



# Discover More

Angel Cake Graduate Show Ambient, Lester Korzilius, MFA, 2018

I'm writing this in the middle of March and the final outcome of the UK's Brexit chaos remains as uncertain as ever.

Like many Higher Education institutions, we are prepared for what this might mean for recruitment of students from the European Union in future academic years (it is worth noting that this cohort has represented approximately 20% of all West Dean degree and diploma students in recent years). As a small and specialist provider, it has never

been more important that our education programme remains agile and responsive to the changing needs of students and also the sectors in which they aspire to forge careers and to shape our cultural heritage. This remains at the core of our strategic development.

We had to brace ourselves for another significant exit this term, as we said goodbye to our Head Gardening Team, Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain, who retired after 28 years

at the helm of West Dean Gardens. Their impact here has been enormous and they leave a huge legacy for which we are immensely grateful.

With best wishes,  
Alex Barron



## Spotlight on...

### Ghazala Jabeen, MA, Collections Care and Conservation Management

#### What brought you to West Dean College?

I came for the first time on a beginner's weekend pottery short course and it was here that I learnt about the College's postgraduate programmes in conservation. I had always planned to study a postgraduate course in conservation, however I wasn't sure where and what type of course to study. I decided to apply to West Dean as there is a small student to staff ratio and the College has an excellent reputation in the field of conservation.

#### Can you tell us about your interest in conservation, where did that come from?

It came from my volunteer experience with the National Trust. Volunteering taught me the basic principles and practices of preventative conservation and the care of collections from furniture, textiles and cabinets to decorative plaster-work and

books. My volunteer experience laid the foundation and helped shape my interest in conservation.

#### You work part-time for the National Trust whilst studying on this modular course. How do you find combining them both?

I find working part-time and studying absolutely amazing because my job and MA both complement each other so well. My colleagues at Greys Court, the National Trust property where I work, are incredibly supportive of my MA studies and there is so much opportunity to apply theory into practice.

#### How are your studies supporting your work?

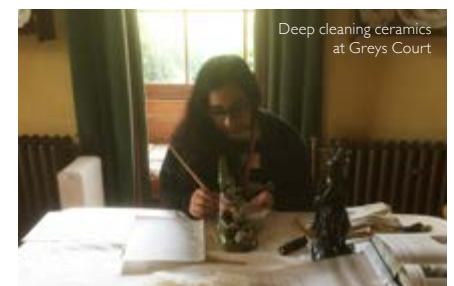
I wrote one of my assignments on pests which was perhaps the most challenging topic I have so far written about. It focused on the attic at Greys Court House which is used to store exhibition and collection

material. The attic is favoured by many insects which although non-threatening to the collection, are a potential food source for evasive pests. I have been able to implement a practical and cost-effect pest management strategy which involves cleaning and monitoring the space for potentially evasive species. It is an amazing experience to be able to put what I have written and researched in theory into practice at work and see the results.

#### What are your plans for the future?

I would like to continue working for the National Trust as a Conservation Assistant and move to full-time if possible for the next few years.

*Ghazala is a 2018/19 recipient of The Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars' Prize.*



Deep cleaning ceramics at Greys Court

# The Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain Trainee Horticulturalist Fund

In the year that they retire, we have established a fund in honour of the tremendous legacy that Head Gardeners Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain have left in West Dean Gardens; to give someone at the start of their career, the chance they need to work towards managing a garden like West Dean.

Jim and Sarah have spent the last 28 years revitalising the magnificent landscape that surrounds West Dean College, making West Dean Gardens one of the greatest restored gardens in the UK. Now, they have decided it's time to hang up their trowels.

Passionate about educating the gardeners of tomorrow, Jim and Sarah have long worked to close the nationwide skills gap and provide opportunities for young people to build a fruitful career in horticulture. Over the years they have provided work experience and volunteering opportunities to many would-be horticulturalists, and in celebration of their great contribution to West Dean Gardens, we want to establish a Trainee Horticulturalist post in their name to formalise an opportunity for someone at the start of their career.

