



AFFILIATED TO  
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY

# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: 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 -February 2021

As the snowdrops open, we have had a good fall of snow. Thankfully it has now thawed.

This month we pay tribute to Julia Perry who was a long standing and great supporter of our Society and who will be greatly missed.

We have reluctantly made the decision to cancel the Spring Show, hoping that once we are all vaccinated and lockdowns end that the Autumn Show will go ahead on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September. We will review future events as the situation with COVID-19 changes.

## Tributes to Julia Perry

CEHS had the great honour of having Julia helping the society over many years in various roles and always with an enchanting smile and no task seeming too much trouble. Julia always helped at the shows setting up and taking down and helping with the admin as well as submitting entries. Julia also helped judge the front garden competition and attended most coach trips and most importantly to the committee, she took the minutes at AGM and committees. Her enthusiasm, conscientious attitude and cheery disposition made every time we met a privilege and pleasure.

Personally, I will always treasure the plants she gave me and they are a lovely keepsake of our Julia.

Mark Richards  
ex. Chairman of CEHS

It was very sad to hear that Julia has passed away in the New Year following several months of illness.

Julia had been a member of CEHS since 2008 in the days we had our meetings at Chiltern Edge School.

She was always enthusiastic about the shows and was very very competitive, particularly in the cookery, flower classes and floral art. Julia was very proud of her garden and always entered a lovely display in the flower classes and floral art. She was a very generous lady and always had plants for the sales table, particularly her hollyhocks.

About five years ago we moved to Peppard Memorial Hall for our winter meetings and Julia was always there early so that she could sit at the front and not miss any of the talk.

Mark Richards had taken over as Chairman from Fred Lowe and Julia was persuaded to be Minutes Secretary. Mark was very patient and fond of her.

In the last few years Julia had been an important member of the Front Garden Group, driving us around in her trusty red car. She enjoyed driving around the village looking at attractive gardens for the judging list. Last year due to the pandemic we did not have a Spring competition but she was out judging for the Summer competition.

Always smartly dressed, elegant and charming Julia - we will miss you so much.  
Maureen Stevens  
Front Garden Competition Organiser.

**Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.30pm**  
**via Zoom. "Mediterranean/Dry**  
**Gardening" by Brian Fisher**

Brian is an extremely experienced horticulturist and speaker who fondly remembers visiting us when the society met in the lecture theatre at Chiltern Edge School. His world travels, many as an invited lecturer on cruise ships, have provided ample opportunity to observe gardens created in a wide variety of climates. On this occasion he will be talking to us on gardening in the Mediterranean like conditions which we are promised we will experience as our climate changes!

Please note that, though we originally planned that this talk would occur mid-afternoon in response to members wishes to avoid the need to go out on dark winter nights, this Zoom talk will be held in the evening as this enables members' of all ages to participate without any pressure to skip work or brave inclement weather! Look out for an email giving meeting joining instructions.

**Stop Press!** Surprise! Surprise! Our talk on 9th March will once again be by Zoom as it remains unclear what constraints we will still have by then or if members under 70 will even have been offered their first vaccination!

Because of business challenges caused by Covid 19, we will also again be swapping planned talks around! Expect to hear that dahlias are being replaced by garden wildlife! Watch this space!

John Windass

**Talk Report: Tuesday 12th January 2021 "Beyond the Garden Gate: My Guide to Cotswold Gardens" by Mandy Bradshaw."**

Once again more than 30 members braved the internet to join us for a highly enjoyable evening exploring Cotswold gardens under the guidance of Mandy Bradshaw (alias the Chatty Gardener "blogger").

As an experienced local journalist who years ago was "volunteered" by her editor to exchange courtroom reporting for horticulture, Mandy has got the other side of the garden gate in a vast range of Cotswold gardens. She was therefore able to entertain us both with beautiful photographs and inside stories on lovely gardens created by a diversity of residents: aristocrats, self-made men, zoo owners, hoteliers, school teachers and nurses! Gardens which have existed for 100s of years to those rescued very recently from derelict urban sites to show case plants nurtured with passion by their owners.

