



In November, under special licence, the fruits and seeds of Israel's rarest shrub - *Ziziphus nummularia* - were collected and photographed by JBG Scientific Director, Dr Ori Fragman-Sapir in the Eilat Mountains.

## Membership renewal

Your membership renewal is now due and the letter and leaflet accompanying this Newsletter explain some of the benefits of being a member. We've included extra leaflets in your mailing so you can pass them on to friends and family who might also enjoy our programme of events.

We are keen to update our database with mobile numbers and email addresses so please confirm these when you send your fee, using the form contained in the leaflet. We will be issuing membership cards to all 2015 members and you will need to bring these to the events you attend.

Don't forget to Gift Aid your membership by signing the declaration in the leaflet.

## Plant your questions ...

**We are delighted that there will be an opportunity for you to meet the Friends' new President, Andy Jackson, when he chairs our *Gardeners' Question Time\** on Tuesday, 27 January 2015.**

Submit your questions in advance to the Office so our panel of top professionals can help. We have Wolfgang Bopp of the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Stephen Crisp of Winfield House and Chris Warren, director of *The Botanical Gardener* and a former head gardener of the Gardens in Jerusalem.

They will answer all your queries, help you to make your winter garden more interesting and let you know what will survive the frost.

Venue: Hannah Klein's award-winning home in Hampstead. Time: 19.30hrs  
£20 members, £25 non-members

See page 3 for the full 2015 programme.

## News from Israel

### Interns go plant hunting...



Our current intern is **Hans Mackrodt** (above left), a Kew Diploma holder who arrived in Israel at the end of September to study on the propagation-track internship. Hans has already given an illustrated lecture about the plants he discovered during a stay in Ecuador, as part of a new English-language lecture series. He is working on the rare plant collection in the JBG nursery and other projects.

Hans accompanied Dr Ori Fragman Sapir, Australian intern **Tim Wall** (above right) and the Israeli Friends when they went northwards to visit the area around the Ayub Spring near to the Sea of Galilee. You may just be able to see a tiny patch of colour near Hans' foot - the picture (above centre) shows what they had climbed up to photograph - *Colchicum hiesolymitanum* - a beautiful autumnal bulb, found from Israel to Southern Turkey and named after the city of Jerusalem. Although not very rare, most of its habitats have been lost to agriculture and urban developments.

The internships of **Tim Wall** and **Trent Loane** have ended and we thank them for their hard work and dedication. Their placements were organised by Zel Lederman who is working with us and the Israeli Friends to expand the internship programme and to establish an Australian Friends group, so if you know anyone there who might be interested in getting involved, please let the Office know.

**New interns:** We have offered four-month placements on the curatorship track to **James Miller** and **Oren Rabinowitz**. James is a graduate of Writtle College and Oren, a Longwood graduate, is currently on a research project based just north of Eilat. Both will begin their placements in January 2015. We have also interviewed candidates for the 2015 Worms Scholarship (for final year Kew Diploma students) and have offered a four-week placement to **Jack Clutterbuck**, who will visit in May.

### Green Team expansion plans

The Green Team is one of 27 community projects initiated by the Gardens as part of the new Social and Environmental Hub. The project trains teenagers to lead; to launch and manage local projects in Jerusalem and to inspire others in the community to become active. Previous teams have initiated community gardens, roof-top gardens and established second-hand/upcycling shops.

The JBG would like to expand this project by training 50 young leaders during 2015 and are looking for sponsorship at a cost of £200 pp.



*At Sukkot, visitors of all ages were entertained with stories, paintings and songs inspired by the nearby plants.*

Pic: Judith Marcus

# Diary of Events January - June 2015

**Tuesday 27 January\***

***Gardeners' Question Time*** - see front cover

**Sunday 15 February\***

***Bring Spring Colour into your Winter Home***

We welcome Sue Eldridge, a floral designer who creates the glorious displays for Gravetye Manor Hotel & Restaurant. This event will include a light lunch and a chance to enjoy the demonstrations and ask questions.

Venue: Alyth Synagogue, Alyth Gardens, London NW11 7EN Time: 13.00hrs  
£20 members, £25 non-members

**Sunday 1 March – Thursday 12 March**

***Working Holiday***

A unique opportunity for amateur and professional gardeners of all ages to visit the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens and work in this wonderful place, experiencing the multi-faceted aspects of life in Israel. Contact Barbara for more information: friendsjbg@gmail.com or 020 8238 2779

**Thursday 19 March\***

***From Asparagus to Zeina; growing your own***

Aaron Bertelsen, gardener/cook at the world-renowned Great Dixter Gardens, will speak about the best vegetables to plant and how, when and where to grow them.

