

## Botanist Brings Bounty!

A famous and dedicated scientist has recently accepted the job as Director at Kew Gardens, ~~Richmond~~ Richmond.

Having taken the job, Joseph Hooker would be following in his father's foot-steps - who is called William Hooker.

Although he had an important role as Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, he sustained his ~~role~~ goal of going on expeditions as well as studying plants.

Hooker's career began as a surgeon in the navy - which was in 1839 to 1843 - it didn't put him off being a botanist. Despite being ~~a~~ imprisoned in India by the Rajah during an ~~expedition~~, he had roamed too far in the Himalayas.

While in India, he discovered 100,000 species of plant life, of which were 7,500 genera (types of plant life.)

In India - which he got a government grant to visit - he collected 7,000 plant species, including 25 new species of *Rhododendron*.

The pioneering voyages he ~~experienced~~ experienced with Charles Darwin, who was his friend, added to his illustrious career.

Hooker told us, escaping jail wasn't easy; he had to ~~wrestle~~ wrestle with his fears. "I had to face my fears and to add to that it wasn't easy to escape."

Joseph Hooker went on a voyage to India, he brought: a dandelion, it was yellow; a Rhododendron, it was purple and black; and a magnifying glass, it was see-through.

If you could visit Kew Gardens and possibly possibly meet Joseph Hooker, please do.