



Annual Report 2021

Chartered Institute of 
Horticulture

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President's Welcome

On behalf of the Trustees it is my pleasure to introduce to you our Annual Report for 2021.

We did not envisage that we would still be challenged with the Covid-19 pandemic throughout the year. However, we have continued to take advantage of online meetings at national and branch level, embraced online events and have delivered a range of continuing professional development opportunities to our members. Thank you to British Growers who have continued provision of secretariat services.

New members of the Council of Trustees have provided additional expertise, complementing the experience of continuing officers and representatives. In December 2021 we completed the Strategic Plan for the next five years and through our quarterly Council of Trustees meetings we will begin delivering on the strategy and shaping the future direction of the Institute. Branch Chairs also meet quarterly ensuring that we have positive dialogue with branch members.

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture is financially stable and our membership is in growth. Thank you to all members who have contributed to our success, in particular the Management Board and Development Officer for their hard work.

I am one year into my tenure, and I am looking forward to implementing the new initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. Thank you for your continued support, I commend this Annual Report to all.

Susan Nicholas

**Susan Nicholas FCIHort
President**



To promote the profession of horticulture and the professionalism of those working in the industry

Horticulture is a profession to be proud of, the impact of horticulture on human health, wellbeing and sustainability is immeasurable; from the production of nutritious vegetables, fruits and other horticultural crops to the impact of well designed, constructed and maintained public and private green spaces. As an institute we are proud to celebrate this impact as a way of encouraging others to consider a professional career in horticulture.

Grow Careers

Inspiration and innovation were both in great supply at the Grow Careers event organised by CIH Trustee **George Gilchrist FCIHort** and colleagues in the Scotland Branch. The event was live-streamed to colleges and individuals across the UK, Ireland and even internationally. With an inspired programme of headline speakers including **Dr Suzanne Moss** from the Royal Horticultural Society; who discussed the value of ornamental and environmental horticulture in the context of the drive for climate 'net zero' by 2050. Fellow CIH Trustee **Phil Pearson FCIHort**, Director of the APS Group; one of the UK's largest protected crop producers spoke enthusiastically on the career opportunities in commercial horticulture. Phil did much to dispel the myths around salaries, conditions and progression opportunities. Offering an international perspective, the Director of the Jenkins Arboretum **Tom Smarr** spoke about his personal career journey '*A Career in Horticulture: seeking nature's place in the urban world*', using high profile case studies from the USA including the Highline in New York to illustrate the potential opportunities available to horticulturists abroad.

The popular 'Flash talks' were provided by three early-career horticulturists: **Duncan Young**, gave an insight into micro-propagation at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. **Fiona Inglis** shared her experience of setting up her walled garden cut-flower business; Pyrus. Finally, **Nick Lazio**, a Longwood Fellowship Graduate talked on the importance of plant collecting linked to climate change.

Opposite, YHOY Finalists with National Organiser Victoria George. Photo Chris Bird

Young Horticulturist of the Year

Our flagship event; the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition returned in 2021. The first round of the competition was staged on a newly-designed virtual platform and the regional finals were held on Zoom. We were, however, able to stage an in-person Grand Final at Logan Botanic Garden, Scotland. Garden Curator **Richard Baines** acted as Question Master and led visitors on a tour of the garden after the competition. The winner was **Tim Stafford**, an RBG Kew Diploma student. After a year of lockdowns and on-line branch competitions being able to hold the physical event was even more special. Tim received a £2500 travel bursary from the Percy Thrower Trust. The event continues to showcase and inspire the great young talent in the industry with substantial prizes for winning participants, many thanks to all of the sponsors, regional organisers and National YHOY Coordinator **Victoria George MCIHort**.

Promoting horticulture as a profession continues to be the key mission in our strategic plan. Advocating for the rich diversity of career opportunities in the sector is a key feature of attending public orientated garden shows such as the Harrogate Flower Show and the Scottish Garden Show to which we will return in 2022. My personal thanks to all branch committees and working groups who have contributed to our work in this area over the past year.

David Richardson CHort FCIHort Vice-President





To act as an authoritative body; consulting with Government and other policy making bodies on matters of interest or concern to professional horticulturists

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture represents members across a wide range of sectors within the industry, and has representation on a number of cross sector bodies.

We continue to be part of the Ornamental Horticulture Roundtable Group (OHRG) who are actively lobbying government through the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) 'Gardening and Horticulture' and DEFRA, on matters relating directly to the horticulture industry.

