



AFFILIATED TO
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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From the Chair **October 2023**

The nights are drawing in now and it is time to tidy up the garden and prepare for the winter. The CEHS program of talks will start on Tuesday 10th October (see below for details from John Windass), do come early for coffee. We had a very successful series of trips this year and a big thanks to Mark Richards for organising them.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Talks

Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm.
"Organic Gardening" by Ray Broughton

We launch our '23/'24 winter series with a talk on this important and topical subject by Ray Broughton, one of the most popular and knowledgeable gardening speakers in the South East.

Last visiting us a little over 10 years ago, Ray trained originally at Wisley and then became a lecturer/senior lecturer teaching young professional gardeners. He is now president of his local gardening club near Winchester and continues to support the Perennial horticultural charity by speaking on a range of specialist topics including plant propagation, pests & diseases, vegetable & herb growing and organic gardening.

Please join us to hear from a real expert who fully appreciates what gardening clubs are all about!

Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm.
"Tenerife: A Botanical Honey-pot" by Timothy Walker

Ex Oxford Botanic Gardens Director Timothy Walker will share his knowledge as to why this

sub-tropical volcanic island, just $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of Oxfordshire, is so important botanically and horticulturally. Rising to 3,718m (12,198ft) and containing the highest peak in Spain, it is home to many plant species that grow nowhere else on Earth - not even the other Canary Islands. It has habitats that range from sub-tropical desert to temperate rain forests to alpine. In his talk Timothy will not only look at the plants of Tenerife but also the evidence for evolution they have revealed. Charles Darwin regretted bitterly not being able to go ashore on Tenerife - you can now go where Darwin did not!

Definitely one for your diaries as winter draws in!

SHOW SCHEDULES

It has been decided that due to increase costs of postage, paper and printing costs that in future the Show Schedules will NOT be sent to everyone.

In the November newsletter when the Member Subscription form is included, there will be a box to tick if you especially want a Paper Schedule.

Thank you

Janet Evans

RHS Launches New 'RHS Grow App'



Gardening beginner or seasoned professional? Whether you need ideas for plants to make the most of your space or want to boost your fruit and vegetable harvest, the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) is on a mission to help the nation grow with the new RHS Grow App.

The RHS Grow App will bring 200 years of gardening experience and horticultural expertise, from RHS botanists, scientists, fruit

and veg experts and its garden advisory service, to gardeners' fingertips.

Available to download for Android or iPhone, the app is for anyone who needs a little trusted advice to help keep their plants happy all through the year. The RHS Grow App provides a single location to identify the plants you have, gather inspiration for new plants, and receive helpful tips and reminders for simple, year-round plant care that will help gardens thrive.

Gardeners can personalise the app by adding their outdoor spaces and their specific plants, including fruit and vegetables, and they will receive regular tips on how to help them grow.

Get growing, whatever your gardening experience

Helping you to choose plants for your garden, veg patch or windowsill

Making it simple to grow plants successfully with timely reminders on how to care for them

Easily identify plants in your garden or plants you like

A wealth of garden inspiration

Be inspired to garden sustainably - learn to compost, save water and garden for wildlife

Growing advice for more than 65,000 plants

Discover how gardens and green spaces are connected to better physical and mental wellbeing

Martine Parnell, RHS Director of Members, Marketing & Digital, says: "Growing plants helps to support biodiversity and makes people happier and healthier. 26 million people come to the RHS each year for simple and trusted gardening advice and the new RHS Grow App will help your plants flourish by reminding you how to care for them, whether you're growing your own vegetables or creating a tranquil green space."

The RHS Grow App can be downloaded from the App Store or from Google Play. As the app continues to be developed there will be new features and more ways to experience the power of gardening. It's free right now. In the future there will be a fair price to use the app, which will support the work of the RHS.

For more information about the RHS Grow App, visit the RHS website at: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/rhsgrow>

RHS Jobs in the Garden October

The autumn chill sets in

Although we had some warmer days over September, the autumn is now definitely here for real, and it feels colder. It's a beautiful time of year, with the trees changing colour. Sometimes it may seem pointless raking, when the wind blows even more leaves onto the lawn, but just think of all the lovely leafmould you can make! It's also time to start preparing for early frosts.

