BOTANICAL UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

NTHE M

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

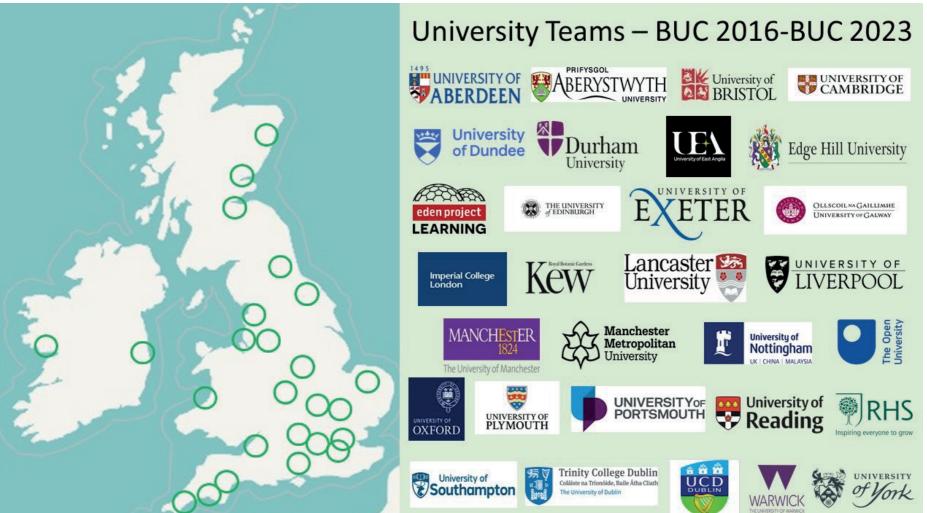
Alastair Fitter University of York Colin Clubbe Royal Botanic Gardens Kew Jonathan Charmley University of Reading

Sven Batke Edge Hill University Hannah Hall University of Reading Hamish Symington University of Cambridge

In a nutshell...

- An exciting new way to celebrate plants and the next generation of plantaware students
- Connects institutions offering plant-related courses in UK and Ireland and further afield

Over 30 institutions have taken part!





- Brings together students interested in plants in a friendly and fun annual contest
- Celebrates the diversity of ways to be fascinated by plants
- Highlights the urgency to educate future generations in botany and plant science to meet global needs



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



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, held at the University of Nottingham, offering students the chance to meet, network and explore their next steps

Next steps for BUC

- Continue the annual BUC quiz and develop ways to support the next generation of plant-aware students in the UK and Ireland
- The BUC 2023 live stream and video has been viewed by over 3,500 people in 28 countries around the world



• We're keen to explore the potential for BUC International and would value your feedback and ideas (scan the **QR code for a short questionnaire)**

