



# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush

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Society website [cehs.co.uk](http://cehs.co.uk)

## From the Chair - April 2022

Thanks to the members who responded for our plea for help with the Spring Show. We hope lots of you will enter and/or attend the show.

Please if you have any plants to spare could you please donate them for our plant stall at the Spring Show. Please bring them to the Sonning Common Village Hall during the morning of show day 9<sup>th</sup> April.

## SPRING SHOW UPDATE

### **Format**

Given the current high levels of Covid-19 infections the CEHS committee have decided that to run our Spring Show as safely as possible we will use a format designed to encourage social distancing as was used successfully for our Autumn 2021 show. Therefore:-

- Regrettably, there will be no seating areas or any refreshments (teas etc).
- The hall will be arranged with a one-way system allowing all exhibits to be viewed in the order of appearance in the Show Schedule.
- Raffle prizes will be numbered and won in the order drawn. Tickets will cost £1 each and you will be asked to provide a contact phone number so safe distribution can be organised.

- There will be no prize ceremony, results will appear on the CEHS website & in the Henley Standard and trophies will be distributed after engraving.
- CEHS committee members & volunteer helpers will be wearing face masks and all visitors will be requested to do so if they are able.

### **Schedule Correction**

Please note that we have discovered a mistake in the class numbers in the Domestic section of the distributed version of the Show Schedule. In planning and notifying your entries please use the correct class numbers shown below:-

- 30 Jar of marmalade.
- 31 Jar of chutney
- 32 Tea Loaf
- 33 Dark Jamaican Gingerbread
- 34 Soda Bread

Many apologies!

John Windass

### Talks

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30pm.**  
**"House Plant Propagation" by Pamela Holt**

Our final talk before the summer break will include a practical demonstration of house plant propagation by expert and life-long horticulturist Pamela Holt whose background includes working in a wide range of gardens, nurseries, garden

centres, horticultural colleges and for local authorities as a tree officer.

Originally trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with Alan Titchmarsh, Pamela then the braved teaching Charlie Dimmock whilst lecturing in Somerset. An intrepid traveller and rock-climber she has also braved the collection of plants in Peru and Bolivia for Kew. She should have some tales to tell!

**Report: Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**"Clematis" by Marcel Floyd**

This talk, arranged nearly 3 years ago, finally brought professional nurseryman, clematis specialist and enthusiast Marcel Floyd to Peppard Common with a transit van load of first rate plants from his nursery in Wiltshire.

Unsurprisingly a large and enthusiastic turn out of CEHS members were very keen to inspect and acquire some of the impressive specimens on offer! Patience proved worthwhile however as Marcel shared more than 30 years worth of experience in selecting, planting, pruning and even some of the secrets of propagating these beautiful and varied plants which originate from a remarkable range of northern hemisphere countries.

Sharing propagation secrets with a group of keen gardeners may have seemed something of a risk, though one suspects taking tiny cuttings and nurturing them carefully for more than 2 years may not be to everyone's taste! Buying healthy specimens, whilst we could still remember the beautiful flowers in the slide show with which Marcel concluded his talk, definitely proved very popular and much easier than any DIY efforts!. I look forward to

enjoying my newly planted Guernsey Cream and hope I get its Group 2 pruning right!

John Windass



Seed Swap



The second Sonning Common Seed Swap was held at Heath & Watkins on Saturday 12th March.

The event was made possible thanks to the generosity of the Henley Seed Swap who donated the left over seeds from their event held the week before, the British Garden Centre at Playhatch who donated 50 packets for seeds, Heath & Watkins who provided the venue and various packets of seeds and the Heritage Seed Library.

The Heritage Seed Library (HSL) aim to conserve and make available vegetable varieties that are not widely available. They donate a variety of seeds every year to Seed Swap events across the country and in

return ask for donations to be made so that they continue this vital work

The HSL collection consists of mainly European varieties, including:

- rare landrace varieties, which are adapted to specific growing conditions.
- heirloom varieties that have been saved over many generations. These are unique to the Heritage Seed Library catalogue.
- varieties that have been dropped from popular seed catalogues over the past decade. This occurs for a number of reasons; their lack of popularity with customers, their unsuitability for commercial-scale production or simply the prohibitive cost of trialling and National Listing.

Attendees were invited to bring along seeds they had to swap, however, having nothing to bring was not a barrier to attendance and people could take as many seeds as they wanted in return for a donation.

The event was a great success and £135 was raised in donations - which, due the current situation, was split 50/50 between the Heritage Seed Library and the Ukraine appeal.

