



CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush
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From the Chair -January 2021

Hope you had a happy and safe Christmas in these unusual times.

This pandemic year has made it difficult for the society to run the usual activities, hopefully we will be able to return closer to normal later in the year.

I would like to thank John Windass and his show committee for all their work in planning shows which unfortunately we could not put on!

John has also worked hard this year arranging the talks which have temporarily successfully moved to Zoom.

Thanks to Colin and David Mather for their work up-dating & maintaining the website and organising the photography competitions.

Janet Evans has again done a sterling job organising the membership records and our thanks go to her.

Our thanks go again to Martin Hedges for doing our accounts and to Mark Richards for arranging the trips that again unfortunately we could not do!

Thanks also to Jessica Philbrick for organising the seed swap and helping with the Zoom quiz.

And thanks to all the committee members who have helped with the running of the Society.

We are looking for members to serve on the committee, we are particularly looking for a secretary.

Wishing you a safe, prosperous and happy new year.

Nigel Crush

Talks

Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom. "Beyond the Garden Gate: My Guide to Cotswold Gardens" by Mandy Bradshaw.

Once again we have found that it will be impossible to hold a normal society meeting in January. Fortunately however, though the speaker originally booked for January did not feel her demonstration would suit a "virtual" format, it has been possible to arrange a swap with Mandy Bradshaw who was previously scheduled for our April meeting.

Mandy is a professional journalist with a lifelong interest in gardening. She writes the "Chatty Gardener" blog and was Garden Journalist of the Year in 2018. Living in the Cotswolds she has a detailed knowledge of some of the spectacular gardens, both public and private, in this beautiful and accessible part of the country. In this illustrated talk she will share her insights into the best of these gardens.

Please join us once again from the comfort of your own home. No need for either our speaker or audience to venture out on a dark winter night! Look out for an email which will provide log in details for this Zoom meeting.

Tuesday 10th November 2020 "Capability Brown: Hero or Hooligan?" by Michael Brown (alias the "Historic Gardener").

More than 30 members joined for the first ever CEHS "virtual" talk which, despite a few nerve racking moments for the speaker when he found he had to borrow his wife's computer to log in, began only a few minutes late and went remarkably smoothly.

Without leaving their homes members were entertained with pictures of classical Capability Brown gardens both in their heyday and today. We also learnt much about the life story of this remarkable man who despite his relatively humble beginnings went on to leave his unique mark on the grounds of so many English country estates.

Though rarely being at all "hands on" Lancelot Brown produced plans and instructions which enabled numerous 18th century land-owners to replace formal gardens and employees' villages with rolling, "typically English", parkland scenes populated with deceptively small lakes, water features, mature trees and eye-catching follies. As much an architect and consultant engineer as a gardener, Brown was clearly both a hero in what his vision and plans created and villain in what was destroyed to reveal an estate's "capabilities"!

John Windass

Diary

January

Often the coldest month January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow. Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants. Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather. Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
- 2 Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
- 3 Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
- 4 Disperse worm casts in lawns
- 5 Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
- 6 Prune apple and pear trees
- 7 Start forcing rhubarb
- 8 Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
- 9 Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
- 10 Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

Winter Photo Competition

Thanks to everyone who entered the competition. Results will be on the website and in the February newsletter.