



AFFILIATED TO
ROYAL HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



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

Committee Members:

Jessica Philbrick
Maureen Stevens

From the Chair - January 2022

I wish you all A Happy and Healthy New Year. 2021 was the second year of the pandemic again restricting Society events. We were, however, able to carry out some successful events

The AGM went ahead after being cancelled last year. This socially distanced event went well although numbers were down on previous years. Martin Hedges reported the finances were sound especially after many donations were gratefully received with subscriptions.

A big thank you to all those who generously provided raffle prizes, mince pies and sausage rolls and gave their time setting the hall up.

The Committee elected to serve for 2022 is:

Chairman	Nigel Crush
Vice Chairman	John Windass
Talks Secretary and Show Chairman	
Treasurer	Martin Hedges
Membership Secretary	Janet Evans
Social Secretary	None appointed
Publicity	Colin Mather
Outings Secretary	Mark Richards
Minutes Secretary	None appointed
Public Relations	None appointed

Talks:

Tuesday 11th January 2022: Annual Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm: Beth Chatto: A Life With Plants" by Catherine Horwood

As January evenings are always very dark and can be icy, windy or even snowy, we begin our 2022 talks with a long-planned Zoom presentation on Beth Chatto, one of the most famous female horticulturalists, by professional author Catherine Horwood.

Writer of the authorized biography of Beth Chatto, for which she won the 2019 European Garden Book of the Year, social historian Catherine will provide us with a unique perspective on perhaps one of the most influential gardeners of modern times!

ZOOM talk details at Newsletter end.

Report: Tuesday 9th November 2021 "Delightful Dahlias" by John Colley

Like many gardeners of "a certain age" John Colley's passion for dahlias began when he was a small child but survived very well through the years

when these spectacular and colourful plants became unfashionable. He now grows a diverse variety both in pots and where he can squeeze them between his wife's National Hosta Collection!

Beginning by reminding us that dahlias belong to the Compositae (like asters, daisies and cosmos), John explained how there are more than 30 different dahlia species growing in their native Mexico. The tallest reaching heights of 60ft and the hollow stems of some being used as water pipes by the Aztecs! Originally imported to Europe by the Spanish, with the first "cactus" variety being a late arrival at the end of the 19th century, a vast number of crosses have since been made to produce the immense variety of flower & foliage forms, colours and sizes of dahlia we can choose from today. It is however still possible to select one's own "pet" varieties from collected seed and then reproduce them by cuttings or tuber division.

Dahlias truly offer something for everyone: flower arrangers to propagation "geeks" and, apparently, even desperate plumbers!

John Windass

Other Dates for your diary

8 February (Tues) TALK "In an English Country Garden" a talk by Penny Noble 2.30pm - 4.00pm

8 March (Tues) TALK "Clematis" a talk by Marcel Floyd (Floyds Climbers) 7.30pm - 9.00pm

9 April (Sat) SPRING SHOW 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall

Categories for the Spring Photo competition

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

RHS Jobs for January

Gardening in 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.

1. Prune apple and pear trees
2. Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring
3. Cleaning greenhouses, whether glass or plastic, greatly improves the growing environment for plants. By removing the algae, moss and grime it lets in more light and helps control pests and diseases too.

4. Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already
5. Soil cultivation or digging may be hard work but, if taken slowly, it need not be back-breaking. In fact, here we describe how it can often be omitted or at least minimised.
6. Disperse worm casts in laws
7. Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out
8. Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch
9. Start forcing rhubarb
10. Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season
11. Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds
12. Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

Chairman's report included this year as many members did not attend the AGM due to the pandemic:

It is very nice to see everyone here tonight after a difficult two years for the Society.

My big thanks go to the committee for all their help and support this year we only have a small committee and would really appreciate some more members coming forward to serve on the committee it's not onerous if the work is shared out.

In 2020 we lost Julia Perry, a stalwart member of this Society and

one whose enthusiasm and bubbly character is missed and we remember her fondly and everything she did for the Society.

One of the main activities of the society is to have annual shows unfortunately last year they were both cancelled due to the pandemic, as was the spring show this year but we were able to go ahead with the autumn show which was very successful John Windass and the show committee did a sterling job organising a one-way system and making the show Covid Secure as possible. Thanks also to Jessica Philbrick and Phil who set up the recently acquired Society laptop to calculate the show results, this gave accurate results in a shorter time and our gratitude goes to John and Jo Stoves who had previously done the show administration. Thanks also to everyone who entered and attended the show and everyone who helped without the help, we would have no show. It was nice to see Janet Evans and Barbara Pilbrow back on the plant stall

We had two visits this year one to the Cotswold wildlife Park where everyone who went had a lovely day and also to Farley Hill Place who provided us with a lovely tea, we hope to repeat this visit to a national garden scheme garden next year. Thanks go to Mark Richards for organising the Cotswold trip. We are sorry Mark can't be here tonight but

Yolande has just broken her wrist and Mark is looking after her,

My big thanks go to John Windass for arranging all the talks and thankfully we could continue with these during the pandemic on zoom, in fact the talk in January is going to be a zoom talk and then the talk in February is going to be an afternoon talk more details can be found on our website for this

We had a new event this year which was the open gardens organised, a very successful event run by Jessica Philbrick and Janet Evans and I'm sure you'll like me and enjoyed walking round other members gardens to get inspiration.

We're just getting back to normal and then we get a new variant which hopefully isn't too bad and next year we will be able to do all our activities

My thanks also go to Colin Mather for organising the publicity you may have seen the notices he puts on open space each month and posters around the village publicising events

The newsletter was important means of communication during the pandemic and a big thank you to the members who distribute these. Colin also helped organise the photo competitions we had during lockdown which proved quite popular.

Janet Evans has continued to do an excellent job collecting the subscriptions and organising the membership records.

Our thanks also go to Martin Hedges for putting the accounts together for the year and to Graham Dandridge for auditing them.

Finally, thanks for everyone who helped organise tonight who made the sausage rolls and mince pies and help set up the room to make it look festive especially and to those who have given raffle prizes and finally to Sue Hedges who has done the table decorations.

We have arranged a full Calendar of events for next year which we hope you will support.

I'd like to finally wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year and good gardening in 2022 and most importantly keep safe.

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.



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 _____