



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 - January 2023

I wish you all a happy and healthy new year and good gardening in 2023. Lets hope we don't have another heatwave and drought this year.

Thanks to all who attended the AGM and thanks to all who made the lovely mince pies and sausage rolls and donated the raffle prizes.

Don't forget to renew your membership if you have not already done it.

I hope you will take part in the Societies activities during the year.

The Committee elected to serve for 2023 is:

Chairman	Nigel Crush
Vice Chairman	John Windass
Talks Secretary	"
Treasurer	Martin Hedges
Membership Secretary	Janet Evans
Social Secretary	None appointed
Publicity	Colin Mather
Outings Secretary	Mark Richards
Front Garden Competition	Maureen Stevens
Minutes Secretary	None appointed
Public Relations	None appointed
Show Chairman	None appointed
Committee Members:	Jessica Philbrick

We are still trying to recruit members on to the committee if you would like to volunteer.

Talk

Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.30pm via Zoom. "10 Ways To A Better Garden" by Doug Stewart.

Building on the success of Zoom talks during "lock down" we will begin 2023 with another using this format. Advantages being that no one needs to travel at this dark and frequently cold and/or wet time of year. We can also attract speakers from far away! So please join us to hear a Yorkshireman's guide to a better garden!

Never really intending to become a horticulturist Doug began gardening at 13, rented an allotment and began earning pocket money by selling vegetables through his local shop. After formal training he had various jobs: a lecturer in cucumber & tomato production, a pumpkin grower, plant propagator, interior landscaper and garden designer. Then followed 20 years as Head of Horticulture at a specialist college and then 15 years as consultant, speaker and trainer. Now he co-presents The Great Outdoors, a gardening phone in on BBC Radio Humberside. A real expert to get us off to a great gardening year!

Details of the Zoom link are at the end of the newsletter.

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

Our now annual February afternoon talk will this year feature Honorary CEHS Member Richard Bisgrove who was for

many years an academic at Reading University where he specialised in landscape design and was an acknowledged 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 famous Victorian painter J.M.W. Turner and a collaborator of the equally famous architect Lutyens, is often credited with taking perennial flower borders to a new level. There may also be an opportunity to enjoy some home made cakes!

Talk Report: Tuesday 8th November. "Death in the Garden" by Michael Brown ("The Historic Gardener")

A dark November evening began spookily with a missing speaker and gremlins refusing to allow the hall AV projector to start. However brave members quickly sorted out these problems allowing an informative and thought provoking talk to begin on time!

Running through nearly thirty different plants more-or-less commonly found in British gardens which can make you ill or worse, Michael both entertained and hopefully educated us.

Some of these "problem" plants, such as Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*), come as no surprise or problem if identified. With bright red sweet tasting berries, only 18 of which are required to kill, it can still be very dangerous to the unwary. The relatively common herbaceous plant Monkshood (*Aconitum*) has also been

used as a murder weapon when added to a curry!

Learning that plants such as Hellebores, Morning Glory, Nicotiana and even Basil, in excess, can have some very nasty effects definitely reinforced the message:- if you are not absolutely sure what it is don't eat it or even expose yourself to its sap!

Spring Show Photo Competition Topics

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

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. 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 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.

Top gardening jobs this month

1 Prune apple and pear trees

Pruning an apple or pear tree can be daunting for many gardeners. Rather than be put off completely or panic and inadvertently harm the tree back by excessive pruning, instead try our easy guide and enjoy a well-shaped, productive tree.

2 Clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring

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.

3 Dig over any vacant plots that have not been dug already

Soil cultivation or digging may be hard work but, if taken slowly, it need not be back-breaking.

4 Disperse worm casts in lawns

5 Inspect stored tubers of Dahlia, Begonia and Canna for rots or drying out

6 Recycle your Christmas tree by shredding it for mulch

7 Start forcing rhubarb

8 Plan your vegetable crop rotations for the coming season

9 Keep putting out food and water for hungry birds

10 Make a polythene shelter for outdoor peaches and nectarines, to protect against peach leaf curl

The Chairman and the Committee wish you all a very Happy New Year



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

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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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cehs561@gmail.com

I consent to CEHS holding my email address.

Signed _____