



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 November 2023**

Thanks to all the Committee and Individual Members who worked so hard to make this a successful year.

Hope to see you at the AGM. Please do make time to come along. We need to hear your ideas on improving the running of CEHS and what you would like to see included in the programme.

Please consider helping run the Society, particularly by joining the committee.

The first talk this season was excellent and we hope to see you on 14<sup>th</sup> November for the next one, details are below.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Talk: Tuesday 14th November 2023 at 7.30pm. "Tenerife: A Botanical Honeypot" by Timothy Walker**

Ex Oxford Botanic Gardens Director Timothy Walker will share his knowledge as to why this sub-tropical volcanic island, just  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of Oxfordshire, is so important botanically and horticulturally. Rising to 3,718m (12,198ft) and containing the highest peak in Spain, it is home to many plant species that grow nowhere else on Earth - not even the other Canary Islands. It has habitats that range from sub-tropical desert to temperate rain forests to alpine. In his talk Timothy will not only look at the plants of Tenerife but also the evidence for evolution they have revealed. Charles Darwin regretted bitterly not being

able to go ashore on Tenerife - you can now go where Darwin could not!

**Talk: Tuesday 9th January at 7.30 pm via Zoom. "Delightful, De-Lovely, Deranged!" by Nancy Stevens.**

Once again those dark, damp & often cold nights of early January will provide an opportunity for a cheering talk from a speaker who we would never have the chance to hear from in person!

Glasgow-based freelance journalist Nancy Stevens has had a lifelong passion for plants, has visited gardens throughout the world and created a variety of gardens for her own enjoyment. In this talk she will take us on a virtual trip around the world looking at the wonderful world of plants: some useful, some that started out being useful but then became nightmares and some just beautiful! From the "Super Bloom" of the Chilean Atacama desert & the Flying Duck Orchid of Australia to the "Apple of Death" of Central America and the Red Spider Lily of Japan and all points between!

Use the login details for this Zoom talk, light your fire, pour yourself a glass of wine (or whisky/Irn Bru if you want Nancy to feel at home) and prepare to enjoy some wonders of plant life!

**January Zoom meeting login details**

Not included for security.

**AGM: 12th December (Tues) 7.15pm in Peppard Memorial Hall**

This is your opportunity to have **your** say on what **you** want from **your** Society. Please put your thinking caps on and come along with your suggestions as to what the Committee should provide.

Your Chairman and current Committee greatly look forward to seeing a good number of members at the AGM and to hearing your comments., the meeting will be followed with a cheese and wine buffet and home-made mince pies and a raffle.

If you are willing to make mince pies please contact a committee member or email [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)

Finally, any items for inclusion on the Agenda should be submitted to Nigel Crush 07553415005 or email [cehs561@gmail.com](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com)

**TALK REPORT: Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.30pm. "Organic Gardening" by Ray Broughton**

Returning to CEHS after almost 10 years Ray Broughton launched our '23/'24 autumn/winter series with an excellent and informative talk sharing lots of advice on how to be more organic and still successful in a small garden.

Companion planting, for example with marigolds and allysum in vegetable gardens and salvias in rose gardens, can be very successful both by attracting beneficial insects and deterring pests. Being over zealous in dead-heading marigolds is however not a good idea: it is the dying blooms which produce the pest deterrent effect! By contrast allysum needs to be fresh so growing in pots so one can swap vigorous new plants for old ones is a good

idea!. Ray was no fan of nasturtiums though! They certainly attract cabbage white butterflies but really just draw them into your garden rather than stopping them infesting your cabbages etc.

Products such as SB Plant Invigorator, based on a specific extract of milk, can be extremely effective in controlling black spot on roses. However, it protects rather than cures so you must remember to begin applications in March before disease appears! The eggs of some beneficial insects - including lacewings, 2 spot ladybirds & violet ground beetles - can be obtained from specialist suppliers and work well though the shyness of some of these insects can make you doubt they are still around!

Other more DIY tips from Ray included:-

- Home made "poo boxes". These being an excellent source of CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) when you have lots of plants together, for example in incubators, greenhouses or conservatories, and low levels of this gas, not low light levels, are often the cause of tall spindly growth.
- Sprinkling rings of ferrous sulphate, perhaps mixed with vermiculite, around lettuce to deter slugs and snails.
- His famous tomato sauce trick for rejuvenating secateurs: sauce quality being of great importance!

John Windass

## Spring Show Photo Competition Topics

1. Open
2. Patterns
3. Winter colour
4. Single spring flower.

## Membership Subscriptions

Membership renewals are due on or before the 1 January 2023. Subscriptions remain unchanged for a further year.

Once again we are requesting that, wherever possible, newsletters and Show Schedules are received by email. Please remember to add your email address to the renewal form if you wish to receive newsletters this way. Please indicate on the Membership Form if you wish to receive a paper copy of the Schedules. Of course, we will continue to hand deliver to those of you who are unable or do not wish to receive information in this way. However, members living outside Sonning Common, Gallowstree Common, Kidmore End or Peppard who receive their newsletters by post will need to pay postage.

If requested on the Membership Form Show Schedules for both shows will be delivered or posted free of charge.

Please complete the renewal form and return together with cash or cheque (payable to CEHS) to Janet Evans.

## Jobs in 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.

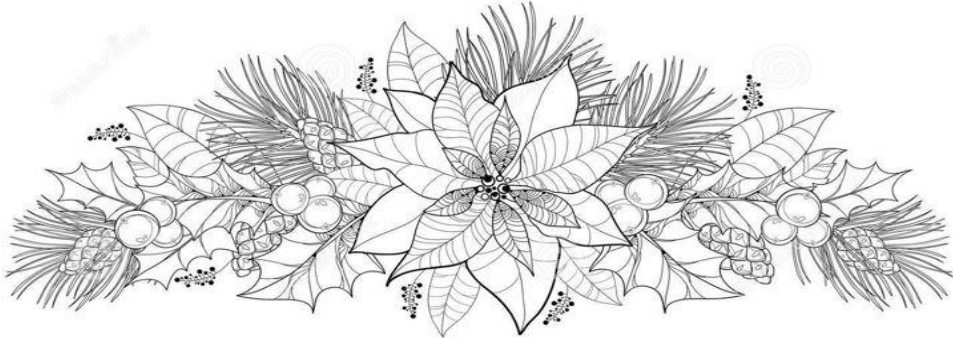
Top gardening jobs this month

- Clear up fallen leaves - especially from lawns, ponds and beds
- 1. Raise containers onto pot feet to prevent waterlogging
- 2. Plant tulip bulbs for a spring display next year
- 3. Prune roses to prevent wind-rock
- 4. Plant out winter bedding
- 5. Cover brassicas with netting if pigeons are a problem
- 6. Insulate outdoor containers from frost - bubble wrap works well
- 7. Stop winter moth damage to fruit trees using grease bands around the trunks
- 8. Put out bird food to encourage winter birds into the garden
- 9. 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](mailto:cehs561@gmail.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter.

**The Chairman and the Committee wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2024!!!**





# CHILTERN EDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Annual subscription: £8.00 per member (children free). Newsletter postage: £7.00 /year

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I would like to receive my newsletters by:

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I wish to have Show schedules printed and delivered/posted Yes/No (Please circle option)

Show schedules will be emailed, postage for this is free.

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

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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

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I consent to CEHS holding my email address.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_