

## 1. Botanic & Public Gardens Management Services Consultant

BotanicalValues



[James Hearsom](#)

**Executive Director at St Andrews Botanic Garden**

Dave is an exceptional botanic garden consultant for both his technical knowledge and his ability to apply this through the consulting process. It has been a great pleasure and learning experience for me to work with him at the Royal Botanic Garden of Jordan where he was employed as a full time consultant from June 2012 until September 2013. Dave has been central to developing the policy documentation, providing strategic guidance and delivering “on-the-ground” training for key staff over this period.

Among his responsibilities, Dave led a participatory process that delivered a comprehensive, applied and culturally appropriate Living Collections Policy that works for our specific circumstances. More than this, he used the process to train and develop key staff. Additionally, a complete collections audit was conducted, covering plant and seed collections, data standards were reviewed and updated, and a complete documentation set was provided for future accessioning. Practical training covered collecting, nursery production and seed bank management. He also led in the recruitment of international staff to key positions and has been generous in his introductions to other professionals and organisations globally.

Dave is exceptional, not just because of his technical expertise, but also his complete commitment to the best possible standards in plant conservation. Dave is always willing to address the underlying problems and documents his observations and work comprehensively. His management of the consultant/client relationship has made him a pleasure to work with. He has provided support, guidance, documentation and advice to a client much less experienced than he, but has always been careful to develop the client and allow decision making to be located properly with the garden.

I can heartily recommend him without any reservation whatsoever.

February 19, 2014, James was Dave's client



**Denis Diagre**

**historian at jardin botanique national de Belgique**

I had the opportunity to collaborate with Dave on the translated (to English) manuscript of my book about the history of the National Botanic Garden of Belgium. At this occasion, he showed he is not only a keen horticulturalist and a sharp botanist, but also that he has excellent writing and editing skills. Not to mention he masters computers and is able to manage with different languages. To me Dave is the right person to work on draft, raw texts, translated texts, and the right person to fix all kind of big or minor flaws. This is especially true when it comes to books on botany and horticulture, and even on history of both activities. Dave is consistent, sharp, punctual, fair and... has a deep sense of humor. You can't get more for your money. I dare to say that my soon-to-be published book owes him a lot. He should be credited as co-author.

Dr Denis Diagre  
Historian of Sciences  
National Botanic Garden of Belgium.

September 21, 2011, Denis was Dave's client



**Leo Junikka**

**Curator at University of Helsinki**

Dave is a good expert in his field as a consultant of botanic gardens. He has many years working experience in botanic gardens as a scientific curator and as a horticulturist who knows practical garden work. He is also very attentive and friendly person who inspired confidence of the responsible gardeners, curators and the director. I can full-heartedly recommend him to a corresponding tasks.

September 21, 2011, Leo was Dave's client

## 2. Director

Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre



[Andrew Grave](#)

**Trainer at Research Counts Ltd**

Dave adapted quickly to his new role which spanned many areas he had been previously unfamiliar with. He quickly got his head around these whilst at the same time set about modernising all aspects of the Centre, providing his team with a strong sense of direction and instilling a more commercial approach.

Dave was unafraid to challenge many of the Centre's sacred cows whilst at the same time ensuring that the underlying values of the Centre were upheld. Behind the scenes, he worked hard to get the best out of his team ensuring they were kept fully engaged with developments.

Dave excelled in developing relationships with key stakeholders. His efforts here resulted in substantial investment in the Centre from local benefactors and the merger of the Centre with the Dorset Wildlife Trust. He also cultivated a strong relationship with national and local media which culminated in the BBC filming an edition of Spring Watch at the Centre.[less](#)

June 18, 2012, Andrew managed Dave indirectly at Kingcombe Environmental Studies Centre

## 3. Curator

National Botanical Garden of Belgium (Meise)



[Quentin Groom](#)

**Botanic Garden, Meise**

Dave is an intelligent and enthusiastic manager who is not afraid to take on a challenge. He is full of ideas and has the drive to see them through.

September 23, 2011, Quentin reported to Dave at National Botanical Garden of Belgium (Meise)

#### 4. **Writer / Researcher**

BBC Gardening Website



[Camilla Phelps](#)

**Freelance editorial consultant, web editor/producer, writer**

During the time I managed Dave I found him to be a pleasure to work with, very thorough in his work and very responsive to learning new skills. His horticultural knowledge was a huge asset to the team and the website benefited greatly from his presence.

October 10, 2011, Camilla managed Dave at BBC Gardening Website

#### 5. **Botanical Author**

Midsummer Books



[Dr Amy-Jane Beer](#)

**Biologist, writer and editor**

Dave was a valued contributor to Wildlife of Britain magazine during its first run in 1998-2001, and I sought him out once again when the series relaunched in 2009/10. He did a great job presenting his expert knowledge of things botanical and horticultural in an accessible and entertaining way.

September 19, 2011, Dr Amy-Jane was Dave's client