

LONGWOOD GARDENS

Brief biography: Botanist and plant hunter Chris Thorogood is the Deputy Director and Head of Science for the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum in the UK. Chris is a best-selling author of specialist and non-specialist titles including 'Weird Plants' and the children's book 'Perfectly Peculiar Plants'. Chris's research focusses on the evolution of parasitic and carnivorous plants, and plant diversity in the Mediterranean Basin and Japan. Chris is a passionate communicator and ambassador for public engagement with plant sciences, and has made regular international TV appearances, including shows in the UK, Germany, China and Canada.

Academic background: Chris was awarded the international Irene Manton Prize for the best PhD thesis in botany and plant sciences in the year of 2009. He carried out his PhD and postdoctoral research post at the University of Bristol. He is a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London (FLS), and holds an EPA Cephalosporin Research Fellowship at Linacre College, at the University of Oxford, where he teaches plant sciences. Chris is an Editor for the journal Plants People Planet, of the New Phytologist Trust.

About Chris's work: Besides Chris's academic research and popular books, he is a wildlife artist and illustrator. His latest exhibitions 'Weird Plants' in Edinburgh and 'Flower to Frame' in Oxford, feature plants he has seen around the world, from the Middle East to the Old World tropics. Chris has painted since he was a child; today he seeks to capture the beauty of plants and animals in their natural habitats in a super-real style, using oil on canvas.

Recent book titles:

- Weird Plants (2018), Kew Publishing
- Perfectly Peculiar Plants (2018), Quarto
- The Tropical Hothouse (2019), Carlton Books
- Curious Creatures (2019), Bodleian Publishing



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