In 2021 the report '*Growing a Green Economy: The importance of ornamental horticulture and landscaping to the UK*' commissioned by the OHRG was published, showcasing an industry with the potential to make a huge contribution to the UK's economic, social, and environmental renewal over the next decade.

The Chair of Education and Qualifications Committee Dr David Elphinstone represents the interests of the CIH on the OHRG Employment and Education subgroup. Allowing us to have direct input into analysing industry skills requirements and future training and education initiatives.

The Institute of Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH), who gained DEFRA funding in 2021 to develop an

innovative framework to recognise and continuously develop a skilled workforce and inspire and encourage lifelong learning in the Agri-food sector in England. During the year we have been represented directly on the main consultation committee and have also been involved in two working groups: Professional Framework & Continuous Professional Development and Careers & Apprenticeships.

CIH Development Officer Helen Sessions is directly involved in a number of groups, at all levels who are shaping future qualifications for the industry, particularly work-based learning, apprenticeships and T-levels.

Regionally, a number of branch committee officers represent the CIH on consultative bodies; In Scotland Branch Vice-Chair George Gilchrist sits on a cross college and industry group looking at the horticultural curriculum needs in Scotland. Officers and Members also hold positions and trusteeships within other horticultural organisations including: Plant Heritage the Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association and RBG Kew, amongst others.

**Susan Nicholas FCIHort
President**



To confer recognised status upon professionally qualified and experienced horticulturists

The CIH continues to confer recognised status on qualified and experienced professional horticulturists as a prerequisite of membership. Becoming a Chartered Horticulturist (CHort) continues to be the ultimate achievement as a horticultural professional; demonstrating expertise, integrity and a commitment to maintaining one's own learning through continuing professional development. In 2021 Chartership was granted to: **Mark Finnegan CHort MCIHort**, **John Marsden CHort MCIHort** and **Lewis Normand CHort MCIHort**.

The CIH continues to honour individuals with a range of accolades. In 2021 Council were pleased to endorse two nominations for Fellowship of the CIH in recognition of outstanding contributions to the horticulture industry. Firstly, **Dr Caroline Elliot-Kingston CHort FCIHort** in recognition of her distinguished academic achievements and secondly to **Andrew Fisher Tomlin CHort FCIHort** for his excellent portfolio of international landscape designs.

The President's Award is awarded to an individual by the President for their outstanding contribution to the

industry. In 2021 the award was presented to **Dr Allen Langton FCIHort** in recognition of his longstanding commitment to the Institute and prestigious career in applied horticultural science.

In 2021 the **Aberconway Award** for the best horticultural dissertation was awarded to **Megan Webb** from Writtle University College for her dissertation entitled '*The morphological plasticity of Sarracenia seedlings in response to supplementary nutrient*'. The award commemorates Lord Aberconway who contributed personally and financially to the establishment of the Institute.

A new award was launched in 2021 in memory of longstanding member **Pamela Pointer**. In recognition of outstanding achievement in academic and practical pursuits, this experiential award will support the winners to attend the annual CIH conference; introducing them to learned society membership, networking and continuous learning. The inaugural recipients of the Pamela Pointer Award were **Natalie Batsch** (University College Dublin) and **Jamie Gault** (CAFRE).

