

# Joseph Hooker takes after his father

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 1865

Joseph Hooker became director of Kew Gardens in Surrey Near London.

Since Joseph Hooker's ~~dad~~ father - William Hooker - was director of Kew Gardens, Joseph has had a strong interest in botany from the age of seven. However, in later years of Mr. Hooker's life he started going on botanical expeditions to New Zealand, Antarctica and India. His first expedition was to Antarctica (1839-1841) where he discovered there was plant-life even in the freezing cold. But then the famous botanist, Joseph Hooker, dedicated four years - 1847-1851 - where he travelled to India to discover 7,000 new plant species of plants including twenty-five new rhododendrons. Because he roamed too far across from the Himalayas - India - he was imprisoned by the Rajah; fortunately he managed to escape.

Despite Mr Hooker being busy here is an interview with the born-and-bred in Halesworth pioneer, "I am very pleased to be director of Kew I ought to bring new species of plant."