

## **NOEL KINGSBURY BSc. PhD. FRSA**

*Freelance garden and planting designer, writer, lecturer, teacher and researcher: horticulture, landscape, agriculture, food.*

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### **Skills**

- Writing
- Research
- Design skills
- Teaching/lecturing and presenting complex, interlinked information
- Interpersonal and negotiation skills
- The taking of novel and radical approaches to problems; saying the 'unsayable' if necessary
- Adaptability to change, flexibility, ability to respond positively to setbacks
- Cultural awareness and sensitivity
- Making people laugh

### **Horticultural Skills and Expertise**

- Extensive plant knowledge, particularly herbaceous perennials
- The analysis and articulation of planting design concepts – in which I am recognised internationally as a leading authority
- Plant ecology and wild plant communities
- In-depth knowledge and experience of contemporary ecological planting styles
- Garden design with an especial interest in planting design
- Creation and development of wildflower and naturalistic plantings
- General horticulture, including small-scape vegetable production

### **Other skill/knowledge areas:**

- Landscape issues
- Environmental issues
- Arable agriculture – notably plant breeding history; also bio-technology, development issues, general agricultural history
- Food politics
- Extensive knowledge of and interest in politics, history, religion, socio-cultural issues.

### **Languages**

German and French read; basic spoken.

Some knowledge of Brazilian Portuguese.

## **Qualifications**

B.Sc (Hons) Politics, 1979, University of Bristol

PhD, 2009 Sheffield University, Department of Landscape.

Thesis: *An investigation into the performance of species in ecologically based ornamental herbaceous vegetation, with particular reference to competition in productive environments.*

## **Organisations, membership of:**

Royal Society for the Promotion of the Arts, Science and Commerce (London)

Royal Horticultural Society

Hardy Plant Society

## **Family**

One son, now 31. I had a major share of pre-school childcare.

## **Interests outside work**

Walking, cooking – especially 'east of Suez', visual arts. Reading – history and social/cultural issues.

## **CAREER**

### **1980-1985**

Adult education tutor - English as a Second Language. Bristol City Council.

### **1985-1987**

Garden centre - part of group establishing a business.

### **1987- 1993**

Proprietor of small nursery specialising in hardy perennials and conservatory plants.

1990 - voted 'Catalogue of the Year' by the readers of Gardener's World Magazine, for entertainment and information.

### **1991 to present**

#### **Freelance Garden and Planting Design**

Variety of private garden design projects, including:

film producer David Puttnam, establishing wildflowers and perennials at his Wiltshire garden.

1994 to 2002 Cowley Manor Hotel, near Cheltenham in Gloucestershire; project management of garden creation, heritage restoration and landscape works: sourcing consultants and contractors, supervision of contractors, selection and supervision of full-time staff.. This aimed at introducing contemporary German and Dutch ideas in planting design to Britain. It received extensive publicity, including a slot on BBC Gardener's World in August 1996.

1999 to 2009. Planting design consultancy with Bristol City Council. Regeneration of a number of areas within the city, in particular innovative traffic island/roundabout plantings. Around 15 projects in all.

2003 A large 'new perennial style' planting for the garden centre Webbs of Wychbold near Droitwich, Worcs.

2005-6 Consultancy work with HTA Landscapes on planting aspects of a variety of urban park and residential projects.  
2010 Planting design for de la Warr Pavilion and Promenade, Bexhill, Sussex, with HTA Landscapes (London)  
Starting 2011 Summerhill, Clifford, Herefs.. Master planner for 75acre rural property: residential, small-scale agriculture, public art and performance space.  
2011. Temporary planting for Ruskin Square, Croydon, with MMA Associates.  
2013 Design of memorial garden for All Saints Church, Dulwich, London.  
2014 to present. HTA Landscapes – planting design consultancy for Aylesbury Estate and South Quay Plaza (London) projects

## **Publications/Writing**

### ***Consumer Magazines:***

Since c. 1990 I have written several hundred articles for the consumer garden press, for the following:

Gardens Illustrated  
The English Garden  
The Garden (Royal Horticultural Society Journal)  
The Daily Telegraph – garden pages  
House and Garden  
The Guardian – garden pages  
The Times – garden pages  
BBC Gardener's World Magazine.  
Financial Times  
Homes and Gardens  
Country Life  
BBC Homes and Antiques  
Horticulture (USA)  
Garden Design (USA).

