



# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush

Membership Secretary: Janet Evans

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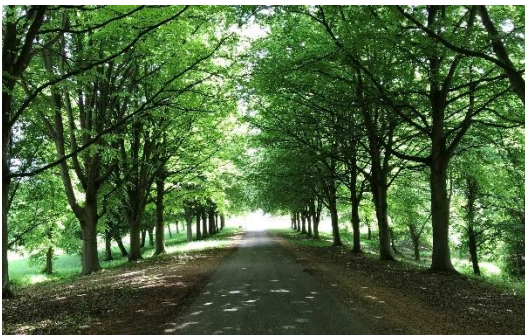
Society website [cehs.co.uk](http://cehs.co.uk)

## From the Chair - June 2022

It was lovely to see so many at the visit to Hatfield Gardens and we are now looking forward to the trip to Castle Ashby on 18.th June.

We thought it would be nice to have a local event in July so we have opted for an afternoon tea on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July in my garden at 18 Kennylands (2.30-4.30). We hope to see many of you there. More details next month.

## Visit to Hatfield House



Our first visit to Hatfield House Gardens and House was worth the wait...gorgeous house built in the 1600's and original palace pre dating it all with delightful architecture and within the house was furnished and decorated to the best money could buy.

Still owned and lived in by the Cecil family the property also contained some modern works of art and glimpses of the family today.

The formal gardens were a picture with lots of iris, alliums, wisteria and clematis

with all the roses in heavy bud about to open. The garden too had some modern sculptures and fountains to compliment the original features.

There was a film crew using the estate and the keen eyed amongst us soon spotted a few fake yet very realistic flowers dotted about in the garden that made us peer intently to check we were Correct.

The woodland walk and lake were also very pretty and teeming with bird life and full of ancient oak trees including the Elizabeth I oak tree where the young princess was informed she was Queen. We were looked after by a lovely tea shop and most of us frequented the artisan ice cream shop and even found the electric robot lawn mowers moving around the lawns fascinating to watch.



Thank you to Nigel for arranging all the coach pick ups and drop offs and thank you to the members who came on the trip.

Mark Richards

## Front Garden Competition

Spring 2022 was glorious with early snow drops and the wild primroses and then a whole host of golden "daffodils" so many varieties these days judging took place

mid-March with Janet Sue Jessica and Elaine during the rounds the weather was mixed at that time. Janet and Sue got very wet and there were several frosts which caught most of the magnolias.

The best garden award went to a front garden in Newnham Close, a are very dainty and pretty garden full of interesting plants and bulbs and the magnolia tree in full bloom and not caught by frost even in a north facing garden

Second was Peter Selwyn of Baskerville Road, an enchanting spring garden in front of the prettiest cottage, third went to Bob and Sylvia Newbury in Reades Lane, a large front garden which recently had a big change from a big lawn to gravel with striking centre-piece a good move to make life a bit easier, the early spring flowers and shrubs were at their best

It is now only May and the gardens have sprung to life with bluebells and azaleas and of course the tulips which were bravely hanging on in the chilly east wind

The summer front garden competition will be charged in mid-July so please let me have your nominations for any garden that catches your eye the gardens on the new homes are all well-loved and deserve a mention

Also, if you're interested in helping with the judging, please let me know it is fun to do and a good way of getting to know the village and a legitimate excuse to stop and admire gardens you have a sheet of addresses and instructions and go around giving points at your leisure during the given week

Maureen Stevens 972 4779

Nominations needed for the summer front garden competition.

### Summer Reception 2022

We are having an afternoon tea on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July in the garden of 18

Kennylands. This will give us an opportunity to meet and socialise locally which we have not been able to do at the shows. Next month we will be asking for volunteers to make cakes/scones in the next newsletter.

### Autumn Show Photo topics

1. Anything round
2. Statues
3. Summer colour
4. Open.

### Our June trip

Saturday 18/6/22 trip to Castle Ashby Gardens near Northampton.

Price is £28.50 per person. Minimum 30 places to ensure viability.

Castle Ashby Gardens belong to the 7th Marquess of Northampton and contain Italian Garden, orangery, arboretum, butterfly garden, herbaceous garden, secret garden and nature trails.

The house is not open to public .

There is a tea shop/ cafe, gift shop, picnic area, garden centre and a menagerie with meerkats, marmosets, giant tortoise, birds, miniature ponies, pigs, goats and rabbits.

The gardens have recently undergone a refurbishment and have only opened again on 1st June to the public.

Mark Richards

### RHS Gardening in June

#### Summer arrives

June 21 is the longest day of the year, and the extra light and warmth encourages the garden to put on an exuberant burst of growth. But this extra light and warmth also means weeds will sprout up from seemingly nowhere. Keep on top of them by hoeing regularly in dry conditions.

1 Position summer hanging baskets and containers outside

2 Be water-wise, especially in drought-affected areas

3 Pinch out sideshoots on tomatoes

Removing the side-shoots is simple - every time you water, check the plant for any shoots sprouting just above each leaf, from the joint between the leaf and the stem.

4 Harvest lettuce, radish, other salads and early potatoes

5 Hoe borders regularly to keep down weeds

6 Mow lawns at least once a week - but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife

7 Plant out summer bedding

8 Stake tall or floppy plants

9 Prune many spring-flowering shrubs

10 Shade greenhouses to keep them cool and prevent scorch

### CEHS 'New Girls'

Oh what a lovely day !..... On Saturday 21st June, recently enrolled new members of CEHS, Sue and Frances, joined the happy band of plant and garden enthusiasts as we made our way by coach to Hatfield House. There were a few greyish clouds overhead to begin with, after a little while they cleared and we had near perfect weather.

Some of the party headed straight for a tour of the house, which was amazing by all accounts. We however made our first call to the cafe and kick start with some caffeine! Then proceeded to the super formal garden, which was stunning. Some beautiful Iris in a variety of hues, especially one which was purple and white with a frilly edge, neither of us had seen that type before; plus many, many other blooms which took our breath away.



Next we decided to head off for the woodland area and have a long walk, well more like a delightful amble, through a lovely deserted area with many different Rhododendrons in full bloom looking glorious. We spotted the very unusual 'Handkerchief Tree' (Google tells me the correct name is 'Davidia Involucrata' and also that it is rare), I have only seen one before and that was in the grounds of Reading University.



handkerchief tree - Wiktionary

After a brief stop for lunch, we made our way to the church. It was decked out in preparation for a wedding later that afternoon, but we had chance for a look around and were even invited to attend, if we had the time!

Back to the main grounds, Frances took another walk around and Sue found a bench in a sunny spot and chatted to whoever would listen (respite for a hip behaving badly!) Our visit concluded with locally

made delicious ice-cream before boarding the coach for an uneventful journey home.

As you can probably tell, we thoroughly enjoyed our first outing with you and look forward to the next. Our thoughts also turn to the Autumn Show and everything else horticultural.

Thank you for taking us on board!

(Thanks especially to Nigel for the introduction that sparked our interest during our Wednesday morning work-outs with the churchyard gardening group of St John the Baptist church.)

Sue Jones

### **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.

## **Coach Outing to Castle Ashby Gardens near Northampton Sat 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

Prices which include coach & garden entry (not house) and driver's tip are £28.50 per member  
(£30.50 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**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Address and phone number (mobile if possible)</b>	<b>Pickup Point</b>

Please return completed form with cheque payable to CEHS or cash to Mark Richards c/o 18 Kennylands Road,  
Sonning Common, RG4 9JT Tel 07789553838 for any questions  
Assume you are booked in unless we contact you otherwise