Top gardening jobs this month

1. Move tender plants, including aquatic ones, into a greenhouse or conservatory
In frost-prone areas a conservatory is the ideal place for overwintering tender perennials and marginally hardy plants from the garden. Cold-sensitive plants in need of good light levels and dry, frost-free conditions will also benefit.
1. Cut back perennials that have died down
Perennials are not demanding plants, but trimming them after flowering finishes in autumn helps improve their appearance and flowering. However, you can leave some stems over winter to provide homes and food for wildlife, and then trim back in spring.
2. Dividing perennials regularly will ensure healthy, vigorous plants that will continue to perform year after year. It

also offers the opportunity to multiply your plants.

3. Divide established rhubarb crowns to create new plants
4. Plant out spring cabbages
5. Harvest apples, pears, grapes and nuts
6. Prune climbing roses
7. Finish collecting seeds from the garden to sow next year
8. Last chance to mow lawns and trim hedges in mild areas
9. Renovate old lawns or create new grass areas by laying turf

Shuttleworth Swiss Garden: Old Warden Aerodrome

On Saturday 16th September our coach took us to the double delights of the Swiss Garden and Shuttleworth Aircraft and Vehicle Collection on what is likely to have been the last bright and sunny day of the year. The group received a very friendly greeting and were given vouchers for a free drink in the excellent café. We also learnt that we had the good fortune to have arrived on one of the old airfield's many event days. This was a meet-up for enthusiasts of remote and control line model aircraft. Control line aircraft are tethered by wires held by the operator. The airplane then wizzes around the "aviator" in a circle while the operator tweaks the wires and makes the aircraft loop-the-loop, fly upside down and otherwise dazzle the viewer with its aerobatics.



The control line aircraft are made to withstand crashes whereas those controlled by remote

control can be beautifully detailed. All of this was really fascinating and, fortunately, so engaging a hobby that the other on-site attractions remained blissfully free of crowds.

Whilst the model aircraft meet sounded like the amplified sound of a jar of angry mosquitos the nine-acre Swiss Garden was a haven of tranquillity. This garden is an historical gem being almost unchanged since its creation, by Lord Ongley in the 1820s, on what was originally a flat clay brickfield. The then-fashionable 'Swiss Picturesque' style demanded landscaping such that the garden is imagined to resemble the Alpine foothills. This delicious conceit is then scattered with fanciful building, ponds, urns and sculptures that attract the eye and create focal points for the garden's many different spaces.



Photo: Swiss cottage, Night and Morning Vase, Moat Bridge,

The garden is the only complete example of a Regency landscape in the UK and has recently been extensively restored thanks to a £2.8 million Heritage Lottery grant. The garden is

about landscape and vistas, not flowers. The grass is well kept, the paths are smooth and the bushes trimmed. There are some magnificent mature trees including a giant Redwood and Cedar of Lebanon. The quaint buildings scattered about it include a Swiss Cottage, from which you get views over the "Alpine" hills and valleys, an Indian Kiosk and a two-seated outdoor Privy which was very interesting for its green credentials but remained untested by the author. There is a grotto, always fun, a chapel and a bowl supported by dolphins made with artificial "pudding stone".



Photo: Grotto

The Friends of Swiss Garden group was showing their annual art exhibition, which added another interest.

Between the buzzing of the model aircraft and the peace of the Swiss Garden are the six impressive hangers containing the Shuttleworth collection of vehicles and airplanes.



The estate passed into the hands of a Joseph Shuttleworth in the 1870s and it was one of his descendants, Richard Shuttleworth, who started collecting and meticulously restoring airplanes and cars during the 1930s. Richard was an enthusiast for all things mechanical, being a racing driver and a pilot, and when he was killed in an air crash his mother kept on collecting! The six hangers all have huge doors and the machines within them are special in that they are in working condition. Thus, the world's oldest flying powered aircraft, a Blériot XI, regularly takes the sky at the Shuttleworth shows. You can wander along and look at these marvellously restored examples of lovely early 20th century aircraft, cars, buses, motorbikes and tractors. The whole thing is brought to life with posters and recreations of workshops.



Photo: Engineering workshop where the airplanes are restored,

Thanks to the organisers. The timings were perfect, the coach comfortable and the whole thing a great success.

Peter Crush

Congratulations

An omission from last month's newsletter was to congratulate Mrs Anita Unwin for winning the Owen Hammant cup for the best collection of vegetables (class 47).

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.