As Sarah explains, "Large gardens want people to come with experience, but it's so difficult to gain experience in the first place, it's catch 22. We want to set up a fund to help a person right at the beginning of their horticultural journey so they can one day manage large gardens like West Dean."

Through a complete annual cycle, the trainee will work with the West Dean team, learning about every aspect of the gardens and gaining practical experience that will act as a springboard for their career. With 12 months experience under their belt, they will be eligible to apply to the most prestigious horticultural training programmes in the country, including the RHS Diploma or Kew apprenticeship scheme; without this experience, they may not be considered.

When we launched the appeal, our ambition was to raise £55,000 which will cover the traineeship for an initial



three years, and covers the trainee's salary, membership of the Professional Gardeners' Guild and vital health and safety training courses. The response has been staggering and at time of writing we are just £5,000 shy of this goal. **If you can help reach the target, or secure the post for longer, please talk to any member of the team or visit [westdean.org.uk/appeal](http://westdean.org.uk/appeal). Thank you so much.**

“

Of the hundreds of applications I see every year some stand out by having experience in a quality horticultural environment; these gardens and nurseries are special places where horticultural talent is nurtured and trainees learn the correct techniques from the outset. This is what determines a professional gardener from a keen amateur. Having known Jim and Sarah from my early days at Kew I have always respected their judgement, if they say someone is good I tend to go with it.”

**Martin Staniforth, Training Manager, School of Horticulture, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew**

## West Dean Gardens; the changing of the Guard

Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain arrived at West Dean in 1991, in the wake of the great storms of the late Eighties. Though much of the gardens had already fallen into disrepair, these caused widespread devastation. It was of course, the perfect canvas from which to start again. Over more than 25 years, section by section, they have redeveloped the walled garden, restored the full range of Victorian Glasshouses, replanted the arboretum and restored the entire garden with a deft approach that combined celebration of historic form with their own horticultural personalities.

They recently published "At West Dean" which comprehensively documents this extensive and unique project and celebrates the gardening excellence and love affair with planting that Jim and Sarah established at West Dean. We will miss them.

They confidently leave the gardens in good hands; Tom Brown has been appointed as the new Head Gardener at West Dean Gardens and joins the team in May 2019. Tom comes to us from nearby Parham House, where he became Head Gardener in 2010. Prior to that, he worked at RHS Wisley Gardens for 10 years, latterly running the plant and vegetable trials. He is a regular contributor on BBC Radio Sussex and Surrey, a member of the RHS Herbaceous Committee and an RHS Show Judge.

Tom is already familiar with the gardens and lectures on West Dean College gardening short courses, including forthcoming one day courses on working with colour in your garden, and growing your own fruit and vegetables.

“

I'm incredibly excited about taking up the post of Head Gardener at West Dean. I have long admired the Gardens and I'm enthusiastic about being part of its next chapter. I'm keen to develop and continue the unique artistic and horticultural collaboration - harmonising the Gardens with the College and the wider West Dean landscape.”



**Tom Brown, February 2019**

# West Dean Arts and Craft Festival

31 May – 2 June 2019, 10am – 5pm



The annual West Dean Arts and Craft Festival is a celebration of creativity in all its forms. Over 3 days, visitors will enjoy opportunities to get hands-on with drop-in workshops, see live demonstrations from pottery and woodworking to jewellery-making, buy unique crafted items, meet the makers and see the work of emerging artists.

The College continues to inspire generations of artists, makers, designers and writers through the legacy of founder, artist and Surrealist patron Edward James. During the weekend, we will open the

grade II\* West Dean House to the public, providing visitors with an opportunity to view unique items from the Edward James Collection and Archive including the famous *Mae West lips* sofa and the *Lobster telephone*. Also on display will be exhibitions of work by students including art installations inspired by James' legacy and the collection, current conservation projects, live music performances and readings from Creative Writing students.

