



## **KEW DISCOVERY BUS TRIP**

On Monday 15 October 13 hardy members of MESS set off on an educational tour round Kew Gardens. Indian Summer day it was not but even with overcast sky we were blessed by the fact that there was no rain and even managed a short walk in the Japanese gardens during the trip. All gathered at the Elizabeth Gate where mercifully we were allowed to park near the entrance and waited for the bus to turn up in great expectation.

A very gentle ride on full capacity bus took us past the Orangery down broad walk passing The Hive on the left towards the Palm House and past the Victoria Plaza turning right towards the Mediterranean Garden stopping to admire the Pagoda Vista and on down Love Lane. On the way we stopped to view the Cedar Vista and on with a further stop where we had a good view of the Temperate House recently opened after a multi-million refit. On we went seeing a lot of holly bushes laden with berries to an unscheduled stop to feed the intrepid peacocks while looking at the refurbished Pagoda in its full glory. As mentioned before we stopped off at the Japanese Garden for group photo and up to the Chokusi Mon (Gateway of the Imperial Messenger) which is a near replica of the Gate of Nishi Hongan-ji (Western Temple of the Original Vow) in Kyoto, **Japan**.

Moving on past sequoia trees and passing a ground measure showing the circumference of the girth of the large trunks. Turning right we travelled parallel to

the river with Syon House across the river fully in view. It is also the place from where one can view the Syon Vista stretching towards the back of Palm House. Past the childrens' play area, some to be opened next year. Soon we were looking at the Kew Palace buildings which are open during summer months and finally back to Elizabeth Gate.

I would only repeat the comment of one of the members who is a long time member of Kew Gardens and who was persuaded to come for the trip 'I am glad we were persuaded to come as we learned a lot and it was well worthwhile'.

Finally, we would like to thank our knowledgeable guide Jane and the volunteer driver Andrew who made a very grey day well worthwhile..

**If you would be interested in taking a tour on the Discovery Bus in the spring, please contact [info@mess.org.uk](mailto:info@mess.org.uk)**