



Canterbury Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No 290 AUGUST 2022

The Kiosk
Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Open every day 10am – 3pm

www.chsgardens.co.nz



office@chsgardens.co.nz



[canterburyhorticulturalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/canterburyhorticulturalsociety)



[groups/CHSHortTalk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/CHSHortTalk)

MA

join demonstrator Freya Flora for

Mummary & Lace

an evening of preserved flowers & foliage

MARGARET WATLING FLORAL ART DEMONSTRATION

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 – 11.30am (term time only)

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (gold coin entry). [Facebook Event](#)

Pip Fruit Pruning

Saturday 6 August 9am – 12pm

Richmond Community Gardens

Tame your apple, pear and quince trees! Understand how pruning can increase production and ensure the longevity of your fruit trees.

\$52 (\$65 Non-Members)

[Book online](#)

Green Thumbs Podcast

Monday 8 August 9am

Plains FM 96.9 Along with seasonal gardening advice Ray and Lorraine chat to interesting folk with a horticultural bent. If you miss a session you can find the recordings on the CHS [website](#).

Chelsea Flower Show Screening

Thursday 11 August 1.30pm

Come along to a cosy afternoon in The Kiosk for the second instalment of this year's

Chelsea Flower Show. Join us for a cuppa and clips of gardening inspiration to get you enthused for the upcoming growing season.

Free for CHS Members

Margaret Watling Demonstration

Friday 12 August 7pm

Mummary & Lace

Join us at The Kiosk for an Evening of Preserved Flowers & Foliage.

Discover the beauty of preserved and dried flowers and enjoy the hospitality of the Society with drinks and nibbles at this memorable evening.

Tickets: \$50

[Book online](#)

Biochar Basics

Tuesday 16 August 6pm – 7pm

112 Bamford Street, Woolston

Enhance Your Soil With Biochar

This amazing product can increase water retention, improve plant growth and reduce the need for fertiliser. Join Ra & Jared from The Tree People for a demonstration on how to make it. Includes a free sample to take home.

\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)

[Book online](#)

Fruit Tree Grafting

Saturday 24 September 9am – 12pm

Richmond Community Gardens

Learn how to produce your own fruit trees and preserve heritage trees.

\$52 (\$65 Non-Members)

[Book online](#)

Garden Life

Wednesday 3 August 1pm & 7pm



**New
name, day
& time!**

Main Speaker
Ben Murgatroyd
Monstera & Men

"Kia Ora, I am Ben Murgatroyd of Monstera And Men. I'm on a mission to bring 'the Garden City' indoors in Christchurch. I specialise in helping Christchurch businesses install and maintain ornate plants in pots and containers. I am a qualified builder, experienced in growing microgreens commercially and I have over five years experience working intensely with indoor plants."

Mini Speaker: Ra Hammer
The Tree People

Ra Hammer joins us to talk about the upcoming Biochar demonstration.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$5 (Non-Members: \$10)
Tea, coffee and biscuits included

Meet the People of Canterbury's Past

John Thomas Peacock (1827-1905) was a New Zealand businessman, merchant and later ship owner, philanthropist and politician. He came to Canterbury in 1844 and was Vice-President and member of Canterbury Horticultural Society for many years in the 1800's.

In 1906 he sold his business and built his residence 'Hawkesbury' in Merivale. The property was surrounded by Papanui Road, Mansfield Avenue and St Albans Street and four gardeners were employed for the upkeep of the gardens and archery ground, bowling green, tennis court and swimming pool. In his will he left 500 pounds to the Christchurch Beautifying Society who used this legacy to build the Peacock Fountain which is in its third position in the Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Many thanks to Alan Jolliffe for this historical contribution. For more articles visit our [web page](#).



Friends of the
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Friends' Events at The Kiosk

Alpine Plants

Friday 19 August 10:30am

Suzanne Pickford, President of the NZ Alpine Garden Society, will talk about these popular plants.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 28 August 4pm

Lichens

Sunday 18 September 4pm

Melissa Hutchison is a consultant ecologist based in Christchurch. Her ecological interests include native plants, invasive weeds, lichens, and community ecology.