Chartered Horticulturists

David Adlam CHort FCIHort
Tom Angel CHort MCIHort
Steve Arnold CHort MCIHort
Ian Barnes CHort MCIHort
Sue Barnes CHort MCIHort
Heather Barrett-Mold CHort FCIHort
Matthew Bartlett CHort MCIHort
Peter Beagan CHort MCIHort
Roger Beauchamp CHort FCIHort
Stephen Bernhard CHort FCIHort
Adam Blunt CHort MCIHort
Gerald Bonner CHort FCIHort
Stefan Buczacki CHort FCIHort
Sarah Byrne CHort MCIHort
Franziska Cheeseman CHort MCIHort
Brian Cheng CHort MCIHort
Mark Chester CHort MCIHort
Christine Ching CHort MCIHort
Andrew Cotterill CHort MCIHort
Brian Crane CHort FCIHort
Joseph Croke CHort MCIHort
Kenneth Crowther CHort MCIHort
Steven Cuthill CHort MCIHort
Stephen Davies CHort FCIHort
Geoffrey Deeble CHort MCIHort
Steven Desmond CHort FCIHort
David Domoney CHort FCIHort
Owen Doyle CHort FCIHort
Gordon Eastham CHort MCIHort
Gerald Edwards CHort MCIHort
Caroline Elliott-Kingston CHort FCIHort
Mark Evison CHort MCIHort
Anna Eyres CHort FCIHort
Mark Finnegan CHort MCIHort
Andrew Fisher Tomlin CHort FCIHort
Emanuel Flecken CHort MCIHort
Marcus Forster CHort MCIHort
Edward Freeman CHort MCIHort
Charles Funke CHort FCIHort
Declan Gallagher CHort MCIHort
Antony Geddes CHort MCIHort
Malcolm Giles CHort FCIHort
Carol Gordon-Alleyne CHort MCIHort
Francis Gordon-Alleyne CHort MCIHort
David Gregory CHort MCIHort
Samantha Harvey CHort MCIHort
Frank Hawkins CHort MCIHort
Dorothy Hayden CHort MCIHort
Patrick Hegarty CHort MCIHort
Michael Higgins CHort MCIHort
Simon Higson CHort MCIHort
Colin Hindmarch CHort FCIHort
Elaine Hughes CHort MCIHort
Theresa Huxley CHort FCIHort
Simon Jones CHort MCIHort
Donal Kearney CHort MCIHort
Ciaran Keaveny CHort MCIHort
Miranda Kingston CHort MCIHort
David Knott CHort FCIHort
Charalambos Kordatos CHort FCIHort
Martin Latimer CHort FCIHort
Ching Lau CHort MCIHort
Boaz Leung CHort MCIHort
Hoi Chi Li CHort MCIHort
Miaw Lim CHort MCIHort
Patrick Loh CHort MCIHort
Gerald Luckhurst CHort MCIHort
John Marsden CHort MCIHort
Andrew Maskell CHort MCIHort
Glynis Maynard-Bligouras CHort FCIHort
Valerie McBride-Munro CHort MCIHort
Stephen McCallum CHort MCIHort
Ian McDermott CHort MCIHort
Bryony Mills CHort MCIHort
Susan Minter CHort FCIHort
Paul Mooney CHort MCIHort
Leigh Morris CHort FCIHort
Richard Morton CHort MCIHort
Harold Mycock CHort MCIHort
John Nicholls CHort MCIHort
Lewis Normand CHort MCIHort
Margaret Norton CHort FCIHort
William Notcutt CHort MCIHort
Clive Parker CHort FCIHort
Mark Pollard CHort MCIHort
Colin Quinney CHort MCIHort
David Richardson CHort FCIHort
James Robinson CHort MCIHort
Barbara Segall CHort FCIHort
Helen Sessions CHort MCIHort
Mark Shaw CHort MCIHort
Bernard Sheridan CHort MCIHort
John Shropshire CHort FCIHort
William Simpson CHort FCIHort
Francis Squires CHort MCIHort
Paul Stacey CHort MCIHort
Lynn Stevens CHort FCIHort
Duncan Thomas CHort MCIHort
Kelly Thompson CHort MCIHort
George Thorburn CHort MCIHort
Nigel Thorne CHort FCIHort
Peter Thurman CHort FCIHort
Stanley TSUI Ka Hing CHort MCIHort
Keith Vernon CHort FCIHort
Richard Wassell CHort MCIHort
William Watkins CHort FCIHort
John Weir CHort FCIHort
Claire Woods CHort FCIHort
Ching-tin Yu CHort MCIHort



To promote educational and training opportunities and encourage the development of all disciplines within horticulture

Our popular webinar series returned in 2021, the schedule began with a Social and Therapeutic Horticulture Panel Discussion with **Felicity Weeks MCIHort**, **Ian Bocock**, **Imogen Jackson MCIHort** and **Annabelle Padwick**, chaired by **Sue Jeffries MCIHort**. Together, panellists shared their experiences of working in the sector and debated key topics such as evaluation tools, training and funding.

CIH Vice-President **David Richardson CHort FCIHort**, Director of Horticulture for the Commonwealth War Graves Commission shared his highs and lows of operating a global horticulture workforce of over 850 personnel in the midst of the global pandemic.

