



AFFILIATED TO  
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush 0118 9722167  
Membership Secretary: Janet Evans 0118 3277709  
Society email [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)  
Society website [cehs.co.uk](http://cehs.co.uk)

## From the Chair - February 2022

I must thank the committee for their hard work organising an excellent programme for this year. I hope you will be able to participate in many of the events, starting with the February talk, as your attendance makes it all worthwhile.

You will receive a Spring Show schedule with this newsletter, please look at it and see what you can enter to help continue to make the show a success. If you have any plants you could donate for the plant stall at the show these would be much appreciated.

## Talks

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 2.30pm.  
"In an English Country Garden" by Penny Noble

Our February afternoon presentation this year has kindly been offered by one of our own members: Penny Noble.

Based on highlights of both personal and Benson Garden Club visits made in recent years to a range of local gardens, Penny's presentation will remind us how glorious country gardens can be, the beautiful flora they contain and, perhaps, how interesting the fauna can be. All being well we may even get to test out the audio part of the new AV system installed in Peppard Memorial Hall during the pandemic!

Please join us!

## Report: "Beth Chatto: A Life With Plants" by Catherine Horwood

Trialling an annual Zoom talk in January allowed members to enjoy a presentation on Beth Chatto, one of the most influential horticulturalists of recent times, by her personally chosen biographer - Catherine Horwood - without anyone venturing out on a cold dark night!

Brought up in East Anglia in modest circumstances by parents who were keen amateur gardeners, the then Bessie Little inherited their enthusiasm for plants but had a burning ambition to teach. Her horticulture interests were however turbocharged when she met and married the older and much better off Andrew Chatto, already a well-travelled and extremely knowledgeable plantsman. Strongly influenced by artist Cedric Morris, the by-now Beth and Andrew developed several gardens and a specialist nursery in the Colchester area.

Naturalistic and environmentally sound gardens and displays then became Beth's passion (as Catherine hinted, she had at least one other!). Meanwhile Andrew's contributions were somewhat drier: scientific or finance based.

Overall Beth Chatto's love of plants, vision, imagination, determination and perfectionism, combined to enable her revolutionise much about modern ornamental gardens and, certainly, RHS shows.

A fun and informative evening!

John Windass

## Open Gardens 2022: Are You Willing to open your garden?

Following last year's successful Open Gardens afternoon, we would like to repeat it this year with different gardens. If you live within the Sonning Common/Peppard area, are you willing to open your garden for two hours on a Saturday afternoon in July?

If so, please contact a member of the committee or email [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)

## Front Garden Competition

Spring is coming - so we remind you to take note of any eye-catching gardens in the village. The winner will be awarded The Geoff Mitton Trophy at the Spring Show. Make sure you are in time to submit your nomination for the Spring Front Gardens Competition. The closing date is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. A nomination form accompanies this newsletter and then it will be time to start thinking about the Summer Front Garden Competition.

*Maureen Stevens - Competition Organiser*

## Categories for the Spring Show Photo competition

1. Mushrooms / Fungi.
2. Winter sunshine.
3. Arches.
4. Open.

## Newsletter Delivery

Although many of you are now receiving your newsletter via email many newsletters are still being delivered to the door by members. The Chairman and Committee would like to thank each and every one of these volunteers for their continued support.

## Membership Renewal Reminder

Annual membership runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December each year. So, if your renewal subscription has not been received by 1<sup>st</sup> March your membership will lapse and newsletter delivery will cease. Please, don't be caught out by an oversight! If necessary, please complete the renewal slip attached and return to:- Janet Evans, 26 Green Lane, Sonning Common, Reading, RG4 9NA.

## Dates for your Diary

8 March (Tues) TALK "Clematis" a talk by Marcel Floyd (Floyds Climbers)

9 April (Sat) SPRING SHOW 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall

12 April (Tues) TALK "House Plant Propagation" A talk by Pamela Holt

## RHS Gardening in February

Spring is in sight!

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

### Top gardening jobs this month

1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover

Knowing which vegetables to sow where, when and how means you can maintain constant supplies throughout the season.

Sow vegetable seeds

2 Chit potato tubers

It is important with earlies, and a good idea with maincrops, to 'chit' the seed

potatoes before planting. This means allowing them to start sprouting shoots.

3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches

Most top fruit and soft fruit are very hardy but once they start into growth in spring, flowers and buds are especially vulnerable to frost and may need protection to crop well.

Protect fruit from frost

4. Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off

5. Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering

6. Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'

7. Prune Wisteria

8. Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges

9. Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea

10. Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

### **The Queen's Green Canopy: Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**

*Celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 by being part of The Queen's Green Canopy.*

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

The Queen's Green Canopy will create a network of individual trees, avenues,



copses and whole woodlands in honour of The Queen's service and the legacy she has built.

This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future.

#### *Get involved*

Whether you're joining neighbours or a community group, or planting as a school or organisation, every tree makes a difference.

Any trees planted from October 2021 to the end of the jubilee year in 2022 can be part of the QGC. Tree planting season is October to March - this is when roots are dormant and new trees will have the best chance of flourishing. Why not use the summer months to plan your planting and arrange a day of celebration?

Before you apply you'll need to:

- Know the six digit grid reference for the land you wish to plant using the grid reference finder
- Have permission from the legal landowner

For more information view the woodland Trust Website

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>

## Letters/emails/articles

We welcome your comments/articles/letters these can be sent to CEHS at [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

## Blossom Watch Day

Why not take part in Blossom Watch Day organised by the National Trust.

In an ever-changing world, nature will always be a source of comfort for many of us. Get ready for spring, when we'll be bringing you the best places to spot blossom. You're also invited to join in with The NT celebration in the run up to #BlossomWatch day on 23 April 2022, when The NT will be asking you to share your pictures of beautiful blossom on social media.

### Sonning Common Spring Front Garden competition 2022

I nominate the front garden at .....

Signed ..... **Please print your name** .....

Please return completed form by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2018  
to Maureen Stevens 4 Inglewood Close Sonning Common, RG4 9SY.  
Telephone : 0118 972 4779



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Annual subscription: £8.00 per member (children free). Newsletter postage: £7.00 /year  
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TOTAL £\_\_\_\_\_ Cash/Cheque Cheques payable to CEHS

Please return completed form together with cash or cheque to: - Janet Evans, 26 Green Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9NA (These can also be handed in at the AGM)

### GDPR

Email addresses are held by CEHS for the purpose of distribution of newsletters. Only name and email address are held digitally to inform members of any changes to activities/events or to ask for information/help. CEHS can be contacted via email at [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)

I consent to CEHS holding my email address.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_