### ***Consumer Magazines regular pages***

'Garden Cuttings' (diary and product review) pages in Homes and Gardens, August 1997 to July 2002.

'Nursery News' (new plants), for 'The English Garden', February 1999 to October 2004.

'Snippets' for Hortus, a quarterly literary garden journal - 2000-2006.

Monthly 'Stars of the Season' pages in New Eden for the 18 months of the magazine's existence.

10 articles for Haven - Danish Royal Horticultural Society magazine.

### ***Current (i.e. 2012-present) consumer writing***

Approx. 6-8 features a year for Gardens Illustrated and occasional for The Daily Telegraph, The English Garden, House and Garden, Garden Design (USA). New York Times 2012.

### ***Books- Gardening/Horticulture/Landscape:***

*The Wildflower Gardener*, Conran Octopus, 1994

*The Indoor Gardener*, Headline, 1994

*The New Perennial Garden*, Frances Lincoln, 1996

*Architectural Plants*, Mitchell Beazley, 1996

*The Ultimate Planting Planner*, Ward Lock 1996  
*Design and Plant a Mixed Border*, Ward Lock 1997  
 contributions (on house plants) to *The Reader's Digest New Encyclopaedia of Garden Plants and Flowers*, 1997  
*Plants to transform your garden*, Ward Lock, 1998  
*Gardener's Factfile*, Conran Octopus, 1999  
*Designing with Plants* (with Piet Oudolf), Conran Octopus, 1999  
*Bold Leaved Plants*, Ryland and Peters, 2000  
*Grasses*, Ryland and Peters, 2000  
*Natural Gardening for Small spaces*, Frances Lincoln, 2003  
*Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls*. co-authored with Nigel Dunnett, Timber Press, 2004, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2008.  
*VISTA: the culture and politics of the garden*. A collection of essays co-edited with Tim Richardson. 2005  
*Planting Design: Gardens in Time and Space*, with Piet Oudolf, Terra/Timber, 2005  
*Seedheads*, Timber Press, 2006  
*Natural Garden Style*, Merrell, 2009  
*Hybrid – The History and Science of Plant Breeding*, University of Chicago Press, 2009 (peer reviewed)  
*Garden Designers at Home*, Pavilion, 2011.  
*Landscapes in Landscapes*, Monacelli Press, 2011. (Text for monograph of photographs of Piet Oudolf projects)  
*Planting – A New Perspective*, with Piet Oudolf, Timber Press, 2013.  
*Hummelo/Oudolf*, with Piet Oudolf, Monacelli Press, 2015.

In preparation  
*A Garden Flora: the Origins and History of Garden Plants* (prov.) Timber Press  
*The New Small Garden*, Frances Lincoln

### **Professional and Academic Publications**

Quarterly opinion column in *Green Places*, 2004 – 2008.  
 Bimonthly opinion page in *Pro-Landscaper*, 2014 to present

Kingsbury (1998) 'The New Border' *Landscape Design* Dec97/Jan98,  
 Kingsbury (1998) 'Prachtstauden in der Wiese', *Garten und Landschaft* 9/1998  
 Kingsbury, N. (2001). 'New Approaches in Perennial Use', *Topos*, no.37, pp.75-83.  
 Kingsbury, N. (2002) Ornamental herbaceous vegetation for public places in maritime climates - potential and problems. Proceedings of the International Conference on Urban Horticulture published in *Acta Horticulturae* 643, pp.51-56.  
 Kingsbury, N. (2003) 'An Overview of Current Practice in Ecological Planting Design in Europe and North America'. In *The Dynamic Landscape* (Eds. Dunnett, N. and Hitchmough, J.) Spon Press, London.  
*Hybrid – The History and Science of Plant Breeding*, see above.  
 See also Post-Doctoral Research below

