ALL ABOUT GARDENING FEBRUARY

Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am
Catherine Fink, Occupational Therapist from Thrive will be talking about Ageing Well in the Garden - including: ergonomics, preventing falls, maximising your energy capacity and health benefits of gardening into older age.

Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
$5 $10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

GARDENING QUESTIONS?
Head to the Horticultural Hub for answers!
Every Wednesday and Sunday, between 1-4pm (for February & March) the shop end of the Botanic Gardens Visitor Centre becomes a Hub for gardening advice and inspiration.

The friendly folk are a wealth of knowledge and are ready for horticultural, botanical or conservation conversation. Run by volunteers of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Canterbury Horticultural Society.

GREEN THUMBS RADIO
Monday 11 February 9am
Out & About with the Canterbury Horticultural Society
Catch up with CHS Vice President Ray King and Annette Hill as they chat live on Plains FM 96.9 for ‘Canterbury through the Seasons’. Ray and Annette interview some really interesting people and offer great gardening advice.

SUMMER IN THE STYX
Sunday 18 February 11am - 3pm
Styx River Reserve, 303 Radcliffe Road, Belfast, Christchurch - Free
Explore one of Christchurch’s brand new Regional Parks with the Styx Living Laboratory Trust. Try a range of fun activities related to environment, research and citizen science involving local wildlife, plants, water quality, and local history.
Food & refreshments available

CHS AGM
Monday 18 March 7.30pm
The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Nomination of candidates for President, Vice President and (4-6) Board Members, items of general business and any notice of motion must be received at the CHS office no later than fourteen (14) days before the AGM with confirmation in writing from the nominated member. Nominations must be signed by 2 financial members and any notice of motion must be signed by 2 Financial/Honorary Life Members.

The Agenda, President’s Report, Annual Accounts and Auditor’s Report will be available from the CHS Office 7 days prior to the meeting by request, and at the meeting. Nomination forms are available from the CHS office and online: www.chsgardens.co.nz/agm
We are now in Summer with plenty of hot weather and the usual periods of wind and little rain, all of which puts stress on plants and gives us the problem of keeping them growing and healthy.

Most of the berry fruits are finishing and the stone fruits are reaching their main production now, then to follow is the pip fruit.

The fruit crops that we are harvesting now are the results of the cultivation that we gave them over the last Winter and Spring so if the results are not up to expectations then review what was done to identify what needs to be done to improve the next crop.

Although winter is still a long way off we do need to be prepared. Spring bulbs will soon be in the garden centres but it is still too soon to plant most of them so choose the best quality bulbs and keep them until the time is right in the Autumn.

Most of the tasks around the garden at this time of the year is what I call maintenance gardening; weeding, watering, pest and disease control and of course, harvesting.
Flower Garden
1. Keep dead heading roses, dahlias, perennials and annuals to encourage more flowers.
2. Stake up taller plants before they get too tall and full over.
3. Thrips are around so treat susceptible plants now to prevent leaf damage later.
4. Container growing plants will benefit from weekly liquid feeds to compensate for the extra watering leaching out nutrients.
5. Weed regularly as weeds grow quick to reduce competition.
6. Water as needed but before the plants show signs of stress.

Vegetable Garden
1. Water regularly to keep plants growing without stress.
2. Harvest beans, peas, tomatoes etc. when they are at their best condition.
3. Check tomatoes, potatoes and peppers for any signs of the psyllid and treat if needed.
4. Leeks should now be planted. Keep well fed and watered to keep them growing without any stress.
5. Berry fruit may have the old fruiting stems removed so that the new growth that will give next seasons crop can grow better.
6. Strawberries will still be fruiting, give regular liquid feeds to keep them growing.
7. Plant Winter brassicas now but watch for the white butterfly.
8. Carrots may still be sown to give Winter supply.

Lawns
1. Cut weekly but not too low.
2. Water regularly; give a good soaking rather than a sprinkle on top (about once a week).
3. Grass will respond to a feed now.
4. Look for signs of any fungus infection, treat if needed or reduce watering to stop the spread.

The Waitakiri School Orchard is an active play space. The trees and gardens all have wooden edgings which allow children and trees to share the space. There was a heavy fruit set of apples and a good fruit set on the peaches and pears. Vegetable gardens held luxurious crops of potatoes and spring onions.

On my visit to Fendalton Open Air School in a lovely relaxed atmosphere, a class was busy in the garden and orchard, with groups making kale chips, watering, weeding or collecting leaves for compost.

The understory of the St Martins School orchard is a wonderful example of diversity. In Winter Howard Keene and the children composted under the trees and have added sage and lavender. They worked with Allan Paterson from CHS to prune their trees in Winter.

