



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 2024

We would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2024.

The AGM went ahead successfully Martin Hedges reported the finances were sound, although 2 trips had made a loss.

Overall though 2023 was a good year for the Society with popular well attended events.

A big thank you to all those who helped in any way to make the AGM a success and those who generously provided raffle prizes.

It was good to see so many members there on the night despite the awful weather.

The Committee elected to serve for 2024 is:

Chairman	Nigel Crush
Vice Chairman	Penny Noble
Talks Secretary	John Windass
Treasurer	Martin Hedges
Membership Secretary	Janet Evans
Social Secretary	Clare Talbot
Publicity	Colin Mather
Outings Secretary	Mark Richards
Minutes Secretary	Penny Noble
Public Relations	None appointed
Front Gardens	Maureen Stevens
Competition organiser	
Committee Members:	
Jessica Philbrick	

Dates for your diary, full list to follow.

9th January Zoom Talk via Zoom. "Delightful, De-Lovely, Deranged!" by Nancy Stevens.

13th February at 14.30. Talk "The Trowels and Tribulations of taking on a Historic Garden!"

12th March TBA Unavoidable cancellation of previous booking

6th April (Sat) Spring Show 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall

9th April Talk Dispelling 10 Myths about Peonies

11th May Exbury Gardens trip

15th June Wisley trip

7th July Open Gardens

7th Sept Autumn Show 2-4pm in Sonning Common Village Hall

September trip TBC

8th October Right Plant Right Place

12th November Talk Gillian Taylor

10th Dec AGM

TALKS

Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm 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!

So 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!

Zoom meeting login details

Contact a committee member

Tuesday 13th February at 14.30. "The Trowels and Tribulations of taking on a Historic Garden!"

For our now established February afternoon talk we will be welcoming Maggie Tran, originally a Fine Arts graduate, to speak on her experiences as Head Gardener at the historic Bramdean House in Hampshire.

Talk Report: Tuesday 14th November 2023 "Tenerife: A Botanical Honey-pot" by Timothy Walker

Miserable November weather cleared up in time to encourage a good audience to turn out for a virtual visit to this sub-tropical island guided by Timothy Walker, an expert on this unique island's plant life from Oxford University.

In a beautifully illustrated, amusing but highly informative talk Timothy explained how the unique history and geography of Tenerife had provided a perfect environment for plants to establish themselves and evolve into a myriad of different species and forms in an island roughly the size of Oxfordshire. The result being that to date botanists know of

800 different plant species found naturally only on Tenerife, whereas here in Oxfordshire there are none!

A geologically young island with distinct wet and dry sides and a very high central mountain where snow falls in winter and it is hot most days and freezes most nights is a tough place to grow but also provides lots of opportunities if you are adaptable!

To illustrate the resulting "honey-pot" of plant life Timothy took us on an imaginary journey from the west dry side of Tenerife up and over Mt Tiede and down to the damper east coast. A journey taken every year in May by Oxford University Plant Science students on their annual field trip.

To start with low thorny drought tolerant plants, including some leafless cactus-like euphorbias, predominate. Then leafier shrubs, including tree-like heathers and very different euphorbias, take over. Next we come to a region where we find *Isoplexis isabelliana*, a foxglove - but not as we know it - with normal flower spikes but orange in colour and borne on a perennial herbaceous shrub! There is also a perennial convulvulus which is much better behaved than our bind weed!

Mt. Tiede itself is home to a towering *Echium*, which tolerates daily extreme temperatures but doesn't like the long cold spells we have in Oxfordshire! Then, as we descend, canary laurel and pine forests take over but with deep, steep sided "barrancas" (gorges) where some plants can be found which grow nowhere else, even on Tenerife!

So, if you love plants and would like to see some we grow in our gardens in their natural habitat, take a trip to Tenerife and leave the beaches and flesh pots behind for a few days!

John Windass

Spring Show Photo Competition Topics

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

Membership Subscriptions

Membership renewals were due on or before the 1 January 2024. 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.

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. This can often be omitted or at least minimized if you have a no-dig regime.
6. Disperse worm casts in lawns
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

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.



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

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

Address in full

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I would like to receive my newsletters by:

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

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 £

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 _____