## Lecturing/Teaching

### UK

#### Regular:

- Gardener's Academy, Coton Manor, (Northamptonshire) – 1-3- workshops per year 1994-2004.
- The English Gardening School, London. 2-3 workshops per year from 1998.
- West Dean College (The Edward James Foundation), annual workshop since 2006.
- Co-chairing the 'Vista Debates' with Tim Richardson, at the Garden Museum, London, monthly, since Nov. 2007.

Frequent Hardy Plant Society, local garden club and Royal Horticultural Society regional lectures, around 10 a year.

**2009 to present:** Day workshops for regional groups of Society of Garden Designers, and Landscape Institute on long-term plant performance and planting design.

#### **Academic institutions:** Occasional at:

University of Sheffield,

ZHAW, Wädenswil, Switzerland,

SLU, Alnarp, Sweden.

Hochschule Anhalt (Germany) Oct.2003, and Oc. 2008, intensive week course - planting design.

#### Other UK, for non-garden audiences:

- Hay on Wye Literary Festival, 'The Culture and Politics of Gardens', May 2007, participant in garden panel, May 2009, 'Hybrid' 2010.
- Architects Journal conference (Green Roofs), London, 14, May, 2008
- Abergavenny Food Festival (with Prof. D. Murphy). 'The Ever-Green Revolution', Sept, 2008.

#### **USA/Canada** (a selection)

- Participant in 'Wild Style' US lecture tour, organised by 'Horticulture' magazine (Boston), October 1997.
- North West Perennial Alliance, Seattle, Whatcom Horticultural Society (WA), Van Dusen Botanic Gardens (Vancouver, BC), Victoria Horticultural Society (BC), Biedenharn Museum, Monroe (LA) – Spring 2004
- North-West Flower Show (also as judge) Seattle, 2005
- Rhode Island Flower Show, 2005
- Chicago Botanic Gardens 2006
- Tower Hill Botanic Garden 2006
- Philadelphia Horticultural Society, 2006
- American Society Landscape Architects, 'Green Roofs and Living Walls', with Nigel Dunnett, Philadelphia, 2008. We achieved the highest evaluation at this event, and as a consequence were asked back for the Chicago, September, event in 2009.
- Perennial Plant Conference, Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania, 2012.
- Davidson Symposium, Davison, North Carolina, 2013.
- Ecological Landscape Association seminar, Longwood, PA, 2014

### **Argentina/Uruguay**

Day workshop with Pampa Infinita (John Brookes School Garden Design), Buenos Aires, also at Villa Ocampo, at La Pasionaria (José Ignacio, UY) with Amalia Robredo, and Museum Atchugarry, UY. November 2012.

### **Denmark**

- Keynote speaker at symposium on natural planting in Odense, Denmark, March 1997, organised by the Danish Perennial Society and the Danish Dept. of the Environment. My lecture evaluation was the highest of the participants (92%).
- Guest lecture at University of Agriculture and Landscape, Copenhagen, Feb.2003.
- Danish Nursery Convention, November, 2010
- Royal Hort. Society lecture, May 2011.

### **Austria**

- Guest lectures at BOKU, Vienna, December 1998, and 2004
- 'Plant Breeding as Art', as part of exhibition organised by Landscape Dept. of Vienna University of Applied Arts, 2013.
- Gartenakademie Seitenstetten, (day workshops) 2015

### **Czech Republic**

Lecture at Silva Tarouca Inst. Pruhonice, annual conference, 2014  
Dendrological Garden/Silva Tarouca Inst. Pruhonice, day workshops, 2015

### **Germany**

- Gartentage, Freising, Germany, May 2000.
- Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (Potsdam) conference 'Plants and People', September 2011.