Hopefully the event will be held again next year so don't forget to save those seeds.

Jessica Philbrick

## RHS Gardening in April

Sunshine and showers

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom. Expect the inevitable April showers this month but

with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

Top gardening jobs this month

1 Sow hardy annuals, herbs and wild flower seed outdoors

Sowing seeds outdoors is an easy, inexpensive and fun way to grow new plants. It's ideal for a wide range of hardy flowers and vegetables.

2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts

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.

3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses

Rose pruning ensures that plants grow vigorously and flower well each year. Although often considered complicated, rose pruning is not difficult if you follow this guide.

4. Keep weeds under control

5. Start to feed citrus plants

6. Increase the water given to houseplants

7. Feed hungry shrubs and roses

8. Sow new lawns or repair bare patches

9. Prune fig trees

10. Divide bamboos and waterlilies



## CEHS Summer 2022 Coach Trips

Mark Richards has arranged three coach outings for this year.

### **21 May (Sat) COACH OUTING - Hatfield Gardens, Hatfield**

The House and gardens are 400 years old and built on site of the old palace occupied by Elizabeth I as a child. The Cecil family owned the house and created the gardens which are now cared for by Lady Salisbury. There are 7 gardens to explore, a lake and water features, statutory, veteran trees and woodland. The gardens are well stocked and maintained. Website is [www.Hatfield-house.co.uk](http://www.Hatfield-house.co.uk) for more information.

Price excludes house entry, can be booked in advance or on day.

Gardens include cafe, souvenir and gift shops and plant sales.

Booking form overleaf.

18 June (Sat) COACH OUTING - Castle Ashby Gardens, Northampton

17 September (Sat) COACH OUTING - Wisley

## RHS 10 ways to be more sustainable in your garden

### Make a difference to the environment with these easy tasks

#### More details on the RHS website

##### 1. Plant a tree

Trees are brilliant at drawing down carbon from the atmosphere.

##### 2. Water the way nature intended

Switch from mains to rains in your garden to save carbon. Make your pledge on [mains2rains.uk](http://mains2rains.uk)

##### 3. Go peat-free

Peatlands are the world's largest carbon store on land. They provide valuable ecosystems for plants and animals and act like sponges, reducing the risk of flooding.

##### 4. Make your own compost

Carbon saving quantities linked to home composting (as opposed to buying bagged retail compost) are equivalent to 1.85 miles (driven by average car) saved per kg of home compost made.

##### 5. Pull up a paving slab

Garden soils and perennial plantings play an important role in storing carbon.

##### 6. Plants for pollinators

Pollinators need our help. Loss of habitat is one of the main reasons why we see fewer bees, butterflies and other insects visiting our gardens.

##### 7. Grow your own bunch of flowers

Some imported flowers have up to 10 x the carbon footprint of home or UK-grown bouquets.

##### 8. Electrify your garden

An average petrol power tool emits 0.848 kg carbon per litre of petrol used. It's not only carbon, they emit harmful particulate and noise pollution too.

##### 9. Help map UK garden plant biodiversity

Help map UK garden plant diversity

Add your garden plants to RHS My Garden online. Together we can help map UK garden plants, helping to conserve and grow this important biodiversity now and for future generations. So far we have 122,000 users who have added 2.4 million plants consisting of 77,600 different types of cultivated plants.

**10. Eat more home-grown, UK, local and seasonal fruit and vegetables**

Buying locally sourced and home-grown produce can save significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

Eat more home-grown UK, local and seasonal fruit and vegetables from local sources or from your own garden or allotment. Growing at home allows you to choose not to use pesticides - another plus for the planet.

**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.

Do you have a recommendation for a garden that you have visited? We would like to have a feature in the newsletter on gardens which members have visited and would recommend.

**Coach Outing to Hatfield Gardens Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May 2022**

Prices which include coach & garden entry (not house) and driver's tip are £27.50 per member (£29.50 for non-members)

Pickup points are Kidmore End turn (9.00am), Sonning Common Post Office (9.05am), and Peppard Stores (9.10am), returning at approximately 6.00 pm. approx

**Print Full first name and surname of all ticket holders**

Name	Address and phone number (mobile if possible)	Pickup Point

Please return completed form with cheque payable to CEHS or cash to Mark Richards c/o 18 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9JT by Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Tel 07789553838 for any questions  
Assume you are booked in unless we contact you otherwise

YOU CAN BRING YOUR COMPELETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO THE SHOW OR TO THE TALK ON  
12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL