



CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush 0119722167

Membership Secretary: Janet Evans

Society email cehs561@gmail.com

Society website cehs.co.uk

From the Chair **November 2022**

Thanks to all the Committee and Individual Members who worked so hard to make this a successful year.

Hope to see you at the AGM. Please do make time to come along. We need to hear your ideas on how to improve the running of CEHS and the things you would like to see included in the programme.

Please consider helping with the running of the Society, particularly by joining the committee.

Talk Report: Tuesday 11th October 2022 "Pleasures and Perils of Opening Your Garden" Angela & Graham O'Connell

Though advertised as a solo talk by Angela, who with her husband Graham are the NGS Assistant County Organisers for Berkshire, we were again treated to a double act focussed on the experiences of preparing and opening a suburban Surrey garden for this worthy health care charity.

Graham began with an update on how the NGS had coped with the Covid-19 pandemic by a variety of strategies including virtual garden tours with "visitors" arriving from as far away as Japan and Canada, plant sales and garden parties held as far away as Texas! He then took us back about 15 years to when they nearly doubled the size of their long thin garden by acquiring most of their neighbour's back garden. The "canvas" was not however exactly blank!

Large amounts of rubbish including asbestos, half a cast iron fire place, buried televisions and even a bed, which still provides the foundation to a fruit bed had to be dealt with! One would never know now with their beautiful and mixed wild life friendly garden which can attract hundreds of visitors a year especially during their peak month of June.

Angela then picked up the story by describing the crucial inspection which precedes acceptance of a garden worthy of being in the NGS scheme. The inspectors are not however infallible horticulturally: when examining the O'Connells own garden one inspector failed to identify a beautiful bloom as being a potato!. In the opening season itself catering, weeding, praying for good weather - not too hot or dry, not too cold or wet - and being good-humoured are priorities. Especially when visitors can turn up at 10.30 for a 14.00 opening time or a coach load of Dutch visitors prove to be unfamiliar with scones!



Dates for your diary

Tuesday 8th November 2022 at 7.30pm.

"Death in the Garden" by Michael Brown ("The Historic Gardener")

November provides an opportunity for us to meet and listen in person to Michael Brown, who was our first ever "virtual" ("Zoom") speaker in November 2020 when he gave us a fascinating talk on "Capability Brown - Hero or Villain?".

Michael trained in horticulture and has worked as a head gardener, lecturer and author though his real passions are the history of gardening and of garden plants. Many of these plants are however poisonous and over the centuries have been used for a variety of good and less good purposes: to remove an unwanted partner or rival, as aphrodisiacs, for pest control, as a means to foretell the future or speak with the gods!

As winter nights draw in please join us to learn more about the mysterious mandrake and how a pot of basil helped to conceal a savage murder, until...!?? This promises to be both an informative and thrilling evening with something for devotees of organic gardening and natural remedies to murder mysteries!

John Windass

13th December (Tues) AGM-7.15pm in Peppard Memorial Hall

This is your opportunity to have **your** say on what **you** want from **your** Society. Please put your thinking caps on and come along with your suggestions as to what the Committee should provide.

Your Chairman and current Committee greatly look forward to seeing a good number of members at the AGM and to hearing your comments. The cups from the Autumn Show will be presented after the AGM. Remember, this will be followed with

a cheese and wine buffet and home-made mince pies and a raffle.

If you are willing to make mince pies please contact a committee member or email cehs561@gmail.com

Finally, any items for inclusion on the Agenda should be submitted to Nigel Crush 07553415005 or email cehs561@gmail.com

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom. "10 Ways To A Better Garden" by Doug Stewart.

Building on the success of Zoom talks during "lock down" we will begin 2023 with another using this format. Advantages being that no one needs to travel at this dark and frequently cold and/or wet time of year. We can also attract speakers from far away! So please join us to hear a Yorkshireman's guide to a better garden!

Never really intending to become a horticulturist Doug began gardening at 13, rented an allotment and began earning pocket money by selling vegetables through his local shop. After formal training he had various jobs: a lecturer in cucumber & tomato production, a pumpkin grower, plant propagator, interior landscaper and garden designer. Then followed 20 years as Head of Horticulture at a specialist college and then 15 years as consultant, speaker and trainer. Now he co-presents The Great Outdoors, a gardening phone in on BBC Radio Humberside. A real expert to get us off to a great gardening year!

Spring Show Photo Competition Topics

1. Celebrations.
2. Reflections in water.
3. Still life.
4. Open

Membership Subscriptions

Membership renewals are due on or before the 1 January 2023. Subscriptions remain unchanged for a further year.

Once again we are requesting that, wherever possible, newsletters and Show Schedules are received by email. Please remember to add your email address to the renewal form if you wish to receive newsletters this way. Of course we will continue to hand deliver to those of you who are unable or do not wish to receive information in this way. However members living outside Sonning Common, Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End or Peppard who receive their newsletters by post will need to pay postage.

Please complete the renewal form and return together with cash or cheque (payable to CEHS) to Janet Evans,

Show Administration requirement

Due to other commitments John Windass will stand down as Show Coordinator after the 2023 Spring Show. This means that we need either an individual or small team to step in and help with the necessary organisation for the 2023 Autumn and subsequent shows.

Areas involved include:-

- Booking and liaison with judges.
- Updating the show schedules, especially for classes which change for each show e.g. floral art, domestic and childrens.
- Allocating helpers to assist with the teas, plant stall & raffle and to steward the judges.
- Processing the show entries.
- Organising the display tables on the evening before the show.
- Arranging for trophies to be engraved.

CEHS now has a very small committee with no new members since 2019 so a lot of work falls on current members. If you volunteered to assist with show administration it would not necessarily mean attending all committee meetings. You would however become a key member of our team and would not be left on your own to cope.

Please give very careful consideration to this request to come forward as an individual or small group so that CEHS can continue to run shows. Please also note that if you volunteer soon that John and other committee members will be very happy to "show you the ropes" as they manage the 2023 Spring Show.

Jobs in November

Winter is on its way

Leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.

Top gardening jobs this month

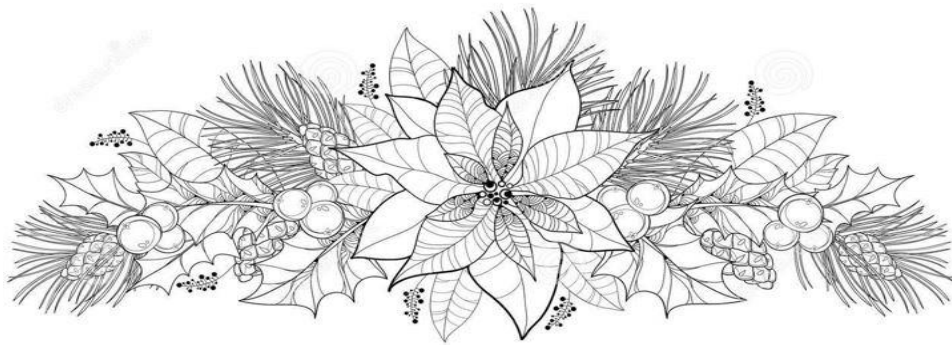
- Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
- 1. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- 2. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- 3. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- 4. Plant out winter bedding
- 5. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- 6. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well
- 7. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks

8. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
9. Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting

Letters/emails/articles

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

The Chairman and the Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year





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Annual subscription: £8.00 per member (children free). Newsletter postage: £7.00 /year
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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

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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

I consent to CEHS holding my email address.

Signed _____