



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

Halloween, Heritage & National Gardening Week!

October is packed with exciting events! The Heritage Festival celebrates some of Ōtautahi's finest treasures (including our Botanic Gardens and Kiosk), while National Gardening Week focuses on small garden spaces, offering creative tips for gardeners. To wrap up the month, we're hosting a fun, crafty Halloween activity for the little ones (check our website soon). Do take a look at the [Heritage Programme](#) and the [Yates Website](#) for inspiration this October.



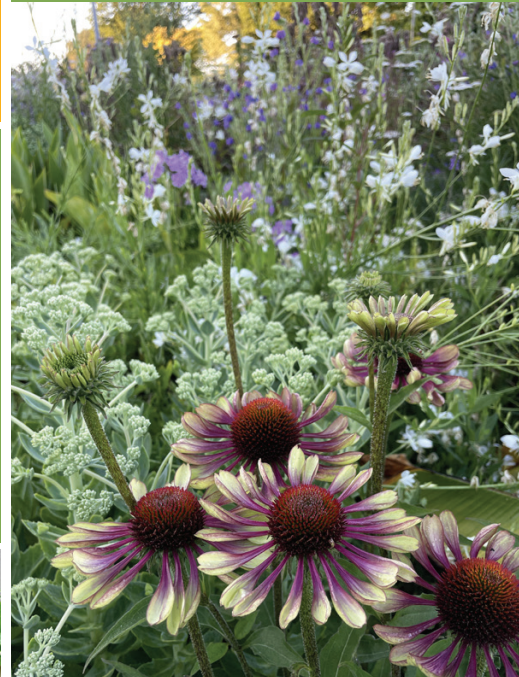
Christchurch Heritage Festival
12-28 October 2024

GARDEN LIFE OCTOBER

Elizabeth Wilks

CHS Avebury: A Climate Resilient Garden

Tuesday 1st 6pm & Wednesday 2nd 1pm



CHS is creating a climate-resilient ornamental garden at Avebury House to demonstrate sustainable gardening for Canterbury's changing climate. By 2040, NIWA predicts drier summers and more intense, sporadic winter rainfall. CHS Avebury's plant-driven design features a mix of resilient native and exotic species. Inspired by historic elements, the garden's structure uses Fibonacci proportions, clipped spheres, and obelisks to balance naturalistic planting.

About Elizabeth Wilks

With a background in environmental science, Elizabeth is a lifelong gardener and designer. Her designs focus on creating plant communities tailored to their environment, embracing Beth Chatto's "right plant, right place" philosophy.

Mini Speakers: Ben Alder, Envirohub (Wednesday) | **Jane Cowen-Harris, Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens** (Tuesday)

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members) Pay on the door

*Tea, coffee and biscuits afternoon
Wine & nibbles evening*



Edible Flowers

Learn about growing Edible Flowers

Discover the magic of growing edible flowers at home with Canterbury expert Marion Smith from Petal & Co. Learn how to grow, pick, and identify safe, non-toxic edible flowers, and enhance your culinary creations with vibrant colours and flavours.

Saturday 19 October 3 - 5pm The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens
\$45 (\$60 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)

Botanical Ceramics

Vases, Plates & Tiles with Jane McCulla

Includes all materials, glazing and kiln firing!

Botanical Plate: Sunday 10 November 1-3pm

Green Man Tile: Sunday 2 March 2025 10am - 12.30pm

The Kiosk, Botanic Gardens

\$65 (\$80 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)



Tea in my GARDEN

Tea in my Garden

Join us for a delightful morning in nature!

Explore three unique Waitaha gardens, meet the gardeners, and enjoy a guided tour through their beautiful grounds.

December, February & March 10.30am - 12pm.

Meet at the garden, or carpool with friends

\$20 (\$30 Non-Members) Includes garden entry, light morning tea. [Book Online Now](#)

Fresh Floral Wreaths

Create a Christmas themed floral wreath

Learn the art of making a stunning fresh wreath. Perfect for adding a personalised touch to your Christmas door, table or gifting to someone special!