She will talk about New Zealand as a global hotspot for lichen biodiversity, and current work to understand more about the ecology and conservation status of NZ lichens.

All Talks

\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)

Free Mona Vale Guided Walks

Saturday 27 August

1:30pm

Meet at the Rose Garden adjacent to the car park by the Eros statue.

Free guided walks of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens resume in October.

The Friends Plant Stall has reopened!

Another great reason to visit the Botanic Gardens.



Christchurch Envirohub

Providing support for environmental and community groups in Christchurch.

Envirokids is on every Saturday. Drop in anytime between 10am and 3pm, usually on at The Kiosk in the Botanic Gardens. Check out the Facebook page [here](#) for updates.

For more information about Envirohub contact **Ben Alder** tel: 022 157 2413

benalder@chchenvirohub.org

www.chchenvirohub.org

Ramblers

Tuesday 9 August 9.45am

Nga Puna Wai Sports Club

Meet car park off Augustine Drive

Tuesday 23 August 9.45am

Prestons Park

Meet in Lambies Street

www.chsgardens.co.nz/ramblers

Contact: Alison Fussell tel: 027 251 3757

Floral Design

Wednesday 17 August 2pm

The Kiosk,
Christchurch
Botanic Gardens

Interested?

Contact: **Ray King**

Tel: 021 037 0675



Garden Club Reps

Tuesday 2 August 12.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch
Botanic Gardens

Fruit & Vegetables

Wednesday 31 August 7.30pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch
Botanic Gardens

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

This month we notice longer days and the promise of Spring! However, the soil will be at its coldest and wettest so working it should wait until conditions improve.

Winter pruning should be completed by the end of the month and if spraying, treatments done as the buds begin to swell to give the best protection from diseases and pests.

In the green house early plant raising can begin, especially if you have a heat pad (night time temperatures will still be too low for seed germination or plant growth without any heat). I recommend that you use a thermostat to control the temperature for the best results. Once germinated, hardy plants such as the cabbages, lettuce, broccoli etc. can be moved from heated areas but

tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and the like will still need some warmth for good growth.

The same applies to flowering annuals so always read the seed packet as these will suggest the best temperatures for germination. Remember, day length also has some influence on seed germination so it may be better wait until the middle of the month before sowing more tender plants. Day time temperatures will get very warm on the sunny days so open up the vents to get some good air exchange, this will help to control any excess humidity which can encourage fungal diseases, but remember to close them before the temperatures begin to fall.

Spring bulbs will be starting to flower, remove the spent flowers to help the bulb to build up for the next season.

The lawns can look very untidy and yellow,

however it is still too early to give them a feed (next month is a better time).

Cut grass with the mower set up high just to trim the taller growth, by the very end of the month the grass will start to come into growth and more regular mowing may be required.

Late Winter has flowering shrubs that will benefit from pruning after their flowers have finished, this encourages the new growth for flowering next year.

In the vegetable garden rhubarb will need to have a good application of fertiliser as it moves into growth. Garlic and other onions are best kept weed free, broad beans will need staking and any green crops dug in when the ground is workable.

Good Gardening, **Michael Coulter**
Post problems on [HortTalk](#) or email coulchrys@xtra.co.nz

From the President, Allan Paterson

Dear valued CHS Members,

As I write this the wax eyes are hammering the food outside the office window, which tells me that 'yep it's Winter' and there is programming to be done. Both for you and my own garden.

We are delighted to announce **Garden Life** has been chosen as the new name for our monthly Member's meeting (formerly All About Gardening). This will take place on the **first Wednesday of the month**, in the afternoon 1pm to 3pm and repeated in the evening 7pm to 9pm.

I understand that it's cold at night and if you're not already out and about it can be hard to leave the warmth of home. If you can, come along to the afternoon Garden Life session. It's a great place to catch gardening tips and a warm cuppa; plus Rachel has some really interesting speakers lined up for us. I'm looking forward to hearing from Ben Murgatroyd from Monstera & Men this month - always learning here!