More than 1,000 workshop places, led by expert tutors, will give visitors an opportunity to try a new craft. New

workshops in 2019 include modern brush calligraphy with Kirsten Burke, satirical cartooning with *Private Eye* cartoonist, Guy Venables, and Automata with Stephen Guy.

Our award-winning gardens provide a backdrop for a variety of drop-in sessions; pick up a paintbrush and sit at an easel surrounding our enormous still-life scene; contribute to a collaborative tapestry mounted on scaffold poles with Philip Sanderson, the West Dean Tapestry Studio's Master Weaver; or help construct a river-powered kinetic art installation using leaves and twigs being made by artist and sculptor Dan Lobb.

## Supporting the artists of the future:

Keep an eye out for more information on a special fundraising auction taking place during the Arts and Craft Festival. You will have the opportunity to bid for unique items handmade by talented artists and makers who teach the Short Courses at West Dean College. Everything raised from the auction will provide scholarships and bursaries to support young people to gain skills in art.

[www.westdean.org/events](http://www.westdean.org/events)

## Student work placements

Students from West Dean College of Arts and Conservation have travelled far and wide this term to highly respected institutions and museums, to work with the top conservators and experts in the field of Conservation.

As part of the second year of their studies in Conservation, students take part in 6-8 week work placements at world famous museums and collections. This year they included the V&A, Leiden University Library, Lambeth Palace Library, the Book & Paper Studio (Dundee), Oxford Conservation Consortium, Bodleian Libraries, the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery & Museum (Bournemouth) and the Royal

Museums Greenwich - giving them unrivalled experience to aid their future career progression.

As Lizzie Neville, Head of School of Conservation explains, "Placements provide our students with opportunities to translate their taught experience into real-life work situations, to build up professional relationships and open doors for future employment."

David Plummer (Postgraduate Diploma Conservation in Books and Library Materials) spent his work placement at the Leiden University Library in the Netherlands: "The projects I was assigned provided me with a broad foundation in the conservation of Islamic manuscripts. Under the tutelage

of Dr Karin Scheper, I worked on the 'Digitisation Project of Yemeni Manuscripts', a joint project by the Institute for Advanced Study in partnership with the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) in Minnesota. Each treatment allowed me to build on my prior experience in the workshop, while simultaneously presenting me with new problems... I am very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work and study under the guidance of such a distinguished leader in the field."

*David is the 2018/19 Dr Robin Barnard Scholar, is an Anna Plowden Scholar and is a recipient of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars' Prize for 2018/19. David was also the recipient of a Barbara Whatmore Charitable Trust Bursary, provided to help students fund work placements.*



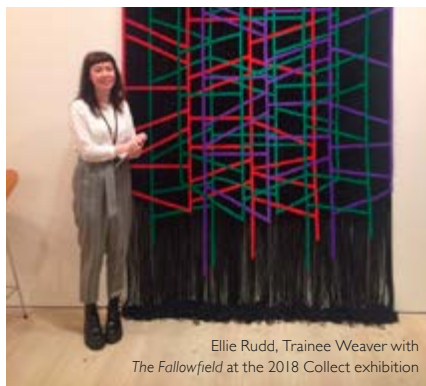
16th Century Italian Parchment Binding  
Before, during and after treatment

## Eva Rothschild Tapestry accessioned into Tate Collection

Opened in 1976, the West Dean Tapestry Studio is internationally renowned and one of only two remaining professional studios in the UK. The Studio is led by Philip Sanderson, Master Weaver and since last year has been supported by Ellie Rudd, Trainee Weaver.