Sustainability was the key theme of several sessions, firstly, Melcourt Technical Director **Catherine Dawson MCIHort** offered a perspective on growing media in the UK in 2021. The Author of *'Plastic Free Gardening'* **Fiona Thackeray** provided inspiration and practical assistance on how to approach plastic-free gardening. **Dimitrisz Sopisz MCIHort**, Grounds and Gardens Supervisor at Queen Mary University offered his perspective on regenerative horticultural practices.

Keith Sacre, Director at Barcham Trees gave an overview of the carbon capture rating scheme for trees, designed to illustrate the environmental credentials of tree choices. Integrated pest management and pheromones were explored by **Dr Sam Jones**, Technical Director of International Pheromone Systems. Sam introduced the role of semiochemicals, and how they can be used in larger scale horticultural systems and traditional garden settings alike.

Opportunities for face-to-face meetings returned in the later part of 2021. Our structured program of visits to a range of horticultural businesses, nurseries, gardens and research centres remains a valuable form of continuing professional development.

In July, the West Midlands & South Wales Branch visited **Hergest Croft**, the private garden of plantswoman and CIH member **Elizabeth Banks FCIHort**. Members toured the grounds and arboretum led by the keeper of the records Rowan Griffiths. In August the Eastern Branch visited the renowned kitchen garden at **Audley End**, members were given a guided tour of the gardens by Head Gardener Louise Ellis .

The Scotland Branch had a guided tour of **Dundee Botanic Gardens** led by Kevin Frediani, Garden Curator. Kevin explained the role of the garden as a living laboratory, enabling research on sustainability, ecological leadership and nature based solutions. The Branch later visited **Saughton Park**, this 34 acre formal garden features the largest herbaceous border in Edinburgh.

Members in the Eastern and South East branches enjoyed a day of joint visits in Essex to **Ulting Wick** and **'Furzelea'**. Members reported finding the horticultural excellence in both gardens to be inspirational, especially as this was the first opportunity for many of them to meet given pandemic constraints.

The West Midlands & South Wales Branch ended the year by visiting **Newleaf Wholesale nurseries**, Evesham. Specialising in clematis and climbing plants, the owners explained the finer points of clematis propagation, which can sometimes have variable success rates.

Financial Report

2021 continued to be a good financial year for the Chartered Institute of Horticulture, despite COVID-19. At year end the Institute was in a stronger financial position than at the start of the year. Income increased to £144.3K composed of membership fees of almost £134.6.6K which were some 9% more than in 2020, and Publications £4K. As the final of the YHOY competition was held much later in the year than normal the sponsorship of £14.3K due from Shropshire Horticultural Society had not been received at year end.

Expenditure was also significantly higher at £154.5K. This was largely attributed to the fact that the new Development Officer took up her position in mid-February and the fact that there were increased activities during the year compared to 2020. The main items of expenditure were Secretariat charges of £58K, Development Officer £32.7K, IT and Database £14.1K, *The Horticulturist* £16.4K, YHOY heats £6.2K and final £10.2K, Auditors and Insurance £4.8K, Meetings £3.7K and Miscellaneous £8.4K. This gave an operating deficit for the year of £10.2K.

Our investments in NFU mutual were valued at £116.7K at the end of 2020 but increased to £127.9K at the end of 2021. Our deposit in CCLA amounted to £151.7K. In addition, we had a bank balance at the end of the year of £60.6K This left the Institute with reserves of £340.2K at the end of 2021 compared with £335.4K at the end of 2020.

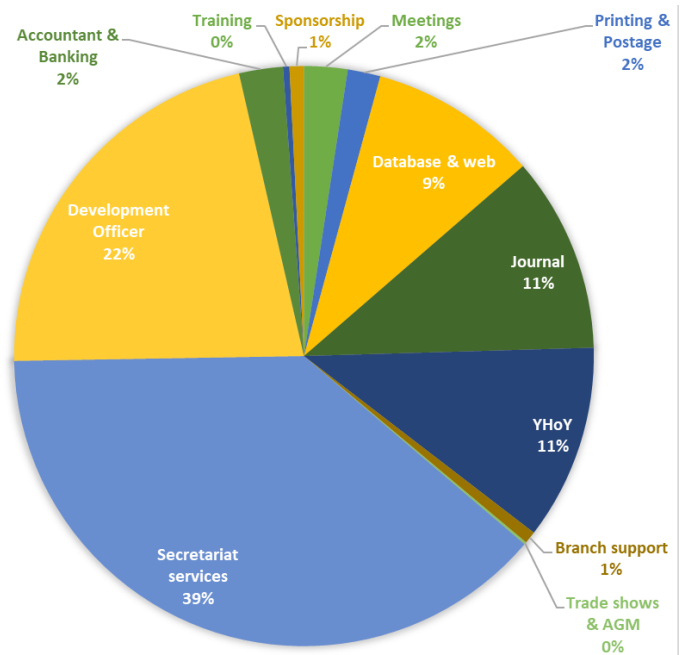
Membership fees were unchanged for 2021.