The children of Burnside Primary School made the wooden edgings around the trees and painted them bright yellow. They are going to sow Yates Bee Pasture pollen and nectar mix under the trees.

Due to their rebuild Addington School had to move four trees while they were in leaf. Miraculously three trees survived and are growing strongly.

Cobham Intermediate School’s trees and garden look luxuriant. The peach trees have their first crop and with good fruit set on the apples. The SPEC group makes worm tea from egg cartons, food scraps, and egg shells.

In the depths of winter, Allan Paterson from CHS and I moved the trees at the Kaiapoi Borough School from the lower field up to the new play area by the rebuilt school. The trees have loved their move to the new, sunnier, warmer site and are growing strongly.

It’s very exciting to be part of the Orchards in School project and to see so many children enjoy being in the outdoors growing food. Mary Tingey

If your school is interested in joining the programme please contact the CHS Office on tel: 366 6937

RAMBLERS
Tuesday 12 February 9.45am
Fendalton
Meet Park end of Waiwetu St

Tuesday 26 February 9.45am
Ilam
Meet Annandale Park, Carruthers St
No walk if wet. FREE

2019 Programme available now: www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROUP
Wednesday 27 February 7.30pm
Deaf Society of Canterbury, 80 Fitzgerald Ave


A Visual Guide to Gardening through the Year #5 with Peter Saunders

FLORAL DESIGN GROUP
Wednesday 20 February 2pm
New members welcome.
Contact the CHS office for location
Tel: 366 6937
Email: office@chsgardens.co.nz

See the latest creations online: https://flic.kr/s/aHsm3HUR3N

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**HERBS FOR PEST & DISEASE CONTROL**

*Canterbury Herb Society*

- Basil is good for tomato fly
- Borage is good for tomatoes & attracts bees.
- Calendula tomatoes and attracts bees
- Camomile cabbage and onions
- Caraway peas
- Chervil radishes
- Dill cabbage
- Fennel green aphid
- Garlic silver blight, aphid, codlin moth
- Horseradish potatoes
- Hyssop cabbage-butterfly, grapes
- Marjoram tomatoes, cucumbers
- Nasturtium woolly aphid
- Parsley roses, tomatoes, honey bees
- Pennyroyal ants, plant lice
- Peppermint cabbage butterfly, ants
- Rosemary, Sage & Southernwood cabbage butterfly, ants carrot fly
- Stinging nettles black fly, aphid, plant lice, mildew
- Tansy ants, flies, moths
- Tagetes nematode, whitefly

For more great ideas with herbs visit: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/resources/herb-of-the-month](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/category/resources/herb-of-the-month)

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**RAMBLERS News**

The late November Ramble was through Charlesworth Reserve that is a restored tidal wetland where extensive native tree, shrubs and marsh plants have been planted over a number of years. Eleven ramblers enjoyed this outing on an overcast morning where some unusual plants and birds were on view.

The final Ramble for the year was in the red zone of Avonside starting from Woodham Park. Avonside is one of the oldest parts of our city that suffered badly in the earthquakes. The area has been cleared of buildings and left with trees and shrubs to grow in their glory which are a stunning show as the seasons change. This Ramble finished with a picnic morning tea at which a presentation was made to Elizabeth Peacock for her years of leading the Ramblers Walks.

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**COMING UP AT ALL ABOUT GARDENING**

**MARCH**

*Monday 4th 7pm & Tuesday 5th 9.45am*

Dr Antony Shadbolt, Team Leader - Biodiversity from the Parks Unit

Christchurch City Council is our March speaker. Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

Christchurch Bridge Club, 21 Nova Place
$5 members, $10 non-members
Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

**APRIL**

*Monday 1st 7pm & Tuesday 2nd 9.45am*

Steve Bush joins us from, Trees for Canterbury - more than just a nursery for plants! Steve participated in our 2018 Winter Speaker Series where he spoke about what Trees for Canterbury have done and where they are at today, including what they do other than just growing native plants. Also in the programme, Gardening Half Hour.

**New Location!** Join us for the inaugural All About Gardening meeting at The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens (just over the footbridge from the Armagh St carpark). $5 members $10 non-members. Includes tea, coffee & biscuits

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**CHS Newsletter Archive: [www.chsgardens.co.nz/monthly-newsletter-archives](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/monthly-newsletter-archives)**

The CHS gratefully acknowledges the valuable contribution of its sponsors and supporters. The sponsorship categories are as follows: Principal, Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Base and will be populated as sponsors join. Details of the programme may be found at [www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship](http://www.chsgardens.co.nz/sponsorship).