Wednesday 11 December 7 - 9pm, The Kiosk

\$105 (\$125 Non-Members)

Includes all materials, light refreshments and a glass of bubbles on arrival. [Book online now](#)

Fresh Floral Wreaths



From the Manager

It has been an exciting and busy month for CHS! We had a successful Botanical Expo at the Lincoln Event Centre and launched our first botanically inspired Holiday Programme for schoolchildren. The Orchards in Schools initiative is thriving under the capable leadership of Melissa Thompson, and our courses are back in session.

Our collaboration on the Avebury Garden is progressing well, with regular working bees and a stunning draft plan created by Elizabeth Wilks. Elizabeth will be the main speaker at our October Garden Life event, where she will present the garden plan. Members with a passion for ornamental gardens won't want to miss this!

Looking ahead, the Christchurch Heritage Festival will run from the 12th to the 28th of October. The Kiosk will feature a model of the Edmonds Factory main building, complete with to-scale baking powder tins inside. Additionally, CHS will present a large-screen digital display showcasing historical images of the Tea Kiosk, along with a curated slide show by our Patron, Neiel Drain, featuring Flower Shows and Garden Competitions from 1984 to 2014. The Friends of the Botanic

Gardens will also lead historical walks departing from The Kiosk.

As the Heritage Festival approaches, I'd like to share a bit of family history. My uncle, Gavin Henderson, served as Deputy of Parks Christchurch before becoming Superintendent of Parks and Reserves for the Dunedin City Council. He was also Chairman of the RNZIH for a time. His wife, Dorothy—my mother's sister—was a renowned opera singer and the first woman to release a solo album. Their son, Jim, worked as a gardener at the Botanic Gardens for many years, and he and his twin brother John once flatted with Alan Jolliffe. It's a small world in Christchurch!

Jenny Cookson, CHS Manager

Friends of Canterbury Museum

Tuesday 15 October 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Beyond redevelopment: Shaping the Future Together. Canterbury Museum is imagining its future in a redeveloped and restored building.

Free, bring coins for raffles.

Canterbury Rose Society

Thursday 17 October 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

What to do in your Rose Garden at this time of Year - various speakers from Rose Society with an emphasis on how to make the most of the Spring flush of blooms. *All welcome.*

Avon Bonsai Society

Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 October

Annual Avon Bonsai Show

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Explore a stunning variety of bonsai trees, some over 50 years old, and chat with knowledgeable members. Don't miss the chance to win bonsai-related prizes in our raffles, including a year-long club membership. We hope to see you there! *Gold coin donation is welcome to support the club.*

Watercolour Painting

Wednesday 9, 23 October 10am

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Garden Club Reps

Wednesday 2 October 10.30am

Meeting at Gail's home, 644 Tai Tapu Road

Fruit & Vegetable Group

Wednesday 30 October 7pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Florist Demonstration

The NZ Professional Florists are hosting their 50th AGM in Christchurch and invite members to attend a special "Razzle and Dazzle" floral demonstration on Saturday, 19 October, from 2:30-5pm at Chateau on the Park, Riccarton. Tickets are \$30, and attendees can also join a celebratory dinner for \$75. Register via email: secretary@nzprofessionalflorists.co.nz

Floral Design

Wednesday 16 October 1pm

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens

The group is studying the upright styles of Ikebana under the tutoring of Ray King. This month's theme is - **Let your imagination run wild!** Using unconventional material. (Non-plant material).

Contact: **Ray King** tel: 021 037 0675

[See the latest arrangements online](#)

Chrysanthemum Group

No meeting this month. Next meeting:

Saturday 16 November 1.30pm

David and Robyn's 11 Ruakaka Street

Chrysanthemum Propagation, potting up and stopping. General cultural notes, preparing soil and potting on. Pests and sprays.