### **Netherlands**

Syngenta, international plant breeders conference, Enkhuizen, September 2011.

### **India**

- School of Habitat Studies, New Delhi, January 2000

### **Ireland**

Seminars for Garden and Landscape Design Association, 2009, 2013.

### **Mexico**

- Participant in 'Dia Verde' events in: Fresnillo, Uruapan & Cordoba, March, 2008
- Seminar for Mexican Society of Landscape Architects, Feb.2008
- Keynote speaker at XI Congreso Nacional y IV Internacional de Horticultura, 10-14, March, 2008 Cuernavaca.
- Keynote speaker at XII Congreso Nacional y V Internacional de Horticultura, October, 2009 Cordoba.

## **Poland**

Speaker at landscape industry exhibition Zielen to Zycie, Warsaw, August, 2013.

## **Russia**

Two day seminar for Seminary Eco-Landscape, Moscow, September, 2013.

## **Ukraine**

Two day seminar for Landscape and Garden study group, Kiev, December, 2014.

## **Television and Radio**

- 3 interviews on BBC 'Gardener's World' whilst running the nursery, 1989/1990, and one during August 1996 based on Cowley Manor. Interview with Radio 4 'Growing Spaces' 1996.
- Interview with R4's 'Parkes and Gardens' 1998.
- One session as a guest expert with BBC 'Jane Asher's Good Living' and four with Granada Sky on a garden helpline panel.
- Experience writing (unsuccessful) TV proposals with Brenda Rowe Productions (Bristol) and with Stane Susnik at Radiotelevizija Slovenija.
- Guest on two episodes of TV series 'Our Meadows', transmitted March 2008, Radiotelevizija Slovenija.

## **Independent conferences organized**

Dec. 2009. *The Wind from the East, learning from Chinese and Japanese gardens*. The Garden Museum, London, with the support of the Society of Garden Designers and the Japanese Garden Society. Fully subscribed (97 participants). Speakers: Lei Gao, Yue Zhuang, Andong Lu, Haruko Seki, Robert Kettle, Dan Pearson.

Oct. 2012. *Plant Hunting in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. The Garden Museum, London,

## **Tour Guiding**

With Distant Horizons Travel and Gardens Illustrated magazine:

- Netherlands, 2006
- Southern Germany 2007
- Southern Sweden 2008
- Prairie States 2009
- Central China 2010 (with Dr. Lei Gao)
- Berlin and eastern Germany 2011
- Scotland (Fife and Lothian) 2012
- Northern Dutch Provinces, 2013
- New York and Pennsylvania, 2014
- Ireland, 2015 (organised independently)

With Boxwood Garden Tours:

Welsh Borders 2011

East Anglia 2013

## **Post-Doctoral Research**

2010. *Evaluating The Long-Term Performance of Ornamental Herbaceous Plants using a Questionnaire-Based Practitioner Survey*

Research paper contributed as a sub-contractor as part of Landscape Dept./University of Sheffield's contribution to *Making Places Profitable - Public and Private Open Spaces* (MP4), funded through European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Territorial Cooperation 2007-2013. Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme.

Dissemination achieved through articles in following journals, summarizing research:  
The Hardy Plant Society Journal, Autumn, 2010, as *Gathering Gardeners' Knowledge*  
The Plantsman, June 2011, as *The Long-term Performance of Herbaceous Perennials*  
The Society of Garden Designers, forthcoming three part series.  
The Garden, August 2011 (references only)  
Garden and Landscape Design Association (Ireland) March 2012

Dissemination is also being achieved through workshop 'The Rabbit's eye view - reading the plant for long-term performance' being delivered to regional groups of Landscape Institute, Society of Garden Designers, etc.