



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

From the Chair -February 2023

You will receive a Spring Show schedule with this newsletter, please look at it and see what you can enter to help continue to make the show a success. If you have any plants you could donate for the plant stall at the show these would be much appreciated.

TALKS

Tuesday 14th February at 14.30.
"Gertrude Jekyll" by Richard Bisgrove.

Our now annual February afternoon talk will be by Honorary CEHS Member Richard Bisgrove who was for many years an academic at Reading University specialising in landscape design and acknowledged as an expert on some of the most influential garden designers of the late 19th and early 20th century, particularly Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson.

Please join us to learn more about the famous Gertrude Jekyll who, influenced by the great Victorian painter J.M.W. Turner and a collaborator of the equally important architect Lutyens, is credited with taking perennial flower borders to a new level. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy some home-made cakes!

Tuesday 14th March at 19.30 "For the Love of Roses" by Gillian Taylor

Hampshire based Gillian is a retired vet and largely self-taught enthusiastic plantswoman and gardener. She developed a garden in France from a field and in Hampshire has a wooded garden managed sympathetically for wildlife. She is a member of numerous horticultural societies, volunteers for Hampshire Gardens Trust and the Perennial charity who will benefit from this CEHS meeting.

In 'For the Love of Roses' Gillian will explain how she became a rose fan progressing from having only two a few years ago to over 200 varieties in her collection. She will discuss the diverse types of rose available, where to buy them, how to use them in various garden settings, their care & propagation and suggestions for plants to use with them in your borders.

Zoom Talk Report: Tuesday 10th January. "10 Ways to a Better Garden" by Doug Stewart"

Returning to the "lockdown" format for this talk at the darkest time of year proved to be very successful with many members joining us from their firesides to listen to this excellent and knowledgeable Yorkshire based speaker.

Illustrating his talk with both fine and unsuccessful examples of a variety of garden design strategies and fashions, some of the ideas Doug explored were: ensuring gardens contain secret & surprising places, integrating features from outside your own garden (trees,

buildings etc), exploiting both screening & meandering paths without letting them steal the show and making good use of a few carefully selected focal points (e.g. statues and troughs often recovered from architectural salvage sites). He also advocated: using colour creatively both in plant and container choice and K.I.S.S.ing (Keep It Simple Stupid!) i.e. if it grows well in your garden and looks good then grow a lot of it. He even explained how Pythagoras can help us to get borders to look right!

Overall an enjoyable and informative evening without leaving our own homes! We plan to continue the January Zoom experiment for at least a couple more years with perhaps a rematch with Doug amongst the offerings!

Spring Show Photo Competition Topics

1. Celebrations.
2. Reflections in water.
3. Still life.
4. Open

LAST MONTH TO RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION BEFORE IT IS CANCELLED

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. 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.

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

Show Administration requirement

Due to other commitments John Windass will stand down as Show Coordinator after the 2023 Spring Show. This means that we need either an individual or small team to step in and help with the necessary organisation for the 2023 Autumn and subsequent shows.

Areas involved include:-

- Booking and liaison with judges.
- Updating the show schedules, especially for classes which change for each show e.g. floral art, domestic and childrens.
- Allocating helpers to assist with the teas, plant stall & raffle and to steward the judges.
- Processing the show entries.
- Organising the display tables on the evening before the show.
- Arranging for trophies to be engraved.

CEHS now has a very small committee with no new members since 2019 so a lot of work falls on current members. If you volunteered to assist with show administration it would not necessarily mean attending all committee meetings. You would however become a key member of our team and would not be left on your own to cope.

Please give very careful consideration to this request to come forward as an individual or small group so that CEHS can continue to run shows. Please also note that if you volunteer soon that John and other committee members will be very

happy to "show you the ropes" as they manage the 2023 Spring Show.

RHS Gardening 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 gardening jobs this month

1 Prepare vegetable seed beds, and sow some vegetables under cover

2 Chit potato tubers

It's important with earlies, and a good idea with maincrops, to 'chit' the seed potatoes before planting. This means allowing them to start sprouting shoots.

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'

Dates for your diary

14th February (Tues) TALK at 14:30 "Gertrude Jekyll" A talk by Richard Bisgrove

14th March (Tues) TALK "For the Love of Roses" A talk by Gillian Taylor

1st April (Sat) SPRING SHOW 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall

11th April (Tues) TALK "Heavenly Hostas" A talk by June Colley and John Baker

20th May (Sat) COACH OUTING – RHS, Wisley

17th June (Sat) COACH OUTING - Private garden visit in the afternoon to The Manor House, Stevington, Bedfordshire and a visit to the nearby historic market town of Olney in the morning.

15th July (Sat) Summer activity Venue T.B.C.

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

Enjoyed the wine at the AGM?

The wine at the AGM came from a local company Purplefoot who deliver.

8 Kidmore Lane Sonning Common
Oxon RG4 9SH

Telephone: 0118 972 2215

Mobile: 07970 861114

Email: gavin@purplefoot.co.uk

Website: www.purplefoot.co.uk

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.

2nd September (Sat) AUTUMN SHOW 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall
16th September (Sat) COACH OUTING - Swiss Gardens and attached Shuttleworth vintage aircraft and motor car museum in Bedfordshire.
10th October (Tues) Talk by Ray Broughton Topic TBC
14th November (Tues) TALK Talk "Tenerife: A Botanical Honeypot" by Timothy Walker
12th December (Tues) AGM—7.15pm in Peppard Memorial Hall* Followed by Cheese and Wine



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

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

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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

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 _____