



THE SOCIAL LIFE OF PLANTS

Jodrell Laboratory

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

Saturday 7 March, 11 am – 4pm

Welcome to this open day. Ethnobotany is the study of traditional uses of plants, and is of great relevance to human health, plant conservation and sustainable development. Today is your chance to meet researchers, handle the plants involved, and discuss the issues. Don't hesitate to ask questions!

UPSTAIRS ATRIUM

Basketmaking demonstrations *Christine Brewster, Berkshire; Mary Butcher, University of Kent*

Remembered Remedies: traditional uses of medicinal plants in the British Isles.
Olwen Grace, Kew; Mattie Pochee, Medical Herbalist.

British Medicinal Plants: investigating the properties and uses of medicinal plants at Kew.
Tom Prescott, Kew; Monique Simmonds, Kew

Insects and plants: crop protection. *Alison Scott Brown, Kew*

Merryweather's herbs: Tips on how to identify and grow your own herbs and plants
Ian and Liz O'Halloran

Edible greens from weeds: see and sample wild delicacies from the British countryside.
Gordon Hillman & colleagues

British home gardens: sheltering important biodiversity?
Simon Platten, University of Kent

Plant Cultures: history and living traditions of 25 plants from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.
Jill Turner, Kew; Sally Cunningham, Leicester

DOWNSTAIRS ATRIUM

Garden Africa: nutritious food and medicinal plants in southern Africa

The baobab tree: a great multipurpose tree of Africa. *Christine Buchmann, BOKU, Vienna*

The argan tree of Morocco: a Moroccan nut with superb taste and cosmetic properties.
Rachel Kaleta, University of Kent

Chamomiles as medicinal plants in the Basque Country, Spain
Rocio Alarcon

Traditional Chinese Medicine: botany and authentication of Chinese herbal remedies.
Christine Leon, Kew; Debbie Shaw, Medical Toxicology Unit, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital.

Supporting forest people to map their resources and monitor illegal logging in Cameroon
Jerome Lewis, University College London

The journey from plant to food: how food is defined and produced internationally
Nafisa Fera and Susanne Hammacher, Royal Anthropological Institute

University of Kent at Canterbury

Learn more about the Ethnobotany Masters Degree, taught jointly with Kew. *Current students*

Further Resources

What to learn more? Leaflets, books, & the Society for Economic Botany, the society for ethnobotanists.

BENNETT ROOM (OFF DOWNSTAIRS ATRIUM)

World textiles and plant fibres – striking textiles and fibres from Kew’s Economic Botany Collection *with past/present students from the Textile Conservation Centre*

LECTURE THEATRE

Ethnobotany film programme - enter and leave as you please

- 11.15 The Healing Forest, 40 mins, 1996.
- 12.00 Jungle Pharmacy, 52 mins, 1988.
- 13.00 The Shaman’s Apprentice, 54 mins, 2001.
- 14.00 Medicinal Plants in the Hidden Land of Dolpo, 26 mins, 2001.
Saving the Wooden Rhino, 25 mins, 1997.
- 15.00 Serious Rhubarb, 29mins, 1999.

THE GARDENS

After enjoying the Festival, please take a moment to fill out an evaluation form, then feel free to explore the Gardens. Within sight of the Jodrell Laboratory you will see the new Alpine House and, just beyond, the Princess of Wales greenhouse, with this year’s Tropical Extravaganza. There’s lots more to see, and catering nearby in the Orangery and Victoria Gate. Feel free to leave by any public gate; the Gardens shut at 5.30; most buildings shut at 5pm.

More about us...

The **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, is one of the world's leading botanic gardens. Holding over 1 in 8 of known plant species, the gardens at Kew and Wakehurst Place are the public face; behind the scenes, 200 scientists work on understanding and conserving plant and fungal biodiversity. The Sustainable Uses Group, based at the Jodrell Laboratory, is made up of 25 staff working on the links between traditional knowledge about plants and fungi, their chemistry, and their cultivation and uses.

www.kew.org/science

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The Department of Anthropology at the **University of Kent at Canterbury** is a leading research and teaching centre for ethnobotany. Fieldwork is carried out in Europe, North Africa, Indonesia and much of Latin America, including the Amazon rainforest. Research covers all areas of ethnobotany, including indigenous knowledge, sustainable harvesting and conservation, and medical anthropology. The Ethnobotany Masters Degree is now in its 11th year and has trained 100+ students from 20+ countries.

www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology

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The **Royal Anthropological Institute** is the world's longest-established scholarly association dedicated to anthropology (the study of humankind). It promotes the public understanding of anthropology, and the contribution of anthropology to public affairs. www.therai.org.uk

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The **Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)** funds research and training in social and economic issues. It funds over 2,500 researchers in academic institutions and policy research institutes throughout the UK, and more than 2,000 postgraduate students. The ESRC Festival of Social Science runs from Friday 6 March until Sunday 15 March 2009 and provides a fascinating insight into some of the country's leading social science research and how it influences our social, economic and political lives - both now and in the future. www.esrc.ac.uk

