



The World of Kew (A New Year at Kew)

Carolyn Fry

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Without plants, there would be no life on earth. Kew Gardens is famous for its breathtaking displays of flowers and trees, but this World Heritage Site is also a globally important scientific and historical organization. Scientists and gardeners use the plants and knowledge that have been collected at Kew since the eighteenth century to advance understanding of the earth's environment and of how plant life can be used for human benefit.

Published to accompany the ten-part BBC2 series *A New Year at Kew*, this fascinating book takes us behind the scenes to show the extraordinary range of work carried out at Kew Gardens and Wakehurst Place - home to the Millennium Seed Bank - and by Kew staff overseas. From using forensic botany to micropaginating plants facing extinction, from investigating herbal cures from Alzheimer's disease to replanting the volcano-ravaged island of Montserrat, the book shows us aspects of Kew's work that are largely hidden from view but the benefits of which are far reaching! In the process it provides an absorbing and accessible introduction to such topical subjects as biodiversity, practical conservation and economic botany.

Lavishly illustrated and filled with engrossing stories and engaging characters, this book brings to life the world of Kew and the global importance of its work.



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