



CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush

Membership Secretary:

Society email cehs561@gmail.com

Society website cehs.co.uk

From the Chair July 2023

The show schedules are going out with this newsletter, please read it and consider what you can enter, the more entries, the better the show. This is our year's showcase event so please help us make it a good one.

We would especially welcome children's entries. So please encourage your children or grandchildren to enter. Children do not have to be members and entry for them is free

September trip

Sept trip is 16/9/23 to Swiss Gardens and Shuttleworth Aircraft Collection, old Warden Bedfordshire.

Cost is £34.50 each to include coach, drivers tip and entry to gardens and vintage Aircraft display in hangars.

Deadline is Sept 4th.

The Swiss Gardens are 9 acres created in 1820 in a Regency Alpine style as a tribute originally to the landscape and buildings of Switzerland. It contains charming buildings, tranquil landscapes to include a Grotto, Fernery, Indian Kiosk and Swiss Cottage which are of note. It has recently been restored as a pleasure gardens.

The gardens have many benches to rest to admire the views and also resident peacocks.

Attached to the gardens is-

The Shuttleworth collection is a 1930's grass airfield containing vintage aircraft and motor vehicles all dated between 1909 and 1950. Most aircraft remain airworthy today. The vehicles are all veteran agricultural, steam, motorcycles, bicycles, cars and buses. The collection also contains the largest selection of still flying aircraft from WW1 in Europe. All exhibits are contained within 6 themed hangars. Of note is a 1909 Bleriot aircraft which is the oldest aircraft in the world that still flies.

The site has a cafe offering a selection of tempting meals and a gift shop.

On arrival we will be met by a guide for an overview and the visit includes one complimentary tea or americano.

See website www.Shuttleworth.org.

"Shiny, Happy, People".... R.E.M. (1991)year's showcase event

On 17th June, a group of 'Smiling, Happy, People' set off on our trip to Olney and Stavington in Bedfordshire.

A few rain drops fell as we waited to be picked up and then a few more whilst on the coach journey. However, it was dry when we arrived in the delightful, small market town of Olney, full of honey coloured brick buildings and many independent shops. It is most well known for the annual Pancake Race which takes place each March.



During the remaining time of the morning we had the opportunity to wander around, shop or visit the museum; before finding somewhere for lunch and preparing for the joy of Kathy Brown's Manor House garden.



We gathered for a brief introduction, were given small maps and had time to take a look around on our own. Kathy set the challenge for us to count the number of Alliums ... an impossible task ... there were hundreds dotted around in nearly all of the borders!



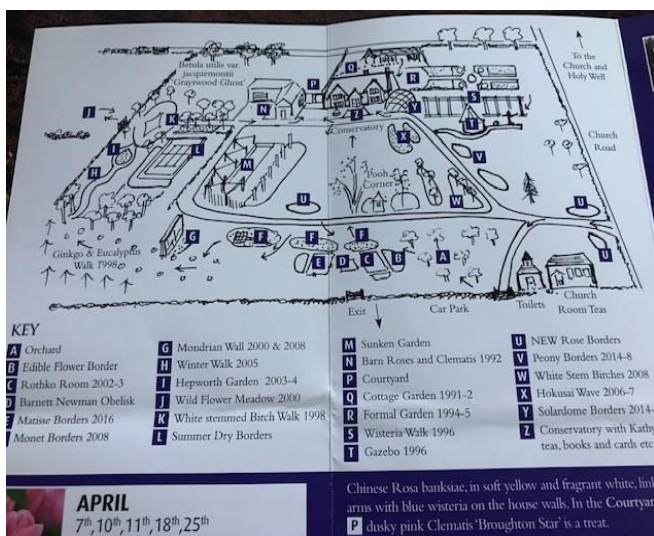
And, oh what a joy that was!! Kathy met us on the main thoroughfare (as the road to the house was not suitable for coaches) and directed us to where her husband Simon ushered us toward the lawn in front of the house. En route, we passed this interesting bench.



Returning to the tables and chairs set out on the lawn, there was another brief chat and we then divided into two groups and were given an incredibly informative walking tour of the gardens and its history. The couple have lived in the beautiful Manor House for over 30 years and manage

the gardens with just help of one person on one day a week! A full-time job; one hopes they also have 'time to stop and smell the roses'!

To keep the garden eco friendly (and save a lot of time on mowing), most of the grass pathways were cut in such a way to allow the wild life to enjoy what was on offer.