The Management Board and Council continued to monitor income and expenditure very closely over the year with the aim of maximizing income and ensuring that the expenditure contributed to the capacity of the Institute to deliver an enhanced professional service for the membership. The full audited accounts for 2021 will be published on our website.

Charitable and Public Benefit

The Charity Commission requires all charities to make an annual statement as to the way their activities benefit the public. The Institute considers that the promotion of Chartered Status provides both the horticultural industry and its members with added

Expenditure 2021



professional status as more members become 'Chartered Horticulturists'. The collaborative work of the Institute with key organisations ensure both the Institute and the industry has a voice on the wider stage. The Trustees are mindful of the Charity Commission Guidance on public benefit.

Reserves Policy

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture's policy concerning the level of cash and investments is to have funds available to: meet liabilities as they fall due; meet emergencies and build up investments over a period with the aim of providing an additional income stream to cover its activities. The Trustee's free reserves target, at a minimum, is to cover the full cost of operating the Institute for 3 months. The current level of free reserves held is significantly in excess of the Institute's reserves policy.

Risk Management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

Gabriel Roe FCIHort
Honorary Treasurer

To co-operate with other bodies on matters of common concern

The Chartered Institute of Horticulture is proud to operate in a buoyant and diverse industry, we would like to thank all of our industry, research, charitable and non-governmental collaborators for their assistance in meeting our joint objectives in 2021.

2021 offered the opportunity to interact and meet more industry colleagues through trade events. In September the West Midlands & South Wales and North West & North Wales Branches supported the Development Officer Helen Sessions at the two-day **Landscape Show** held at the NEC in Birmingham. The Northern Branch successfully continued to host the Garden Advice Bureau at the **Harrogate Spring and Autumn Flower Shows** with the North of England Horticultural Society. As an organisation we are looking forward to participating in more trade shows in 2022, this is a key way to connect with horticulturists, raising our organisations profile within industry and with the public. We are looking forward to supporting the 50th anniversary of the **Four Oaks** Show in September, amongst many others this coming year.

We are grateful to the range of businesses and organisations that continue to support young horticulturists through their sponsorship of the Young Horticulturist of the Year Competition. These include: Cherry Lane Garden Centres, Adrian Stockdale, Stockbridge Technology Centre, Howard Nurseries, North of England Horticultural Society, South West Growers, Squires Garden Centres, Bord Bia, PlantNetwork, RBGE Logan, The Percy Thrower Bursary and The Shropshire Horticultural Society.

The Institute continues to offer a joint membership with the **International Society for Horticultural Science** and encourage more members to take up this subscription offer.

Supporting Horticulturists

Several branches continue to support the horticultural benevolent charity **Perennial**. The Eastern and South Eastern Branches continue to be bronze partners supporting horticulturists in need through their work. Nationally we have promoted the tools and services offered by Perennial to our membership and via social media.

Showcasing Sustainable Horticulture

To mark the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP26) summit, hosted in Glasgow, the Institute showcased two afternoons of webinars highlighting sustainability best practice across the horticulture industry, and how organisations are aligning themselves in meeting the UN sustainability goals. This collaborative effort included speakers from across the conservation, gardens and edibles sectors including: **Dr Paul Smith**, Secretary General of Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), **Dr David Rae FCIHort**, former Director of Horticulture and Learning at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, **Prof. Alistair Griffiths FCIHort**, Director of Science, Royal Horticultural Society and **Rob Parker**, Chairman of the British Leafy Salads Association.

Future of Horticultural Education

CIH Development Officer Helen Sessions has been representing the Institute and taking an active role with the trailblazer groups to help shape UK apprenticeships for production horticulture and landscaping sectors. The Institute has provided some much-needed financial support to the horticulture and landscaping trailblazer group to assist them in delivering this important training for the future of our industry. Our ambition is to extend our support into the edibles sector interest groups in 2022. Helen has been working closely with a selection of our land-based colleges to further build these relationships.