Location: Friends of JBG Trustee's home in London, NW3 Time: 19.00hrs  
£20 members, £25 non-members

**Thursday 30 April\***

***Plant Lore and Legend***

Award-winning garden writer, photographer and lecturer, Val Bourne, joins us to discuss how many of the plants that we grow have associations with lore and legend as reflected in their names like the achillea with its classical associations with Greek heroes like Achilles.

Location: A Garden Designer's home in Brondesbury, NW2 Time: 19.30hrs  
£20 members, £25 non-members

**Sunday 17 May\***

***Tour of Hever Castle & Gardens***

Exclusive to the Friends and under the expert guidance of head gardener, Neil Miller, we will enjoy the castle and also some of the secret places not usually open to the public. Enjoy the tour and the lovely cream tea afterwards.

Cost: £60 approx (TBC) – price includes coach, entrance, tours and tea. Bring your own lunch.

**Friends of JBG's 'Grow-your-own Bench' at the Chelsea Fringe 2015 from 16 May - 7 June**

We are very excited to be taking part in this year's Chelsea Fringe Alternative Gardening Extravaganza by building and planting a 'Grow-your-own Bench' which will be located at the LJCC.

**Tuesday 19 May** **Join us at the LJCC for the launch of the bench** & enjoy a selection of cheese-cakes in recognition of the Jewish festival of Shavuot Time: 15.00hrs Free of Charge

**Tuesday 23 June\***

***Tour of Jordan's Mill and Gardens***

Another exclusive opportunity for our Friends. Join alumna Svenja Burkhardt, now head gardener of Jordan's Mill to explore the newly-renovated gardens, tour the mill and take this chance to stock up on your favourite cereals! Cost: £60 approx (TBC) – price includes coach, entrance, tours and a light lunch.

**Exclusive Offer for Members:**

**Receive a 10% reduction when you book 2 or more starred\* events**

## Aaron Bertelsen cooks ...

The recipe we used in our last edition yielded many positive comments, so here is another of Aaron's recommendations (from Christopher Lloyd's book *Gardener Cook*).

### Tarragon chicken

Serves 4

- 1 chicken quartered, or 4 chicken thighs
- 1-2 onions, or 6-12 shallots
- 30g butter
- 1tbsp olive oil
- 1 glass dry white wine
- Several sprigs of tarragon
- Selection of fresh herbs, mixed

Brown the chicken in butter with a little olive oil to prevent the butter burning. Towards the end of browning, add one or two sliced onions or shallots. Then a glass of dry white wine and at least four sprigs of tarragon, more if possible. It's best to be generous.

Cover and place in a hot oven (230°C/450°F/Gas 8) for 40 minutes.

Transfer the chicken to a dish, remove the tarragon branches and finish off the gravy on the hob with a lump of fresh butter and mixed, chopped-up herbs – any of parsley, sorrel, chervil, dill, rocket, a lovage leaflet, one shoot each of thyme and winter savoury. Just stir them in and that's it.

*(People who are kosher will need to substitute ingredients)*



Our recent preview screening on 26 November of the award-winning film *The Green Prince* was a sell-out success raising just under £1,300 to support the internship programme. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the film's distributors, Artificial Eye, and everyone who attended. Thank you!

**Season's greetings to you  
and best wishes for  
a happy, healthy and, above all,  
a peaceful New Year**

## Watch this space ...

... for updates on what is happening.

### Working holiday

Dates will be 1-12 March 2015 (return dates negotiable). Includes return flights, half-board in a centrally located 3\* hotel, working with local professionals in the botanical gardens and some visits to places of interest. The cut-off date for applications is 31 January, so please get in touch before then.

### Open Garden Sundays

We are looking for more people who will hold an *Open Garden Sunday* any time from mid-May to end-July as part of our summer events at the LJCC (see page 3). Would you like to be part of this celebration?

We have registered with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) and can receive a percentage of your shopping spend (with no knowledge of what you purchase) and at no additional cost to you, other than the time it takes to register!

There are hundreds of retailers including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Selfridges and many more. Register with [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk)

### How to help

Just a reminder that you can pay for your membership and order gift memberships for those friends who everything else online at [www.friendsjbg.org.uk](http://www.friendsjbg.org.uk).

If you prefer, you can also make a donation to support our work or mark a special occasion by paying directly into our bank, using our details which are:

**Bank: Barclays**

**A/c name: Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens**

**Sort code: 20-29-41 Account no: 83187926**

or via

[www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsjbg](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsjbg)

If you are sending a cheque or charity voucher to the office address below, please make it payable to 'Friends of JBG'.