

# Past, present and future...



Jonathan Mitchley University of Reading Susan Medcalf Natural England John Warren Field Studies Council

**Sebastian Stroud** University of Leeds Meriel Jones University of Liverpool Alastair Culham University of Reading

Alastair Fitter University of York Colin Clubbe Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Jonathan Charmley University of Reading

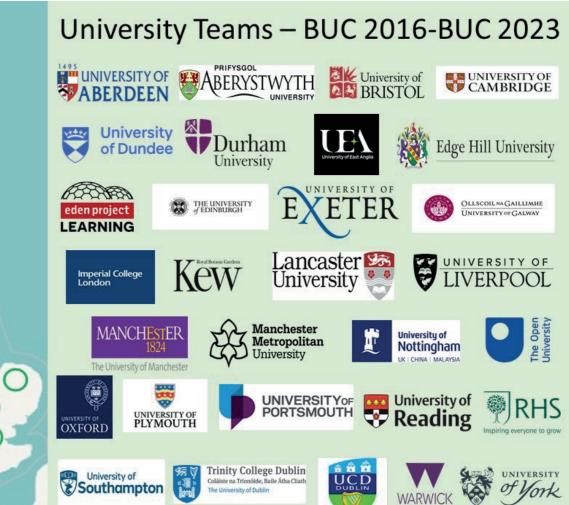
Sven Batke Edge Hill University Hannah Hall University of Reading Lauren Baker Oxford Botanic Garden



## In a nutshell...

- An exciting new way to celebrate plants and the next generation of plantaware students
- Brings together students interested in plants in a friendly and fun annual contest
- Celebrates the diversity of ways to be fascinated by plants
- Connects institutions offering plant-related courses in UK and Ireland and further afield
- Highlights the urgency to educate future generations in botany and plant science to meet global needs





Watch the recording of the **2023** finals online!

Over 30 institutions have taken part!



## The history of Botanical University Challenge

**2016 (Kew) Chair: James Wong** 5 teams

A brand-new concept!

**2019 (Reading)** 

**Chair: Chris Preston 6** teams

**Beautiful T-shirts** (now a collector's item!) 2020 (Liverpool)

**Chair: Alan McCarthy** 7 teams Live material used in questions!

**2021 (Online)** 

**Chairs: Alan Fitter** & Colin Clubbe 15 teams

**Online & live streamed,** with internal funding

#### **2022 (Online)**

**Chairs: Sandy Knapp, Raj Whitlock, Honor Prentice** & Lena Struwe

18 teams

Multiple-choice questions (1st round) & external funding

#### **2023**: online with live finals in Nottingham!

Chairs: Leif Bersweden, Henry Ford, Paul Ashton, Tiina Sarkinen, Colin Clubbe, Amanda Rasmussen 25 teams · More external funding + the first student botany festival · Scan the QR code above to watch the recording of this year's finals!

## **BUC** achievements

- Our open-door policy enables students to help shape the **BUC community**
- Launch of a student-led newsletter 'The Thymes' in 2022, connecting the community of plantaware students, including interviews with leading botanists (scan the QR code to view online)
- First ever fully funded Student Botany Festival at University of Nottingham with a poster and networking session, BSBI plant ID field walk and a careers workshop

### **BUC 2024**

- BUC2024 will be bigger than ever with three online rounds and live finals hosted by Oxford Botanic Garden and **Arboretum**
- Alongside the finals will be a 3-day student botany festival with careers showcase, botanical Illustration workshop, a mini-FISC with BSBI and many other botanical attractions!
- Follow the QR code for more information
- Email botanicaluniversitychallenge@gmail.com if you have ideas for content or funding

