My name is Sharon Willoughby and I'm an environmental and garden historian who works as the Head of Interpretation at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

The Agius Evolution Garden occupies a really interesting piece of land at Kew that's had a really long and quite unexpected history.

If I stand on the central walkway with The Mount behind me looking towards the Jodrell Laboratory, so looking North, I'm looking across the land that before 1730 belonged to the Capel family.

So they had a house down near the river. The northern part of their land was an orchard, but this southern part of their land that we would be standing in now they used as long borders.

From 1730 until 1846, this land was part of a 14-acre royal kitchen garden, so it supplied fruit, vegetables, and herbs to Prince Frederick and Princess Augusta and their household, but it was part of a larger network of royal gardens across London that supplied all the royal households.

So that network would have included Hampton Court, Windsor Palace, Kensington Palace Gardens, so no supermarkets, just a network of gardens.

Between 1846 and 1867, this area was known as The Herbaceous Grounds. It was planted by the first Director of Kew, William Jackson Hooker.

He arranged it in a series of round and scroll-shaped parterre beds that illustrated a classification system that had been developed by a French botanist in 1789.

It then changed again between 1867 and 1870 when his son, Joseph Dalton Hooker, who was the second director of Kew, replanted this area to outline a classification system that he and the Kew botanist George Bentham were working on.

He laid out the shape that people might be more familiar with, of a central pathway with long, rectangular beds radiating out of each side and particular families of plant would have one or more of the long, rectangular beds to themselves.

The next big change came in 2010 when the shape of the garden remained the same, the same as Joseph Dalton Hooker had laid it out, but it became known as the Family Beds.

And it was redesigned, all the planting was redesigned, to illustrate the very early work in DNA classification of plants that was published by the Angiosperm Phylogeny Group in 2009.

So that's really all the changes there have been to this one, relatively tiny area of land across nearly 300 years.

An amazing journey really, but that journey all the way along illustrating our different relationships and thinking about plants.

I like sitting in the garden and looking across the tapestry of all the flowers. It's rich in texture and colour and sound. I love watching all the flower heads nod in the breeze. It's just a lovely spot at Kew to sit and think.