



AFFILIATED TO
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chair: Nigel Crush

Membership Secretary:

Society email cehs561@gmail.com

Society website cehs.co.uk

From the Chair -May 2024

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making the Spring Show such a success. Many members helped in various ways: setting up/down, transporting show equipment, with administration, teas, raffle and the plant stall. Many thanks to those who helped and also to those who donated raffle prizes, cakes and plants. Much appreciation also to everyone who entered, some of you for the first time!

We have just had the last of this series of talks which were a well-attended success. Our thanks go to John Windass for carefully selecting and organising the speakers. Many thanks also to Maureen Stevens for again organising the Front Garden Competition.



Spring Show 2024

Can you help CEHS by taking on a role to help the Society continue to flourish?

Following our recent appeal we have had offers of help with the day-to-day finances of the society and with membership. This is fantastic and much

appreciated! However, if the society is to retain a full portfolio of activities we still need more offers of help:-

- Show administration. We now run shows as a team but after nearly 5 years coordinating this team John Windass wishes to stand down. Can you take on this coordination? Full support will be given in the hand-over!
- Editing the newsletter (10 per year): pulling together contributions of interest to members and compiling the newsletter using Microsoft Word .

If you feel you might be able to help, please get in touch with a committee member (details are on your membership card) or email via the society's email address: cehs561@gmail.com

Spring Show Cup Winners

The Avern Cup, best exhibit in daffodil and narcissus classes;

Wilma Crush

The Grove Cup, most points in daffodil, narcissus and tulip classes;

John Windass

Frank Pritchard Cup for best pot plants:

Wilma Crush/Lyn Thompson

Certificates of Merit for floral art:

Sue Hedges

Village Cup for best exhibit in flower classes:

Anita Unwin

Geoff Mitton Cup for Spring Front Garden competition:

Mike and Betty Farina

Thanks again for the great effort to make the show a success. Considering the awful weather we had before the show it was gratifying to see so many entries.

TALKS

Talk Report: Tuesday 16th

April "Dispelling 10 Myths About Peonies" Alec White.

Alec - the co-owner of Primrose Hall nursery - began his talk by explaining how, without formal horticultural training, over a 20 year period peonies became for him both a passion and a successful business. Stemming from a chance sighting of one of these exotic beauties standing out from a crowd of normal nursery plants, he has developed a business based on growing 60,000 peony plants representing 400 varieties at any one time! Each year Primrose Hall also ships more than 400 tons of peonies to growers!

So: "Are they hard to grow?" No provided you buy plants at least 5 years old and don't plant them too deeply in almost any soil that isn't too wet! Just a few cm below the surface and avoid mulching the crown!

"Are they delicate?" No! They can tolerate temperatures down to -25°C and peony seeds can survive for decades! Some cultivars can live and flower for more than a 100 years!

"Are they hard to move?" Not if you do it in October or November and replant the same day!

They can also be fragrant and, though they like sunny spots, some cultivars tolerate partial shade perfectly well! Different varieties can be in flower from April to July and ants don't bother them, though they do enjoy the sugary sap that peonies produce!

Definitely a plant worth persevering with and enjoying!

John Windass

TRIPS

Coach Outing to RHS Wisley 15th 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, you can now pay by bank transfer

Mark Richards

RHS Gardening in May

Summer is on its way!

As bulbs fade and herbaceous borders grow in leaps and bounds, it is now clear that summer is approaching. Sowing and planting out bedding can begin, depending on regional weather variations, and you can take softwood cuttings. It's also time to get back into the lawn mowing regime, as the lawn will be loving the warmer temperatures this month brings

Top gardening jobs this month:-

1. Watch out for late frosts. Protect tender plants

2. Earth up potatoes, and promptly plant any still remaining
3. Plant out summer bedding at the end of the month (except in cold areas)
4. Water early and late to get the most out of your water, recycle water when possible
5. Regularly hoe off weeds
6. Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days
7. Mow lawns weekly - but consider leaving some areas uncut for wildlife
8. Check for nesting birds before clipping hedges
9. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulb
10. Watch out for viburnum beetle and lily beetle grubs

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 for inclusion in the next newsletter.



Spring Show 2024



COACH OUTING TO RHS Wisley ON Saturday 15th 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 7th June 2024

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

Name _____ - Phone number _____

Please return completed form and payment to Mark Richards c/o, 18 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9JT

Any queries contact Mark Richards Telephone 07789553838 or email markr3939@gmail.com

Or pay by Bank Transfer (BACS) and email the names and details of those attending.

Account name:

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Sort code: 09-01-51 Account number: 75455503

PLEASE ENSURE THE **SURNAME** ON THE ACCOUNT IS IN THE **REFERENCE**

You **MUST** send an email to cehs561@gmail.com with the names of those attending/phone number and pickup point. An email will be sent to confirm receipt.