



CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Chairman: Nigel Crush
Membership Secretary: Janet Evans
Society email cehs561@gmail.com
Society website cehs.co.uk

Hampshire based John & June, who also maintain a collection of over 1700 hostas,

From the Chair - November 2021

Next month is the AGM and we on the committee would really appreciate being joined by a few new members to help with running the society. Though none of the officer roles is itself very onerous this changes quickly when we have to

multi-task! New blood and new ideas are also always refreshing! So, if you think you might be able to help or would like more information please speak to any of the existing committee. To paraphrase the old poster: "Your Society Needs You!".

Speaking of which: if you could provide 6-12 sausage (meat or veg) rolls and/or mince pies for the AGM, please let me know. I hope to see you all at the AGM.

Nigel Crush

Events

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7.30pm. "Delightful Dahlias" by John Baker & June Colley.

As dark winter nights really do close in and with fingers very firmly crossed, we look forward to welcoming members back to the Peppard Memorial Hall to what John Baker & June Colley promise will be a plant lover's guide to dahlias illustrated with 100s of pictures!

will describe how the vibrant colours & shapes of dahlias have been developed; advise on choosing dahlias to grow in containers as well as in flower beds or for cutting, and on overwintering and propagation. Something cheerful for everyone!

Talk Report: Tuesday 12th October 2021 "Composting" by Robert Longstaff.

Although Robert previously visited us only in November 2019, when he gave an inspirational overview of the sustainability focussed Oxford Garden Project, such was the enthusiasm of those attending that we decided to begin our '21/'22 season with a return visit for a "deep dive" into composting!

Though unfortunately for non-pandemic related reasons Robert had to give this talk via Zoom, once again as a result of his knowledge, expertise and delivery those attending were treated to a true "master class". Key messages included: really concentrating on getting the carbon/nitrogen ratio right (30:1) by making sure the "green" to "brown" balance is as close as possible to 2:1; the commonest composting problem is being "over dry" though too many grass clippings really can make everything over wet & slimy! So make sure there is good aeration e.g. by adding scrunched up cardboard. Many commercial additives are really just dried urine which can be effectively replaced with "second hand" beer or cider!

On the animals front: "mini beasts" are essential to a good compost bin/pile; though ants & ant nests suggest over-dryness, whilst fruit flies can indicate over-wetness! With respect to larger beasts: care should be taken in early spring as hedgehogs & grass snakes love the warmth of a good compost pile, whilst "vermin" problems can be minimised by scrupulously avoiding putting animal/meat waste on a compost bin and/or giving your bin a good kicking every day to deter unwanted nesters!

John Windass

CEHS Annual General Meeting -

Tuesday 14th December 7.15pm at Peppard Memorial Hall

Our AGM has two parts - the short formal business and a social evening to enjoy a glass of wine with sausage/vege rolls and mince pies. To ensure social distancing the meeting will be conducted from groups of tables rather than rows at the front.

Your Chairman and Committee hope to see a good number of members attending.

Membership Renewal & Fees 2021

For the past 7 years membership fees have been held at £6. Unfortunately however costs do rise and in addition for 2 years now we have been unable to supplement society funds with regular raffles or sell teas, coffees and cakes at our shows. So, to partially replenish our funds and, for example, retain our ability to provide a variety of quality speakers or supplement the occasional under-subscribed trip, we have with regret decided that we must now raise the annual membership fee to £8 per member.

Unfortunately, given that second class stamps now cost 66p there will also now have to be an additional charge of £7/year if newsletters are posted to you. To avoid this,

members can consider changing to emailed newsletters. You do not have to print forms for trips as these can be handwritten.

If you have watched Zoom talks this year, please consider paying £10/year to offset some of our losses from lack of raffles.

Membership form at the end of this newsletter. Membership runs out on 31st December 2021. If you have joined this year since September your membership runs through till next year.

RHS Jobs to do in the garden -November

Winter is on its way

Leaves are falling rapidly, and wind and rain are on the increase. Tender plants will need protecting from frost, gales and freezing rains. Move plants into the greenhouse, or into a sheltered spot, but if you can't, it is worth wrapping plants or pots. Remember winter can be a tough time for birds in terms of water and food, so keep supplies well topped up.

- 1 Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
- 2 Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- 3 Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- 4 Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- 5 Plant out winter bedding
- 6 Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- 7 Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well
- 8 Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
- 9 Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden

10 Use a seasonal bonfire - where this is allowed - to dispose of excess debris unfit for composting

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.

Categories for the Spring Photo competition

1. Mushrooms / Fungi.
2. Winter sunshine.
3. Arches.
4. Open.

The Chairman and the Committee wish you all
A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



**CHILTERN EDGE
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**



Membership Form

Annual subscription is £8.00 per member (Children free) Postage £7.00 /year

Name/s Please state Mr, Mrs, Ms or other _____

Address in full _____

Postcode _____ Telephone _____

Email address _____

I would like to receive my newsletters by:

Email / Hand delivery (within Sonning Common) / Post (Please circle option)

I enclose my subscription of £ _____ and postage (if applicable) £ _____ Donation £ _____

TOTAL £ _____ Cash/Cheque Cheques payable to CEHS

Please return completed form together with cash or cheque to: - Janet Evans, 26 Green Lane, Sonning Common, RG4 9NA (These can also be handed in at the AGM)

GDPR

Email addresses are held by CEHS for the purpose of distribution of newsletters. Only name and email address are held digitally to inform members of any changes to activities/events or to ask for information help. CEHS can be contacted via email at

cehs561@gmail.com

I consent to CEHS holding my email address.

Signed _____