



Sharing the best in Gardening



News from the RHS Lindley Libraries

The nation's gardening collections: BOOKS ART PHOTOGRAPHS ARCHIVES

COURSE MATERIALS

The new RHS Gardens Courses and Workshops booklets are out now and if you're participating, RHS libraries have plenty of books and DVDs on workshop themes. Photography, floral art, drawing – and of course horticulture – you'll find information on all of these in our libraries. Background reading for Noel Kingsbury's *Biodiversity, Wildlife and the Gardener* (Wisley, 26 February) includes his own titles. Also try John Walker's *How to create an eco garden* (2012) or the DVD *Flowers of the British Isles...how to create a beautiful wild flower garden* (2007).

For the Spring vegetable growing classes, the *RHS Grow your own veg & fruit year planner* could be useful. Ask in our libraries about books that cover your chosen workshop.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

Exclusive packs of Christmas cards featuring images from the Lindley Libraries are available to buy from the London, Wisley and Harlow Carr libraries. The greeting inside is 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year' and at £3.95 for six they are a great way to support the Lindley Libraries and tell your friends about us.



BIRDS & BEASTS

Our header this winter is inspired by Mark Catesby's *Noctua aurita minor* ('The Little Owl') and this prompted us to look more closely at some of our animal images. Catesby's work was much respected by his peers, including Carl Linnaeus. The owl is taken from a coloured plate in *The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* (Vol.I. 1754), the first comprehensive account of the 'birds, beasts, fishes, serpents, insects and plants' of South-Eastern North America. The original watercolours form part of the Royal Library at Windsor castle.

John Frederick Miller, sometime employee of Sir Joseph Banks, was the artist and engraver of *Cuculus aurocephalus* taken from *Cimelia physica* (1796). Like plants, birds have undergone some re-naming since Miller's day: a useful reference (also in our collection) is M. Walters' article 'The identity of the birds depicted in Shaw and Miller's *Cimelia physica*', *Archives of Natural History*, (2009, pp.316-26).

The Goldfinch appears in George Brookshaw's *Six birds, accurately drawn and coloured after nature, with full directions for the young artist* (1819). Brookshaw aimed his publication particularly at 'young Ladies' for whom birds were deemed a suitable drawing subject. Each colour plate has a matching uncoloured plate where the student could copy the illustration.



Above left 'Tom Tit, Red Poll' from George Brookshaw's *Six birds*
Above right 'Lemur murinus' from John Frederick Miller's *Cimelia physica*

E NEWSLETTER

We're planning a new look Lindley Libraries e-newsletter next year. New subscribers can sign up at library.news@rhs.org.uk

News from the RHS Lindley Libraries

RHS Lindley Libraries Winter 2012

London

80 Vincent Square
London SW1P 2PE
T: 020 7821 3050
E: library.london@rhs.org.uk
Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri
Research collections open by appointment

Christmas

Closed 20 Dec - 1 Jan 2012
Re-opens 10am 2 Jan 2012

Wisley

RHS Garden Wisley
Surrey GU23 6QB
T: 01483 212428
E: library.wisley@rhs.org.uk
Open 11am-4pm daily

Christmas

Closed 10 Dec - 1 Jan 2012 inclusive
Re-opens 11am 2 Jan 2012

Harlow Carr

Open 11am-4pm
T: 01423 724686
E: library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk
Open 11am-4pm daily

Christmas

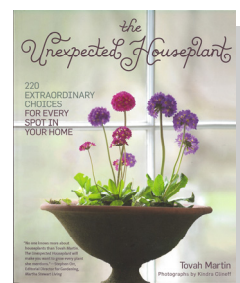
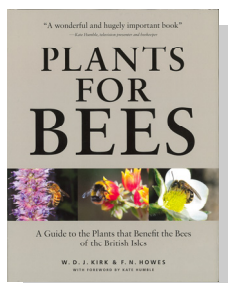
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NEW BOOKS

Plants for bees: a guide to the plants that benefit the bees of the British Isles by W. D. J. Kirk & F. N. Howes. Supported by beautiful photographs of plants and bees, this is instructive and useful for experts and hobbyists alike – all the information you need to plant a bee-friendly garden. It is a successor to **Plants and beekeeping**, compiled by Dr Howes in 1945. A second edition was published posthumously in 1979 and both are in the Lindley Library.

Gardens their hidden life: unnoticed plants and unseen animals by Colin Spedding covers a wide subject area and will inform naturalists and gardeners of all ages. It is highly illustrated with photographs and line drawings.

In **The unexpected houseplant: 200 extraordinary choices for every spot in your home** award winning horticulturist Tovah Martin updates the houseplant and brings her passion for gardening indoors. Be inspired by her fresh look at bulbs, perennials, vines and shrubs for the home and follow her expert advice on placement and care.



Our sale of secondhand

duplicate books continues in the new year at Lindley Library Wisley, open 11am to 4pm daily. Thank you to our generous donors and buyers, who help us raise money to care for Lindley Libraries collections.

WHAT EVERYONE'S READING

There's a clear trend when we look at what readers have been borrowing this year. Library visitors at RHS Gardens Wisley and Harlow Carr have been looking for books on garden design – perhaps looking for inspiration and tips to use in their own gardens. The enthusiasm for growing our own fruit and veg also remains strong, still the second most favoured gardening theme in our review.

DOING THE FLOWERS

The festive arrangements created at the Library's November talk on Christmas floral decorations encouraged us to browse the magazines on flower arranging held in our libraries. **Fleur Creatif**, **Flora International**, and **Flower Arranger** are packed with colour and design ideas. Whether you're planning a table decoration or something more ambitious there are projects for all levels of expertise. In 1861 the RHS staged the first documented competition for flower arrangement (they were called table decorations at the time) to coincide with the opening of its new garden in Kensington. These competitions became a regular feature at flower shows, and led to the rise of books devoted solely to flower arranging. The Lindley Libraries have probably the largest publicly accessible collection on flower arrangement and floristry. Search the library catalogue to see what we hold: rhs.org.uk/libraries.



Illustration from **Moribana & Heikwa: selected flower arrangements of the Ohara School**, explained by K. Nakahara; translated by M. Hashizume. 1937.

To join the library newsletter emailing list - just send your name and email address to library.news@rhs.org.uk

RHS Lindley Libraries

London 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE **Tel** 020 7821 3050 **Email** library@rhs.org.uk

Wisley RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB **Tel** 01483 212428 **Email** library@rhs.org.uk

Harlow Carr RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate, Yorkshire HG3 1QB **Tel** 01423 724686 **Email** library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

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