu.htm](http://www.botanicgardens.eu/action/actionplaneu.htm)

## **Collection Policies**

A Collection could include living plants and fungi including seed, pollen and spores; herbarium specimens; DNA; reference material derived from scientific study, e.g. chromosome slides; economic botany artefacts; accompanying literature, i.e. libraries and archives. The collection could be as large as the entire holdings of a botanic garden with an institute mission and linked to a national or international network. Alternatively, it may be just one of several collections in a botanic garden. Its purpose could

be singular or multi-disciplinary. It could be historical, recent or proposed and be of varying size and resources.

A Collection Policy is a written document which acts as a practical management tool by defining the limits of the collection and guiding the actions of its manager through future developments. It should embrace the remit of the organisation; be formulated using a clear methodology; be practical, achievable and flexible; be subjected to constant review and, if necessary, revision.

Dr David Rae RBGE  
**BGCI Magazine Plant Collection Policy**-are Guidelines Needed?  
Volume 2 Number 6 - June 1996

More information on managing plant collection management is available in our 2015 Annual conference resources booklet 'Plant collections management; keeping it legal, ethical and relevant' available on our website.

## **Be part of something bigger**

There are a number of National and International days that relate to gardens and plant collections. Planning an event to link with these celebratory days is a great way of being part of something bigger. Of particular relevance is the International Day for Biological Diversity, held on 22 May each year. The day was initiated by The United Nations in 1993.

The International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB) to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. The theme for 2017 is *Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism*

This theme has been chosen to coincide with the observance of 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 70/193 and for which the United Nations World Tourism Organization is providing leadership.

[www.cbd.int/idb/2017/](http://www.cbd.int/idb/2017/)

## **Community Projects**

### **Grow Wild**

Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Through us millions of people are doing

Grow Wild is the UK's biggest-ever wild flower campaign, bringing people together to transform local spaces with native, pollinator-friendly wild flowers and plants.

Supported by the Big Lottery Fund, Grow Wild is the national outreach initiative of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Through us millions of people are doing something positive where they live; connecting with wild flowers, plants and places around them,

taking notice of nature, getting active, learning new things and sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm.

We believe that this simple act of creativity can turn spaces into beautiful, inspiring and colourful wildlife havens; encouraging people to care for and delight in the nature around them.

Kew's Grow Wild initiative has eight distinct activity areas delivered online and on-the-ground across the UK.

[www.growwilduk.com](http://www.growwilduk.com)

### **Eden on Prescription**

This pilot programme, launched in autumn 2016, makes use of Eden's iconic destination to support and treat people with a range of conditions from mental ill health to diabetes, through social prescribing.

Eden believe that being in and around the natural environment, and giving people social shared experiences, provides us with the basis to improve our health and wellbeing. That's why we're running several 'social prescribing' projects.

## What is social prescribing?

Social prescribing enables GPs to refer patients with medical, social, emotional or practical needs to a range of local, non-clinical services such as exercise programmes, social clubs and nature-based activities – in the same way they would prescribe a drug, or refer a patient to a hospital.

Whatever the activity, they can give people new life opportunities, help them form new relationships, be creative and increase their activity levels. Social prescribing also empowers people to take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing, and gives them a choice about their treatment – finding activities that work for them.

Given that in 2016 approximately two-thirds of the Department of Health budget was being spent on secondary care services, such as mental health services, and treating conditions such as Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), social prescribing makes economic sense too.

## Eden's 'prescriptions'

### Walking groups

Building on the success of our COPD walking group, we are now also running a walking group for people with diabetes. We walk all over the Eden site with walks for different abilities. The physical benefits of walking are numerous, including improved heart health, lowering blood pressure, increasing cardiovascular conditioning and improved muscle tone and strength. It also

increases metabolism and burns calories. But there are social benefits too. Most of the group would say that they wouldn't walk alone.

## Eden Lunch Club

It is said that isolation is a bigger risk factor among older people than obesity or physical inactivity. We are piloting a weekly lunch club for local older people. Most of our members are in their 80s, and have a range of conditions that leave them housebound – from severe mobility impairments to deaf and blindness – or simply lack access to affordable transport. We invite them on a short walk and then have lunch in one of our onsite cafes. We're delighted that some of the lunch club members have started to talk about meeting together at other times.