Thank you for accommodating this change so easily, a reassuring sign as we move forward with regular tweaks to update the Society.

There are the other changes coming (not so radical), but we are waiting on results, before we can share them with you.

Our popular Orchards in Schools programme needs help. I am organising Members with fruit tree pruning experience (and some less experienced pruners who want to learn more) to assist pruning the trees at our participating schools.

Now that the children have been taught we need to prune the remaining trees, this will produce better fruit and excite the children with the orchard's potential. Diary note: **Saturday 20 August and Sunday 21 August.** Contact the office if you think you might be available to help on either of these days.

We also have the Margaret Watling Floral Art Demonstration, Mummery & Lace on this month. We're transforming The Kiosk with clouds of beautiful preserved flowers and

foliage (available for purchase at the end of the evening too). Only \$50 for a ticket with drinks and nibbles to start and a sweet treat during the interval. Hope to see you there!

Thanks for all your ongoing support,
Allan Paterson
CHS President

Have a few hours to spare?

We have a range of volunteering opportunities for the green fingered and would love to hear from you!

- **Kiosk Volunteers** (Bot Tots, Horticultural Hub Helpers, Kiosk Staffing over Summer)
- **Orchards in Schools** (Pruning)
- **Plant & Flower Shows** (Stewarding)
- **Garden Life** (Baking)
- **Edible and Sustainable Garden Awards 2023** (Judging)

Call Sharnaé in the office for a chat on
mob: 021 056 7712 or tel: 3666 937

Chrysanthemum Group

Sunday 14 August 1.30pm

Are you interested in growing chrysanthemums? Come along to our meeting on Sunday and learn how to get the chrysanthemum plants ready for the coming season.



We will be discussing how to propagate by cuttings or division, as well as ideas on how to prevent pests and diseases.

All CHS members are welcome.

New Members or guests please contact **Robyn**
Tel: 942 9871



Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 10 & 24 August 10am

All welcome, BYO materials

The Kiosk
Christchurch Botanic Gardens.

Herb of the Month

Origanum and Marjoram

There are many varieties of marjoram with a similar fragrance and flavour, but varying degrees of intensity. While more commonly used in culinary endeavours their scent and foliage work well in flower arrangements too.

Marjoram has a subtler and sweeter flavour than oregano which comes from a variety of aromatic compounds including sabinene (fresh, woody), terpinene (citrus), and linalool (floral).

In contrast, oregano has a high amount of carvacrol, which has a pungent aroma and is also found in some other plants like thyme and wild bergamot. It is the carvacrol which lays claim to its antimicrobial and antioxidant properties.

Some well known marjoram varieties include

creeping golden marjoram 'aureum' which has variegated leaves and tiny, pinky-mauve flowers in Summer. It makes a sturdy and attractive ground cover that can be mowed. French or pot marjoram (*origanum onites*) has pink flowers and a mild flavour that pairs well with eggs and salad.

Sweet marjoram, (*origanum majorana*) also known as knotted marjoram, features white flowers. Finely chopped, it adds a delicate flavour to herb butter, green salads, potatoes, green beans and cauliflower.

Marjoram complements almost any savoury dish and is essential in a bouquet garni. Because of its preserving qualities it is often added to preserved sausages and meats.

Oregano, *origanum* or wild marjoram (*origanum vulgare*) is delicious sprinkled on pizza, pasta and cheese and tomato dishes.



As a companion plant, marjoram is desirable in all gardens and motivates growth around it. It is a perennial plant and a stalwart in the herb garden.

Oregano is an excellent companion plant for cabbages.

GARDEN LIFE

Monthly gardening programme
for the everyday gardener

Garden Life

Wednesday 7 September

Afternoon: 1-3pm Evening: 7-9pm

Main Speaker: TBC

A last minute cancellation means we are yet to confirm our September speaker.

