



AFFILIATED TO
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush

Membership Secretary: Janet Evans

Society email cehs561@gmail.com

Society website cehs.co.uk

From the Chair - March 2021

Lovely sunny weather at the end of February has meant, hopefully, good progress has been made in preparing the garden.

This month we have an interesting talk on wildlife in the garden, not a PowerPoint presentation and with some audience participation, it should be good! More on this from John Windass below.

With lockdown hopefully ending in June we are now starting to plan activities for later in the year, more in the next newsletter.

Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. "Wildlife In Everyday Gardens" by Stuart Mabbutt and William Mankelov

Stuart Mabbutt has been a professional gardener specialising in wildlife friendly gardens for over thirty years. As the self-professed "Wildman" he now runs the aptly named "Wildman Environmental Learning" company offering a range of services for companies and societies - including broadcasts, seminars, workshops & guided walks - directed towards enhancing the well-being of both ourselves and wildlife through improved awareness.

Stuart and his colleague William Mankelov, a professional photographer, will join us to talk on "Wildlife In Everyday Gardens" in what they promise will be a different style of Zoom presentation! Please join them to

learn more about what is good for us and the wildlife that shares our gardens!

Tuesday 13th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. "Gardening In Small Spaces" by Camilla Phelps

As we "nearly but not quite" start escaping the challenges of lock down, we have been very fortunate to find an experienced Zoom speaker who promises to inspire us to make the best horticultural use of any small outdoor spaces!

Report: Tuesday 9th February 2021 "Native Mediterranean Plants & Their Use in British Gardens" by Brian Fisher.

Getting to grips with the "new technology" and returning to the society after a gap of 8 years Brian brightened a dark cold winter's evening with lots of colourful pictures taken on dry sunny days and reminding us of how plants cope with the "rigours" of a Mediterranean climate wherever they occur in the world: warm wet winters and hot dry summers.

From both Europe and South Africa there are a wide variety of spring bulbs which hibernate over the summer. Other plants have silvery foliage to reflect the sun, whilst having small hairy leaves or even no leaves at all are also useful strategies to minimise water loss. Deep roots are also good news!

Gardening in an area of South Oxfordshire with little or no surface water, you will probably spot a variety of "Mediterranean

Plants" already coping well in your garden. As climate changes you should look after them! Like me you may however have to learn the lesson that some of these plants actually need it to be dry to stress them into flowering! Take Brian's advice and don't water too neurotically!

John Windass

Diary from the RHS

Spring arrives

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks. It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Protect new spring shoots from slugs
- 2 Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
- 3 Plant summer-flowering bulbs
- 4 Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
- 5 Top dress containers with fresh compost
- 6 Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
- 7 Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
- 8 Hoe and mulch weeds to keep them under control early
- 9 Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
- 10 Prune bush and climbing roses

Did you Know?

Poinsettia is a Euphorbia

Poinsettias are cheery plants that are widely grown indoors over Christmas for their brightly coloured bracts. They are often disposed of once they start to fade, but with a little care, you can keep them all year and the bracts will colour up again the following year.

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) is considered to be considerably less toxic than other *Euphorbia* species. However, it is best to avoid ingestion and contact with milky sap that may cause skin and eye irritation.

(Courtesy of Brian Fisher)

Spring Photo Competition

This year's categories are:

- 1.New Life
- 2.Cold
- 3.Pets
- 4.Open

Colour or Black & White accepted.

The results of this competition will go towards the Baskerville Cup.

Entries open January 25th - March 27th 2021

Please email entries to cehs561@gmail.com and include the following: your name and the category you are entering in. You can enter more than one category, but please email each entry separately.

Colin Mather

For Latest CEHS news

We are not producing a printed membership card with a program of events this year as events and dates are fluid. All the up-to-date information can be found on the website www.cehs.co.uk

Newsletters will not be printed during the lockdown.

Donations please

We are not able to have the usual raffles at talks which help cover costs.

If you have watched the talks on Zoom and would like to make a donation towards our costs to CEHS please send a cheque to CEHS at 18 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, RG49JT

Unfortunately, our account does not enable BACS payments.

Passcode: 845121

Sonning Common Spring Front Garden
Competition 2021

Front Garden Competition

Spring is coming-just to remind you to take note of any eye catching gardens in the village. The winner will be awarded The Geoff Mitton Trophy. Make sure you are in time to submit your nomination for the Spring Front Gardens Competition. The closing date is Monday 29th March 2021.

Email nominations to cehs561@gmail.com

You can enter your own garden, or a neighbour's or any garden you may see, even if you don't know the owners or their names.

Maureen Stevens - Competition Organiser

Zoom talk details

Topic: "Wildlife in Everyday Gardens"

A Talk by Stuart ("The Wildman")

Mabbutt. From 7.00 Talk 7.30

9th March 2021

CEHS SC is inviting you to a scheduled
Zoom meeting.

Topic: Wildlife in Everyday Gardens SCHS

Time: Mar 9, 2021 06:45 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83734074436?pwd=bGJBMkJSVxkxK0dDS1pEZjhNa1cyUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 3407 4436

Passcode: 845121

For laptops or PCs to join a meeting:

You don't need to download the Zoom (client for meeting) app for laptops. Just:

- 1) Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
- 2) Click join meeting and add the meeting ID and then the passcode.
Meeting ID: 837 3407 4436

Or copy the link we will email to you into your browser and press enter.

For phones and tablets

Download the ZOOM Cloud meetings app

Zoom invitation

- 1) Enter the meeting ID
Meeting ID: 837 3407 4436
- 2) Click Join
- 3) Add the passcode
Passcode: 845121
- 4) Join the meeting with Video

Or click on the link in the email you will receive and that will take you to the meeting.