## Horticulture therapy

This weekly programme offers people living with mental ill health the opportunity to develop a range of horticultural skills in Eden's gardens and wider estate. The group is learning techniques such as plant care through to more practical and creative things like building raised beds or willow weaving. Whatever the activity, the aim is to develop a sense of value in participants, often lost during periods of mental ill health, increase independence and confidence, and improve their ability to plan and to adapt to issues. The garden also yields produce for harvest, providing the opportunity to cook, eat and socialise together.

<http://www.edenproject.com/eden-story/our-ethos/eden-on-prescription>.

## Communities in Nature

How can Botanic Gardens Grow Their Social Role? Lessons from the Communities in Nature Programme:

Communities in Nature was a 5 year programme run by Botanic Gardens Communities International (BGCI). Following its completion in 2015 Calouste Gulbenkian, the funder, commissioned a review of the programme's achievements. This summary report outlines what was learnt during Communities in Nature's duration as well as recommendations for future working.

<https://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/communitiesIN/Gulbenkian%20BGCI%20lr.pdf>

BGCI supports botanic gardens to grow their social role. This means working with their local communities on common issues of social and environmental importance, for the enduring benefit of those communities, the gardens themselves, and towards a sustainable future for our planet. To achieve this, the Communities in Nature Portal offers a range of resources including publications, videos and case studies to share best practice in the field.

[https://www.bgci.org/public-engagement/communities\\_in\\_nature/](https://www.bgci.org/public-engagement/communities_in_nature/)

Sign up for Communities in Nature mailing list

Share your expertise in running community projects or learn from experienced organisations. Share ideas, resources, questions

and events with botanic gardens around the world by signing up to this new mailing list. Sign up online or email [listserv@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:listserv@jiscmail.ac.uk) (Subject: Subscribe. Message: SUBSCRIBE CIN Firstname Lastname)

<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?SUBED1=CIN&A=1>

### **BigPicnic website**

BigPicnic is BGCI's Horizon 2020 project. Through a consortium of 19 Partners, BigPicnic seeks to encourage and support public debate and Responsible Research and Innovation, related to food security, across Europe and in Uganda. The BigPicnic website contains project information and updates as well as resources to support other organisations to develop new public engagement approaches such as co-creation and Team-Based Inquiry, which can help to engage with new audiences.

<https://www.bigpicnic.net/>

### **Caring for your community: a manual for botanic gardens**

Developed as part of Communities in Nature, this manual presents a range of community projects from botanic gardens around the world. The aim of the manual is to showcase best practice and illustrate how botanic gardens can develop projects that have significant social benefits for those involved and the wider community.

[https://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/communitiesIN/Caring%20for%20your%20community\\_small.pdf](https://www.bgci.org/files/Worldwide/Education/communitiesIN/Caring%20for%20your%20community_small.pdf)

## **Common Ground**

Common Ground was founded in 1983 by Sue Clifford, Angela King and the writer Roger Deakin to seek imaginative ways to engage people with their local environment. The idea of Local Distinctiveness is at the heart of everything we do, and for the last thirty years we have captured the imagination of people all over the country by creating projects like Apple Day, Parish Maps and New Milestones, all of which continue to inspire our new projects and unearth the strong connections that communities have with the landscape that surrounds them.

[www.commonground.org.uk](http://www.commonground.org.uk)

## **Citizen Science Projects**

Citizen science – the involvement of volunteers in science – isn't new. Within the UK we have a long and rich tradition of scientific discovery by unpaid individuals and interest groups. Indeed our current understanding of UK wildlife and the wider environment is due in large part to the dedication and expertise of the naturalist community. Over the past decade, there has been a rapid increase in the diversity and scale of citizen science. Initiatives range from crowd sourcing activities, in which the time and effort of large numbers of people are used to solve a problem or analyse a large dataset, to small groups of volunteers, who are experts in their own right, collecting and analysing environmental data and sharing their findings. The range of possible approaches can be bewildering, but when it is planned and executed well, citizen science can increase scientific knowledge,

raise people's awareness of their environment and allow like-minded people to share enthusiasm and knowledge (extract from The UK Environmental Observation Framework).