Mini Speaker: Southern Seed Exchange

The Southern Seed Exchange (SSE) are a charitable trust run by a small team of volunteers based in Christchurch. They facilitate the exchange of seeds between gardeners by receiving seeds from seed saving gardeners (guardians) and producing online seed lists for members. They encourage members to become seed guardians to ensure the ongoing supply of seed.



SSE is interested in local cultivars (cultivars which have adapted to their locality), occasionally finding seed saved by individuals for years and years. They are also interested in lesser known nutritious food plants. They focus on the temperate and cool mountain climate zones of New Zealand.

Most of the seed on their seed lists would be classified as local cultivars, and some as heritage or heirloom cultivars, seed that is no longer available commercially, some of which have been saved in a family for a number of generations.

They supply seed in small portions to members (about the amount of a typical packet of seed from a retail garden centre) but don't supply commercial growers or sell seeds to non-members.

Twice a year the SSE hold seed swaps in Spring and Autumn which are open to the public.

Thank-you Alan Jolliffe, CHS Life Member for your submission of "Garden Life"

Unanimously accepted by the CHS Board and staff as the new name for our monthly Member's meeting.

The Kiosk

Christchurch Botanic Gardens
(Armagh Street car park footbridge)
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)
Tea, coffee and biscuits included

With Winter illness and Covid still circulating a wee reminder that we should be wearing our face masks when we are in The Kiosk.

Once you have your drink etc. please sit down before you take your mask off.

[Get event reminders via Facebook](#)

Scorpio Books

The Land Gardeners - Cut Flowers

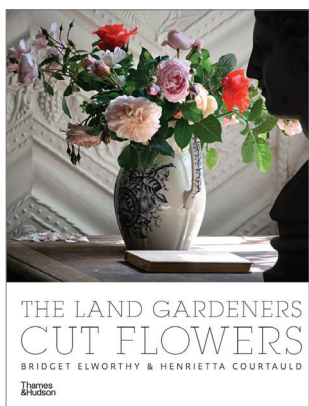
[Bridget Elworthy and Henrietta Courtauld](#)
[9781760761738](#) | \$55.00

New edition by popular demand!

HEALING OUR SOILS,
HEALING OUR PLANTS,
HEALING OUR PLANET

The Land Gardeners show you how to establish organic garden beds and sow, grow and harvest over 100 varieties of cut flowers.

In this luscious visual diary of life in the garden, The Land Gardeners share their beliefs on the importance of soil health, introduce you to their favourite blooms and inspire you to create your own cutting garden with expert knowledge on how to grow and what to gather by season.



Based in the original walled garden at Wardington Manor, The Land Gardeners have revived the tradition of working with the land to produce abundant, seasonal flowers for clients' use in decoration, design and events. But for all the frivolous bucolic beauty of the flowers, it is the productivity and health of the soil that truly underpins

The Land Gardeners' philosophy. The book explores lively soil, the joy (and, arguably, necessity) of gathering from our gardens, and the imperative that we care for our soils and live among healthy, vital gardens.

'With their instinctive flair, Elworthy and Courtauld established cutting gardens that bring the deep poetry of

organic flowers to their enthusiastic customers.'

Patrick Kinmonth For American Vogue

Thanks to [Scorpio Books](#) for this review.

Daffodil dates!

Riccarton Horticultural Society Spring Show
Saturday 10 September
1-4pm

St Peters Church Hall,
Upper Riccarton

Canterbury Horticultural Society Spring Show at the Botanical Expo
Saturday 17 September 1pm - 5pm
Sunday 18 September 10am - 4pm
\$5 Entry, Lincoln Events Centre

Woodend Spring Flower Show
Saturday 1 October 1pm - 4pm
Woodend Community Centre
\$2 Entry Children free

Canterbury Daffodil Championships at A Spring Flower Show: 160 years of Canterbury Horticultural Society in association with the Christchurch Heritage Festival
Saturday 8 & Sunday 9 October
10am - 4pm
Free Entry, The Kiosk,
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