City and Guilds are developing the new Agriculture, Environment and Animal Care T Level qualifications in England. The technical qualification pathway for Agriculture, Land Management and Production will have horticultural content in the form occupational specialisms, for either; crop production or ornamental and environmental horticulture and landscaping. The CIH is involved in the validation of these new qualifications through the 'Employer and Industry Board' and is committed to leveraging employer and industry engagement as the qualifications enter their next approval stage and eventual launch in September 2023.

Helen Sessions CHort MCIHort
CIH Development Officer



To disseminate information on matters affecting the profession and provide opportunities for discussion amongst horticulturists

All committees, branches and working groups have embraced online meetings. The use of virtual platforms has facilitated a greater level of participation and communication with members; especially those who would struggle to attend a physical event.

Annual Branch Meetings have also been held virtually, often in preference to physical meetings, this has also helped attract more committee members and officers. Branches maintain regular contact with members via email; sharing newsletters, events and meeting invitations.

Social media remains an important way of contacting members and reaching-out to potential members. Branches, members and other stakeholders regularly supply content to be shared over the various platforms: LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Several branches have their own Instagram and Facebook presence, which further contribute to local connectivity and engagement between members.

The monthly **e-horticulturist** bulletin is used as a vehicle for sharing timely industry news and developments, job vacancies and calls for participation in various industry and government consultations.

The **James Bruce Memorial Lecture** was given by the Editor of *Horticulture Week*, **Matthew Appleby**. In the year of the 180th anniversary of *Horticulture Week*,

Matthew explored the journal's past and then offered his analysis on how the horticultural trade has changed during the pandemic of 2020/21, discussing the impact of Brexit on the sector, how race and gender have risen up the agenda and how the industry has reacted. Matthew concluded by giving his view on future gardening and horticulture industry trends.

Our periodical ***The Horticulturist*** is a cornerstone of Institute communications, with a mission to share best practice and information on a range of horticultural issues. All branches are encouraged to submit news and features for every edition. We are proud to share this much-appreciated resource with our free student members. Journal Editor **Barbara Segall CHort FCIHort** is supported by the editorial advisory board which meets several times a year to review content and to discuss topics and potential authors. The board is chaired by **Professor Noeleen Smyth MCIHort** and supported by members: **Philip Barwell, Sally Drury, Dr Suzanne Moss, Dr Eduardo Olate** and **Jonathan Ward**.

Contributions of feature articles, news items and profiles for the new series, '*Routes into Horticulture*', as well as suggestions of topics and potential authors, are always encouraged and welcome.

Jason Daff MCIHort
Honorary Secretary

Regional Branches

Our 8 regional branches operate autonomously with a local committee and representation on the CIH Council of Trustees. Branch Officers are elected at Annual Branch Meetings

Scotland

- Chair: Victoria George
- Vice-chair: George Gilchrist
- Membership Secretary: Fiona Sanderson
- Treasurer: Neil Woodcock
- Secretary: Tom Angel
- YHoY Organiser: Victoria George

Northern

- Chair: Mike Hirst
- Secretary: Jason Daff
- Treasurer: Derek Hargreaves
- Events Coordinator: Clive Parker
- YHoY Organiser: Cailean Stewart

Eastern

- Chair: Kristopher Harper
- Vice-chair: Ted Smith
- Secretary: Johanna Seymour Tavernor
- Branch Correspondent: Fran Suckling
- YHoY Organiser: Kristopher Harper

South East

- Chair: Gerry Edwards
- Treasurer: Bernard Farrell
- YHoY Organiser: Michelle Brandon
- Events coordinator: Marie Shallcross
- Branch Correspondent: Angela Evans

North West & North Wales

- Chair: Gareth Manning
- Secretary: Rob Mackey
- Treasurer: Gordon Limb
- Membership Secretary: Helen Baxter
- YHoY Organiser: Rob Mackey

Ireland

- Chair: Claire Woods
- Vice-chair: Owen Doyle
- Secretary: Michael Hagan
- Treasurer: Paul Fitters
- YHoY Organiser: Sandra Austin

West Midlands & South Wales

- Chair: Kelly Baker
- Vice-chair: Josh Egan-Wyer
- Secretary: Lynn Stevens
- Treasurer: Josh Egan-Wyer
- YHoY Organiser: Richard Toft

South West

- Chair: Saul Walker
- Treasurer: John Whetman
- YHoY Organiser: Chris Bird

Branch Updates

Scotland

2021 was, despite covid, a busy year in Scotland; Zoom allowed more events than expected, and the lifting of restrictions allowed the YHoY Grand Final at Logan to be a roaring success! I took over the role of Branch Chair at the ABM, and have set myself 3 goals to achieve across my tenure. The first of these is to increase branch contact with members, members involvement within the branch, and increase members attendance at events. To create a yearly template for mixed physical and online events and finally, expand the student representative role in order to build an improved relationship with the student members.