Contact: **Robyn Purcell** tel: 942 9871

Email: dandrpurcell@gmail.com

Monthly Tips & Tasks

with Michael Coulter

This Spring is following a typical weather pattern with warm westerlies and brief cold southerlies, which have not yet provided enough rain to meet the annual average. The cold North-Easterlies typical of Christchurch Spring have not been prevalent so far, which may indicate a milder season.

Now is the time to confidently start **Spring seed sowing and planting**. Spring bulbs are finishing flowering but still require feeding, watering, and removing seed heads to build reserves for next year. As the garden comes to life after winter, there may be plants that need replacing or gaps that need filling—consider planting some Summer or Autumn flowering perennials or bulbs for colour. Shrubs that have finished flowering can now be pruned to maintain their shape and encourage growth

for next year's blooms.



Weeds thrive this time of year, so it's crucial to stay on top of them, especially when they're small—just a quick hoe on a sunny morning should do. Water conservation is essential, so consider mulching, using tap timers for sprinklers, low-pressure soak hoses, and weeper hoses permanently in borders. Now is the time to set up and check watering systems and hoses before they are needed. Most stone

fruit will have finished flowering, so pest and disease sprays can be applied without affecting bees. Pip fruit trees are in full bloom, so avoid using sprays harmful to bees.

The vegetable garden needs attention this month as most crops can be planted, but be cautious about planting outside those that need warmer weather. Some crops like climbing beans, courgettes, and cucumbers can be started in a greenhouse and transplanted later.

Lawns grow quickly during this time, needing mowing every 5 to 6 days to stay manageable. New lawns can be sown, but it's crucial to maintain moisture during germination for the best results.

Spring is a busy time in the garden, so enjoy it and look forward to the rewards later on.

Good Gardening, *Michael Coulter*

Book of the Month

Outside In

By Sean A Pritchard

\$75, Hardback (limited stock so get in quick!)

In his debut book, garden designer Sean A Pritchard shows you how to plan a garden so that every month of the year there's something to bring indoors and display in an engaging way. From the cheery joy of early spring daffodils to the velvety richness of late-summer dahlias, the deep glow of golden autumn leaves to the optimism of late-winter catkins, Sean explains how to grow, harvest, and arrange an abundance of nature's treasure - no matter the size of your plot or your level of horticultural experience. A fabulous gift for your favourite gardener.

"I devoured this sumptuous, step-by-gorgeous-step guide to when to seed, plant and pluck in a single sitting." - Richard E. Grant

"Outside In is not only stuffed full of practical advice and tips on nurturing a garden and displaying plants and flowers in the home, it

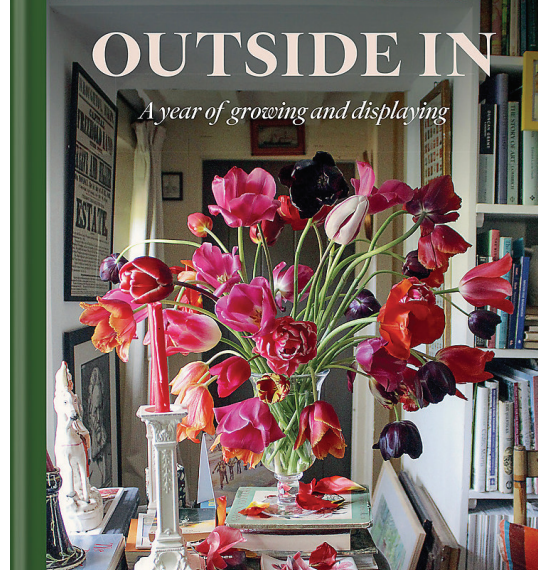
is also a thing of romantic beauty. Sean's overflowing, colourful arrangements have put a smile on my face countless times: he has a natural ability to put together flowers, books, fabrics and assorted treasures in a way that feels effortless, charming and deeply personal." - Luke Edward Hall