Often blessed with mellow Cotswold stone and frequently open to the public under the NGS scheme, Mandy fired many members' enthusiasm to explore these Cotswold gardens post "lockdown".

John Windass

**Winter Photo Competition**

Thanks to Colin Mather for organising this competition and thank you to everyone who entered. All entries and winners are on the website [www.cehs.co.uk](http://www.cehs.co.uk)

The winners each receive a £10 prize.

## Bare Trees Winner Peter Crush



*Peter Crush Photo no.15*

## Winter Berries Joint Winners Jill Hendra and Penny Noble



*Jill Hendra Picture no.4*



*Penny Noble Picture no 8*

## Spring Photo Competition

This year's categories are:

- 1.New Life
- 2.Cold
- 3.Pets
- 4.Open

Colour or Black & White accepted.

The results of this competition will go towards the Baskerville Cup.

Entries open January 25th - March 27th 2021

Please email entries to [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com) and include the following: your name and the category you are entering in. You can enter more than one category, but please email each entry separately.

Colin Mather

## Diary from the RHS

### February

Spring is in sight

This month there are signs of the approaching spring, with bulbs appearing and wildlife waking up as light levels and temperatures increase. There's plenty to do indoors this month to prepare for the season ahead. Outdoors, as the garden comes to life again, it's time to prune shrubs and climbers, such as Wisteria as well as evergreen hedges.

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover
- 2 Chit potato tubers
- 3 Protect blossom on apricots, nectarines and peaches
- 4 Net fruit and vegetable crops to keep the birds off
- 5 Prune winter-flowering shrubs that have finished flowering
- 6 Divide bulbs such as snowdrops, and plant those that need planting 'in the green'
- 7 Prune Wisteria

- 8 Prune hardy evergreen hedges and renovate overgrown deciduous hedges
- 9 Prune conservatory climbers such as bougainvillea
- 10 Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter, remove dead grass from evergreen grasses

#### For Latest CEHS news

We are not producing a printed membership card with a program of events this year as events and dates are fluid. All the up-to-date information can be found on the website [www.cehs.co.uk](http://www.cehs.co.uk)  
Newsletters will not be printed during the lockdown.

#### Donations please

We are not able to have the usual raffles at talks which help cover costs. If you have watched the talks on Zoom and would like to make a donation towards our costs to CEHS please send a cheque to CEHS at 18 Kennylands Road, Sonning Common, RG49JT  
Unfortunately, our account does not enable BACS payments.

#### Zoom talk details

Topic: Mediterranean and Dry Gardening a talk by Brian Fisher  
Time: Feb 9, 2021 07:00 PM London

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159716545?pwd=bjdWMGpCb0tUZTFJUUFuMGhNUM5kQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 5971 6545  
Passcode: 091503

For laptops or PCs to join a meeting:  
You don't need to download the Zoom (client for meeting) app for laptops. Just:

- 1) Go to <https://zoom.us/join>
- 2) Click join meeting and add the meeting ID and then the passcode.  
Meeting ID: 831 5971 6545  
Passcode: 091503

Or copy the link we will email to you into your browser and press enter.

#### For phones and tablets

Download the ZOOM Cloud meetings app  
Zoom invitation

- 1) Enter the meeting ID  
Meeting ID: 831 5971 6545
- 2) Click Join
- 3) Add the passcode  
Passcode: 091503
- 4) Join the meeting with Video

Or click on the link in the email you will receive and that will take you to the meeting.

#### Sonning Common Spring Front Garden Competition 2021

##### Front Garden Competition

Spring is coming-just to remind you to take note of any eye catching gardens in the village. The winner will be awarded The Geoff Mitton Trophy. Make sure you are in time to submit your nomination for the Spring Front Gardens Competition. The closing date is Monday 29th March 2021. Email nominations to [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)  
You can enter your own garden, or a neighbour's or any garden you may see, even if you don't know the owners or their names.

Maureen Stevens - Competition Organiser