Victoria George MCIHort, Chair

Northern

The branch committee have met several times, via Zoom since our ABM in September. The Northern Branch Commendation was awarded to Dr John Grimshaw, Director of the Yorkshire Arboretum, in recognition of his distinguished career and contribution to Horticulture. Committee member's contacts within the industry have been instrumental in securing a number of events for the 2022 program, the committee has been bolstered by the addition of four co-opted members, but we would welcome any members who would like to get involved.

Mike Hirst FCIHort, Chair

Eastern

2021 proved to be another challenging year. We kept in touch with our branch members via our regular email updates, engagement via our branch private Facebook group, and our virtual monthly informal coffee and catch-up evenings as well as our two physical events. I would like to thank all our members for their continued support of the branch and the Institute during what has been a very challenging and unpredictable time. The committee have been very proactive over the past year to ensure that the branch activities are covered as much as possible in *The Horticulturist* and *e-horticulturist*, thanks to our Branch Reporter, Fran Suckling for this.

Kristopher Harper MCIHort, Chair

West Midlands & South Wales

Thank you to the branch committee for all your excellent support throughout 2021. I would also like to thank those that have attended the regional visits. It has been very enjoyable meeting you all and I hope to get to know each of you better over the next couple of years. We have tried to create a list of visits for 2022 that include options for online participation (variety of established gardens, renovation projects, nurseries and even somewhere that makes beer!). Hopefully this will appeal to a wider audience and encourage more participation. We are as always looking for more support to help our committee. Please do come forward if you can offer a few hours each month. Personally, I have found it really useful to network and develop my own career.

Kelly Baker MCIHort, Chair

North West & North Wales

Due to the extended lockdown as a result of the pandemic there has been little the branch could do to fully engage with the membership. Zoom meetings have been utilised to disseminate information in both directions and it was noted that a number of individuals have connected with the branch who have hitherto been unable to join in with activities. We have found that the branch has coped well with the transition to electronic meetings and intend to keep working in this way. We acknowledge that we need to look into how we can engage better with the branch membership and the industry as a whole and anticipate a better year in 2022.

Gareth Manning FCIHort, Chair

South West

The last two years during the pandemic have been a difficult period for both the branch and horticulturists in the South West with a virtual standstill of our usual ability to network and train at meetings and events. We were very grateful to still organise and carry out our usual YHoY competition, albeit virtually, congratulations to Shaun Ward; who represented the branch admirably in the final. I would like to extend my thanks to two long-time committee members Jess Evans and Iain Park who have decided to step down – both have served the branch admirably as a former Chair in Jess's case and as our always reliable Secretary in Iain's. Both have helped to keep the branch functioning and well-organised. We are actively recruiting new branch committee members, so please do get in touch if you'd like to help.

Saul Walker MCIHort, Chair

South East

We are fortunate to have new committee members: Adam Blunt, Karen Hook, Katrina Young, Andrew Cotterill, Michelle Brandon and Gerry Edwards. Gerry takes on the role of Chair and Michelle is our new YHoY coordinator. The Committee conferred a Branch Award to Richard Moore for his exceptional work in finding software solutions to take the YHoY competition online. We thank all committee members, including those recently retired, for their help and commitment to the branch.

Angela Evans FCIHort, Branch Representative

Ireland

The committee is very aware that the Branch has been limited in its activities during the pandemic due the restrictions on travel and meeting in person, this has not been helped by having different restrictions in the two jurisdictions. We were able to end the year with an online Annual Branch Meeting and social event where, following the official business, members were able to share their experiences which prompted interesting discussions on food security, biodiversity and the propagation of sea cottonweed.

We hope to be more active in 2022, with a planned day of garden visits for April and the return of the David Robinson memorial lecture in association with Bord Bia.