"As soon as I opened this book, I couldn't stop racing through the exquisite photos and words which invite and transport you into the author's beautiful home, another world with details and ideas that you want to bring back with you. There's a touch of magic on every page - the cheer of tulips... the simple complexities of narcissi... the mysterious shades and tones of Benton irises. As much a good read as a gorgeous pictorial journey through the year, both in the house and out, this book is utterly beautiful and totally inspirational, written in a way that fills the reader with confidence at the same time as enchanting them." - Jo Thompson

"Inventive, considered, and thoughtful design."
House & Garden

CHS Members enjoy a 10% discount at Scorpio Books & Telling Tales

www.scorpiobooks.co.nz



OUTSIDE IN

A year of growing and displaying



Green Drinks

Thursday 17 October 6-8pm

Getting youth to care about Nature
Space Academy, 37 Saint Asaph St

A presentation on Forest & Bird Youth's mission to protect Aotearoa's wildlife. This nationwide group of 14-25-year-olds is committed to restoring wild places and empowering rangatahi to connect with nature.

Free, all welcome

Stay connected with Envirohub with the following links:

[Eco Events Calendar](#), [Map and Directory](#) and [Facebook page](#) are valuable resources to keep you connected with environmental happiness in Ōtautahi.



Friends of the
Christchurch Botanic Gardens

Friends of the Gardens

Sunday 13 October 10.30am

Visit to Willow Springs Garden in Marshland

\$20 per person, includes morning tea
Further details to be announced

Botanic Gardens Guided Walks

The Friend's FREE guided walks resume this month with a fabulous line-up of new and favourite walks through the Gardens. Walks take approximately one hour, starting at the Kiosk at 1.30pm. [See the full schedule online](#)

Christchurch Heritage Festival

Monday 14 - Friday 18 October and Saturday 26 & Sunday 27 October, 1.30pm

The Friends are leading walks of historical interest covering a range of areas and buildings of historical interest throughout the Gardens.

Mona Vale Guided Walks

Saturday 12 & 26 October 1.30pm (90 mins)

Bot Tots

Mondays 10 - 11.30am (term time only)

Gardening and nature themed activities for preschoolers. Drop-in during school term time (\$2 koha per tamariki).

7 October School Holidays

14 October Bird Seed - Pictures & Feeders

21 October Make a Bird Nest!

28 October Halloween: Witches & Monsters

[Bot Tots Facebook page](#)

Christchurch Envirokids

Envirokids meet at the Kiosk every Saturday from 10am - 1pm for FREE activities.

October 5 Spider Crafting

October 12 Upcycle Basket Weaving

October 19 Beach Clean-up

October 26 Make your own Predator Mask and discover how to track predators in your own backyard.

Check out the programme: @
[CHCHEnvirokids](#)

Join our Transformation Team at Avebury!

Sunday 14 October 9am - 12pm

9 Evelyn Couzins Avenue, Richmond

Help us prepare the Avebury site for the CHS climate-resilient garden with various tasks—both large and small. Can you help with weeding, ivy removal, or spreading bark chips? Bring your hand tools; we'll provide wheelbarrows, spades, and forks.

If you have a trailer, we need help transporting red waste to the Council waste transfer station.

Meet fellow experienced gardeners and exchange tips over morning tea.

[Facebook event link](#)



Green Thumbs Podcast

Tune in fortnightly on Mondays at 9am to Plains FM 96.9, where we chat with fellow Canterbury gardeners to help you discover more about our wonderful gardening community, and review books to inspire your green thumb.

On Monday 14 October, we'll talk peonies with Michelle Gurney from the Christchurch Peony Club. On Monday 28 October, we'll review *The Herbalist's Kitchen* by Pat Crocker and *Organic Vegetable Gardening* by Xanthe White.

Listen to Amy and Ray, CHS Green Thumbs, **Live on Plains FM 96.9** or via a link on the [CHS Website](#)

Garden Life *Monthly gardening programme for the everyday gardener*

November 2024

Tuesday 6 6pm & Wednesday 7 1pm

Main Speaker: Giulio Sturla
Mapu Test Kitchen, Lyttelton



Mapu is the brainchild of Chef Giulio Sturla, who has garnered acclaim for his innovative approach, turning simple, locally sourced produce into masterpieces of modern gastronomy. His dedication to fresh, sustainable, and ethical ingredients is evident in every dish at Mapu.