## **The UK Environmental Observation Framework**

The UKEOF works to improve coordination of the observational evidence needed to understand and manage the changing natural environment. Their website includes a number of resources to support Citizen science projects such as contracts, cost benefit analysis and evaluation reports. It also includes a number of case studies, including the RBGE Phenology projects.

<http://www.ukeof.org.uk/>

UKEOF 'Guide to Citizen science' available from:

<http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-involved/toolkit-useful-links-and-case-studies/>

More citizen science resources available to download from:  
<http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/get-involved/toolkit-useful-links-and-case-studies/>

## **The Citizen Science Alliance**

The CSA is a collaboration of scientists, software developers and educators who collectively develop, manage and utilise internet-

based citizen science projects in order to further science itself, and the public understanding of both science and of the scientific process. These projects use the time, abilities and energies of a distributed community of citizen scientists who are our collaborators.

<https://www.citizensciencealliance.org/>

## **Zooniverse**

Citizen Science Alliance projects live within the 'Zooniverse', the home of Citizen Science on the web. Each is inspired by a science team who provide the initial ideas, the reassurance that what we're doing can make a real contribution and an audience who are willing to use the end result. We are working with a wide variety of partners, from classicists to climate scientists and ecologists to planetary scientists.

If you're looking to take part as a citizen scientist you can find our collection of projects on the Zooniverse website.

If your research could benefit from a citizen science project, find out how you can build your own project with the online project builder or contact Zooniverse if you have a custom project in mind.

[collab@zooniverse.org](mailto:collab@zooniverse.org)

## **Observatree**

Our aim is to protect the UK's trees, woods and forests from new pests and diseases – either arriving or spreading across the country. The earlier these are spotted, the higher the chances that outbreaks can be eliminated or controlled.

We encourage tree health professionals and people actively involved with trees to act as citizen scientists and report potential sightings of anything worrying. More eyes on the ground means a greater chance of earlier detection. A wide range of resources and training materials are available to help improve knowledge of our priority pests and diseases.

Concerns should be submitted to Tree Alert in the first instance. Find out more about how to report a new pest or disease using Tree Alert.

<http://www.observatree.org.uk>

## **OPAL**

Open Air Laboratories gets you close to nature with national surveys and our community scientist network. Over 54,000 surveys have been submitted to the web portal on subjects including air quality, biodiversity, brownfield sites and tree health.

<https://www.opalexplornature.org>

# **PlantNetwork Forum Groups**

We would like to encourage the sharing of skills and interests amongst our members. We aim to facilitate those working in gardens and with plant collections to be able to meet, share common interests and discuss training needs. Forum Groups will help us gain closer links with our membership, create demand led training and keep PlantNetwork up to date with current issues and skills needs.

## **What Forum Groups are there?**

Over the years we have a number of groups. The most successful and frequent has been the Plant Records Forum group. We also have interest in developing Forum groups on Glasshouses, Trees, Propagation, Garden Management and Botanical Heritage.

## **How can you help with a Forum Group?**

Our Forum groups could develop in a variety of ways. There is no set rule, we want to provide the support to people passionate about their subject and wanting to share their experiences, learn more themselves and develop a focus for our membership interested in the topic. We can help to coordinate, promote and deliver meetings, discussion groups and training days. You don't need to be an expert, just interested and willing to help us find the experts and relevant locations to deliver networking and training.

Please get in touch with Pam at [office@plantnetwork.org](mailto:office@plantnetwork.org) to discuss involvement with existing or new groups.

# NOTES









## **Garden visits 2017**

We have a wealth of experience and broad range of gardens and collections within our membership. The PlantNetwork members' garden visits are more than a visit. They provide an opportunity to spend time with Garden Managers and Head Gardeners, look at facilities not available on public visits and also discuss projects, issues and share common experiences. They are not only great professional development but also provide an opportunity to look at a garden with fellow horticulturists.

Garden tours and discussions are 10.30 – 12.30, attendees are then free to use on site catering and continue their visit in their own time. Cost includes entry and tour.

More details on our website. Online booking £10.

If you are interested in offering your site for a professional visit please contact us.

### **13th July**

Audley End, Essex. Led by Alan North, Head Gardener

### **20<sup>th</sup> July**

Holker Hall, Cumbria. Led by Glyn Sherratt, Head Gardener.