Claire Woods CHort FCIHort, Chair



Organisation & Governance

Council, as the governing body and trustees of the Institute as a registered charity, is responsible for all policy decisions and actions taken by the Institute. This work is governed by the Institute's Royal Charter, its associated Bye-laws and such policies as are deemed necessary.

Council meets at least twice a year (in 2021 Council met four times: in March, July, September and December) in order to agree and monitor progress on the Institute's strategic objectives.

The day to day management of the CIH is undertaken by the Management Board. Invitations are circulated to members to nominate corporate members to be elected to the Council of Trustees and voted on by members at the next Annual General Meeting. Consideration is made to any skills gaps present within the Council when recruiting new trustees. Trustees receive training on their legal obligations and those of the Charter and Bye-laws through use of a Trustee handbook and Charity Commission guidelines.

In 2021 the Institute published revised Equality & Diversity and Bullying & Harassment Policies.

Council of Trustees

President: Susan Nicholas FCIHort

President Elect:

David Richardson CHort FCIHort

Honorary Treasurer: Gabriel Roe FCIHort

Honorary Secretary: Jason Daff MCIHort

Immediate Past President:

Gerald Bonner CHort FCIHort

Chair of Education Committee:

Dr David Elphinstone MCIHort

Edible Sector Representative:

James Simpson

Botanical Sector Representative:

Richard Barley MCIHort

South West: Saul Walker MCIHort

South East: Angela Evans FCIHort

Eastern: John Cappalonga MCIHort

West Midlands & South Wales:

Paul Mann MCIHort

North West & North Wales:

Phil Pearson FCIHort

Northern: Jason Daff MCIHort

Scotland: George Gilchrist FCIHort

Ireland: Dr Owen Doyle CHort FCIHort

Trustees Elected in 2021

David Richardson CHort FCIHort

David is Director of Horticulture at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission which has a global historic estate spanning over 150 countries. With over 850 horticulturists it is one of the world's great gardening organisations. David is responsible for global standards, policy and leads the implementation of the organisation's sustainability targets; including reduction in chemical use and water for irrigation. He graduated in Horticulture from Bath University and since then has worked predominantly within the horticultural industry. David is also a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, a Liveryman of Worshipful Company of Gardeners and Honorary Practitioner in the School of History, University of Kent as well as a recent winner of Horticulture Week's 'Custodian of the Year Award'.



Paul Mann MCIHort

Paul was born into a farming and market gardening family and took an interest at a very early age. This has continued throughout his working life in the private landscape sector and amenity horticulture with various local authorities in the UK and abroad. He is currently employed by Pembrey and Burry Port Town Council in South Wales as their Cemetery and Facilities Superintendent, managing the Cemetery, grounds, and floral displays. He joined the Institute in 2016 and now represents the West Midlands & South Wales Branch on Council.



Richard Barley MCIHort

Richard has been Director of Gardens at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew since 2013, having relocated from Victoria, Australia. He was formerly Chief Executive Officer of Open Gardens Australia, before that a Director within the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, where he worked for 30 years. Richard has extensive experience of balancing the needs of a world-class horticultural site and visitor attraction, while maintaining and developing important scientific living collections. In his current role he has overall responsibility for the living collections and landscapes of the Kew and Wakehurst sites, and also for Kew's School of Horticulture, Learning and Participation programmes, Interpretation and Safeguarding. Richard holds a degree in Applied Science (Horticulture) from Burnley College, University of Melbourne. He is also a Trustee of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, the National Garden Scheme, the Kew Guild and is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners.



Saul Walker MCIHort

Saul is Head Gardener of the 12-acre private estate Stonelands House in Devon. He originally trained as an Archaeologist before undertaking an apprenticeship with the National Trust at Antony House, near Torpoint. He was later accepted to study and work at RBG Kew. On graduating he joined the RHS as a Flower Show Manager, firstly at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and then Chelsea; commissioning and managing exhibits, gardens, and the floral marquee. He is also a trustee at the Garden House, Yelverton and the Devon Gardens Trust. A member of the RHS Tender Plant Committee, a British Orchid Council judge and host of a regular gardening podcast called 'Talking Heads' with fellow Head Gardener Lucy Chamberlain.



Chartered Institute of 
Horticulture

Bankers

HSBC Bank Plc

Independent Financial Examiner

Helen Furlong FCCA, McLintocks (NW) Limited,
Wirral, Merseyside

Secretariat

British Growers Association
Secretariat Manager: Rachel Kemp

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