There were so many beautiful plants to admire. Fabulous rambling roses, some climbing way up in the trees. A number of clematis in all their glory and the foxgloves were quite a favourite, in such a variety of colour.



Each time we turned a corner, there was something new and exciting to discover.



There were a number of examples of topiary around the grounds (apparently this is Simon's area of expertise; and there are plenty to keep him fully occupied!)



And .. we must not forget the quirky candelabra which greeted visitors!



At the end of the tour, a delicious and much appreciated tea was served on the lawn, where we were treated to the choice of a variety of home-made cake. Lavender and lemon drizzle was bliss, there was another with blueberry and ?something, plus a third containing rose petals in the icing. Generous slices, with the offer of second helpings!

We were told that The Manor House winter garden was filmed, and will be

broadcast on BBC Gardener's World in November or December 2023.



Kathy has displayed at Chelsea in the past and they were winners for the East of England in the Nations Favourite Garden competition.

It was a super day out. Thanks to Mark for arranging and also many thanks to Nigel for keeping us in order on the trip and making sure no one went missing!

(More detailed information and some lovely photographs can be found on Kathy's website well worth a look!)

www.kathybrownsgarden.com

Sue J.

Front Garden Competition

On your travels around Sonning Common please can you keep your eyes peeled for beautiful front gardens that could be entered in to this year's CEHS Summer Front Garden Competition. The owners of the front garden DO NOT have to be CEHS members.

To keep the competition interesting and vibrant we need as many new gardens to be nominated as possible. Attached is an entry form that you can complete and return to nominate a garden or alternatively email

cehs561@gmail.com with the address of the property you would like included - don't forget you can even nominate your own garden!

RHS Jobs in July

Summer is progressing

..... This is often one of the hottest months of the year and a great time to sit out and enjoy your garden. Keep plants looking good by regularly dead-heading, and you'll enjoy a longer display of blooms. Make sure you keep new plants well watered, using grey water where possible, and hoe off weeds, which thrive in the sunshine.

Top gardening jobs this month

1 Deadhead bedding plants and repeat-flowering perennials, to ensure continuous flowering

Keep plants looking attractive and encourage more blooms, whether in beds and border, containers or hanging baskets.

Encourage more blooms

2 Care for houseplant while on holiday

Most houseplants will tolerate a few days' absence without suffering, but absences of more than a week call for some creative measures to provide valuable moisture in the right quantity.

Look after plants while away

Water tubs and new plants if dry, but be water-wise

Watering is one of the most important jobs when growing plants in containers.

Roots need a balance of air and water to

grow well which is easy to provide if you have a good quality compost or soil.

Water container plants

More jobs for this month

4 Check clematis for signs of clematis wilt

5 Pick courgettes before they become marrows

6 Treat apple scab

7 Clear algae, blanket weeds and debris from ponds, and keep them topped up

8 Order catalogues for next year's spring-flowering bulbs

9 Give the lawn a quick-acting summer feed, especially if not given a spring feed

10 Harvest apricots, peaches and nectarines

Summer Reception

The venue we had selected for the summer reception was unfortunately unavailable.

We did not have time to make alternative arrangements so we do not have a summer reception this year.

Autumn Show Photo topics

100. Bees.

101. Stairs or steps.

102. Rows of things.

103. Open

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.

PLANTS FOR THE PLANT STALL AT THE SHOW ON 2ND

SEPTEMBER

Donations of plants we can sell at the show would be most welcome. Please bring along on the morning of the show.

Sonning Common Summer Front Garden competition 2023

I Nominate the front garden at

Signed

Please print your name

Please return completed form by 15th August, 2023

to Maureen Stevens 4 Inglewood Close Sonning Common, RG4 9SY.

Telephone : 0118 972 4779

COACH OUTING Swiss Gardens and Shuttleworth Collection.

Saturday September 16th.

Pick up points are Kidmore End turn (9.00am), Sonning Common Post Office (9.05 am), and Peppard Stores (9.10am) returning at approximately 5.45pm

Name	Phone number	Pickup Point

Members/Non-members £34.50 Deadline 4th September 2023

I enclose cheque/cash in the sum of £ _____ Please make cheques payable to C.E.H.S

Signature: Tel No: _____

Please return completed form to Mark Richards c/o, 18 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9JT
Any queries contact Mark Richards Telephone _____ or email markr3939@gmail.com