In 2016 the Studio launched its first Open Call for artists to propose a collaborative project to produce a woven tapestry inspired by the artist's work. The call was a huge success, with over 150 proposals submitted and culminated in a vibrant collaboration with sculptor, Eva Rothschild. The finished work, 'The Fallowfield' was exhibited at Collect in 2018 and has recently been acquired by The Tate to become part of its permanent collection. This piece will be on display at Tate Britain as part of its *Sixty Years* exhibition, a new display dedicated to women artists working in Britain over the past 60 years. *Sixty Years* is curated by Sofia Karamani, Assistant Curator of Contemporary British Art, Tate and will open on 22 April 2019.

The team are currently working on an exciting new collaboration with artists aged 9-10 from a London school. The tapestry has been commissioned by The Charterhouse; the almshouse and heritage site in London and will hang in their Learning Centre.



Ellie Rudd, Trainee Weaver with *The Fallowfield* at the 2018 Collect exhibition

The children participated in drawing and weaving workshops with Philip and Ellie to each contribute a drawing which forms part of the final tapestry design. The design brief had a nautical theme, celebrating George Fenner, a shipwreck survivor, who was one of Charterhouse's first residents. The final design is full of galleons, shipwrecks and sea monsters.

Cynthia Adobea-Aidoo, Learning Manager at the Charterhouse, says: "We were delighted to be behind this project and host the workshop which inspired the children involved in this exciting tapestry project. It will be a fantastic modern addition to the Charterhouse tapestry collection, and inspiring to future young people coming here to learn and create."

*The Trainee Weaver post is part funded by The Fenton Arts Trust*

## The West Dean Roof Conservation Project

If you've visited West Dean College of Arts and Conservation in the past few months then you will have seen the varying stages of scaffolding being constructed on the front lawn. The project to erect the scaffolding to begin work has been challenging, given the size of the structure and the fragile nature of our historic flint building. Phase one of the project has now begun, focusing on the west end of the house.



This important conservation project offers an unrivalled opportunity for students to gain practical experience; MA students on the Collections Care and Conservation Management programme have worked to assess, clean and pack items from Edward James' private bedroom in the Tower Suite and the Purple Landing, and these items have now been moved into safe temporary storage where they will remain for the duration of the building work.

Buildings Conservation Management (BCM) students have enjoyed a session up on the roof looking at some of the initial works with the Architect Jane Jones Warner, and roof visits will be incorporated into the study programme for BCM students during the life of the restoration programme.

## Where are they now...

**Lucas Marijnissen** (Conservation & Restoration of Antique Clocks, 2010) opened his first workshop in Edinburgh shortly after graduating in October 2010. Since then, he has continued to enhance his skills and qualifications and has become a member of the BHI (British Horological Institute). In 2016, Lucas Clocks moved to Leith to enable the business to continue to grow and develop.

Recently, Lucas welcomed other members of the BHI (Scottish Branch) into his new workshop for a talk on the effects of different cleaning agents available for brass and steel clock components.

*Lucas was a recipient of the BADA Harold Davies Prize in 2010.*

[lucaslocks.co.uk/wp/](http://lucaslocks.co.uk/wp/)

**Keara Burr** (MA, Conservation specialising in Books & Library Materials, 2017) has gained a great deal of experience since graduation. Working first as Library Assistant at The British Library, she moved on to be Assistant Project Conservator at Wiley and in November 2018, Keara took on the role of Collections Documentation Assistant (Sanskrit Manuscripts) at the Wellcome Trust.

**Margaret Jones** (Master of Fine Art, specialising in Tapestry Weaving) graduated in July 2015, a year after being presented with the Valerie Power Award by the Trustees of the Edward James Foundation for her three dimensional tapestry weaving. Margaret has been exhibiting since 2013, including the curation of the London show, *Heallreaf 2*, in 2017. She has been the recipient of several awards including the Cordis Showcase Tapestry Prize in 2016. Most recently, in February 2019, Margaret exhibited in her first international exhibition at the Canadian Tapestry and Textile Centre.

*Margaret was a recipient of QEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust) funding during her studies at West Dean.*

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

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