



AFFILIATED TO  
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chair: Nigel Crush

Membership Secretary: Janet Evans

Society email [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)

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

## From the Chair - April 2024

After many years of pleasurable service, I have decided to step down from the Chair and committee at the end of the year and Janet Evans is also stepping down as Membership Secretary and from the committee in October.

For the society to continue to thrive we do need more new blood in the committee so that a variety of tasks can be handed over smoothly.

We will be looking for help to run the membership and distribution of newsletters, to deal with the day-to-day finances of the society and compilation of the newsletters.

If you are interested in helping please get in touch with a committee member (details are on your membership card) or email the society's email address listed above.

## TALKS

**!!PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE!! :-**

**TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL at 19.30.**

**"Dispelling 10 Myths About Peonies - One of the Most Sought After Flowering Garden Plants" by Alec White**

Peonies are undoubtedly one of the most beautiful and flamboyant plants of late spring/early summer. There are however a

lot of myths/old wives' tales about how difficult they can be to grow.

Alec White who runs Primrose Hall Peonies, one of the largest specialist growers in the country and home of national collections of several sub-types, will be visiting us to dispel some of these myths and hopefully persuade us to either "have a go" or perhaps add a new peony to our collections!

## TALK REPORT

**12<sup>th</sup> March. "Exceptional Perennials and Woody Plants for Cutting" by Rachel Siegfried.**

Stepping into the breach in late December when our scheduled speaker had to withdraw for medical reasons, Rachel Siegfried proprietor of local flower farm "Green and Gorgeous" treated members to a beautifully illustrated talk based on her recently published book.

Loosely basing her talk around a year of producing "cut and come again" flowers which fulfil all a flower arranger's needs: structure, focals and fillers, Rachel showed us all what perennial flowering plants have to offer.

Knowing some tricks of the trade can also increase one's options: variety can be achieved by using different developmental stages - from buds to seed heads; whilst dipping the stems of some flowers, such as geums and hellebores, in boiling water for a few seconds can help arrangements last much better. Pleasingly for those of us who enjoy producing specimen blooms of some garden classics, Rachel confirmed that dahlias remain "on trend" - albeit in rather

muted colours - whilst chrysanthemums are making a well-deserved return to favour!

John Windass

### TRIPS

#### Coach Outing to RHS Wisley 15<sup>th</sup> June

In June, Wisley will have roses, early herbaceous flowers, flowering shrubs and trees.

The new Learning centre is now open and landscaped and featuring scent, texture and colour.

The old Laboratory building is now open to the public for the first time and becoming a museum recording the history of Wisley and horticulture.

Wisley continues to change and develop its site and each year we discover a new aspect.

There are 3 cafes on site, a shop and a garden centre.

Cost is £23.50 per person. We have a 58 seat coach with Harlequin.

Deadline is Friday 7th June.

Booking form overleaf

Mark Richards

#### Spring Front Garden Competition 2024

The village has been really bright and breezy for the last few weeks with all the varieties of daffodils/narcissi at their best. The magnolias have been outstanding too, with no frosts to spoil them as has happened in the last few years - will we still get frost in April and May this year?

All the gardens judged were outstanding and in the final count there was just one point dividing the first and second

First Mike and Betty Karina Kyrenya,

Inglewood close

Second Chris and Babs Silver One Beech Rise

Third Caroline Aldridge 13 Baskerville Road

My thanks to the judges for their help Janet Sonia Claire Jessica and Elaine Maureen Stevens

### 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.

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

### RHS Entry Discount Card



The Society now has a discount card which offers two adults a 50% discount off entry to any RHS Garden (Bridgewater, Harlow Carr, Hyde Hall, Rosemoor and Wisley).

The card is currently held at 18 Kennylands.

Contact the Chair if you want to borrow it. It can be posted to you if you do not live locally.

**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.

**Gardeners You're Invited...**  
 to a specialist talk by Andre Tranquilini, Estate Manager of Waltham Place, Market Gardener, Biodynamic Farmer & Gardening Expert.

*As gardeners we have the potential to make great strides in our gardens, adapting the way we grow to mitigate the effects of climate change by supporting wildlife and developing healthy soils and resilient plants. Andre will share climate friendly solutions that will create resilience for your garden and crops. The talk will include Carbon Gardening, No Dig and Gardening for Wildlife.*

**Thursday June 13th @ 7pm**  
**Sonning Common Village Hall**  
**£10 per ticket**

ALL profits go to Eco SoCo to fund a range of environmental projects in Sonning Common

**To request tickets: email [jules.shorter@gmail.com](mailto:jules.shorter@gmail.com)**

**COACH OUTING TO RHS Wisley ON Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

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 £23.50 Deadline 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024

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 07789553838 or email [markr3939@gmail.com](mailto:markr3939@gmail.com)