The intimate dining space in Lyttelton only seats six guests. It provides a unique and personal experience, where diners can watch Chef Sturla create culinary magic. Mapu has recently been named in the New York Times as one of the top 50 restaurants in the world. A remarkable and memorable dining adventure.

Mini Speaker: Gina Russell (Ngāpuhi)
Organic Fibre & Colour Farmer

A graduate of the BHU Organic College, Gina has been on an exploratory mission to create



a local textile industry for New Zealand makers. With a passion for plant fibre, she has cultivated 1/2 an acre of her own organic linen flax while reconnecting to the past and our own linen production history.

Discover the process of pulling fibre from linseed straw for yourself at this informative and hands-on talk. There will be seeds available to purchase for those interested in growing your own fibre or dye plants.

The Kiosk, Christchurch Botanic Gardens
Armagh Street car park footbridge
\$5 (\$10 Non-Members)

Tea, coffee and biscuits *afternoon*
Wine & nibbles *evening*

See our [website](#) and [Facebook](#) for updates. We want your Problems!

We love to hear from our gardeners, especially any niggling problems, be they edible or ornamental!

Bring questions to Garden Life, post them on [HortTalk](#) or email Michael Coulter coulchrys@xtra.co.nz

Parking Update – *Allan Paterson, CHS President*

We're closely monitoring the parking situation at the Botanic Gardens, and changes are planned for next year. One significant update involves relocating our Garden Life meetings to a venue with free parking.

Paid parking will be introduced soon at the Gardens, a measure which hopes to reduce the number of city workers and schools who use the gardens as a parking lot.

As a gesture of goodwill to CHS Members, all afternoon Garden Life sessions will be **free to Members** (as soon as the parking charges take effect). Evening classes and meetings will remain unaffected.

Rest assured, we are dedicated to supporting our members and staff during this time.

Plant of the Month - Tomatoes



Who likes nothing better than to pick and taste their home-grown tomatoes? Full of flavour and so many varieties to choose from. From cherry tomatoes to beef steak; from Yellow Pear, Green Zebra to Black Krim. Keep an eye out in "the Little Market" at Portstone Garden Centre as we will soon be selling some of these heirloom varieties.

Patience is the name of the game. Seedlings start to arrive at garden centres as early as September, unless you have a greenhouse, it's far too early to be planting them outside. Even then, night temperature need to be above 10°C before planting them in the greenhouse, for the plants to do well.

Tomatoes need plenty of sunlight planted into well-drained soil, rich in organic matter with the addition of a full spectrum mineral fertiliser.

Tomatoes belong to the solanaceae family

along with potatoes, chillies and aubergines, so it's important to rotate your crops making sure you do not plant your tomatoes in the space where potatoes chillies or aubergine grew the year before.

A few problems:

The fruit is splitting before it is ripe – due to heavy watering or rain after soil has been dry

The blossoms are falling off, but no fruit is setting – due to low temperature in spring or very high temperature in Summer

Sunken brown patches are forming at the blossom end of the fruit – due to lack calcium together with watering

Companion plants:

French marigolds as they have strong smelling leaves to confuse insects and basil can also be used to deter insects and it's also known to improve the taste of your tomatoes. **Many thanks to Portstone Garden Centre for this update. CHS Members enjoy a 15% discount at Portstone Garden Centre www.portstone.co.nz**

BALCONY DWELLERS

Sustainable Gardening for Small Spaces

With a focus on environmentally conscious practices, discover the joy of cultivating your own greens, herbs and fruit, making the most of every centimetre of your outdoor sanctuary.

Monthly, third Saturday at Ōtakaro Orchard. Next session:

Saturday 19 October 10am – 12pm
\$20 (\$25 Non-Members) [Book Online Now](#)