



The works of a person that builds begin immediately to decay; while those of him who plants begin directly to improve. In this, planting promises a more lasting pleasure than building.

William Shenstone

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NEXT MEETING

Monday, 5 May 2025 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

Notice is given of the 120th AGM of the CHS to be held on Monday, 5 May 2025 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum, Campground Road, Newlands

Agenda

1. Signing the Register
2. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM held on 6 May 2024
3. Chairperson’s Annual Report
4. Treasurer’s Report with Financial Statements
5. Appointment of Auditor for the ensuing year
6. Election of President
7. Election of Committee
8. General

NB: Time has run away with us, so nomination forms for the election of Committee members will be available for proposing and seconding before the start of the AGM.

The AGM will be followed by Cherise Viljoen with a talk that promises to be interesting:

PLANTS WITH A STORY TO TELL

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS



Sat, 3 May – an outing to visit and admire the 44th Annual Pniël Chrysanthemum Show. If you are a flower lover, this one is for you. It takes place at the Pniël Congregational Church Hall. The first show was held in 1981. This show happens only one day in the entire year. Come and spend the morning with dedicated growers and the wonderful locals of the Dwarsrivier Valley, for a breathtaking flower display. There is a donation of R10 or more per person. Members can carpool and there is no limit on numbers. Please indicate if you are prepared to be a driver when you put your name down for this outing. RSVP as soon as possible.

Plus, we can enjoy delicious food and browse unique craft stalls from talented local artisans. The local museum is close by and we can find out more about the history of this area. Tokara, Zorgvliet, Hillcrest Berry Farm and Boschendal are also in the nearby vicinity.

Wed, 4 June: Stellenbosch Botanical Gardens

July (date to follow): Plantify Urban Nursery, Gardens

ANNUAL PLANT SALE – 2025

Plant Sale Co-ordinator, Chris Wren-Sargent says: “It is difficult to say exactly why the sale was so successful. Yes, there was a lot of planning, and a lot of good execution as well, but somehow that doesn't completely capture the feeling on the day itself. It was a feeling of expectation created and expectation met and exceeded. A quiet certainty that this day was going to propel the CHS back into the black, and was also going to show that CHS spirit of confidence, enthusiasm and joy in nature.

First up was to analyse the last sale carefully; all of the 2023 comments were sifted, reflected upon and acted upon. In 2024 we formed the sale committee: Isabella, Susan, Anne, Belinda and Chris. A strong team, someone said at the time, and so it proved. We decided on the date (and took a chance on a Sunday numbered 13!), and that our aim was R20K. We also wanted larger, stronger plants, and Isabella's newsletter guidance really helped members keep focussed on that aim.

Our advertising was largely digital, but we also reverted to the trusty methods of the past and put up hand-drawn banners facing Spaanschemat River Road. These, plus a well-timed radio plug via Cherise, posters being sent to members’ many WhatsApp groups, advertising to garden clubs and word of mouth by members, did the trick.

The three days before the sale flashed by with the store being emptied of equipment and set up on site. Then came plant identifying and pricing, where Susan and Isabella worked ceaselessly with the team of volunteers to complete their task.

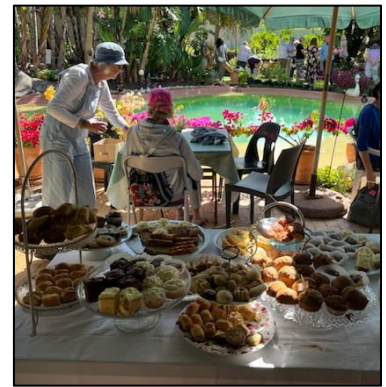
The opening was noisy fun, but we have started a tradition that a ribbon must be cut by a member or two. This time it was youth (Hammaad) and experience (Cherise). And then the determined buyers rushed in to select their plants, and every *Alstroemaria* was gone in 40 seconds! We saw a steady stream of buyers coming in after that, and it was especially good to see so many younger families coming through as they are novice gardeners now, and future members once the bug has bitten.

The tea garden was a great success: Anne and her helpers had made the venue delightful, with umbrellas shading attractive tables, and the serving never flagged. Plant sales were steady throughout the morning, but we started giving discounts around 11.00 on lines that were not moving. A 50% discount towards the end shifted a lot of plants.



Above: Enticing pre-Sale banner; pre-sale pricing and naming of plants; cutting the ribbon.
Below: John and Tina selling raffle and tea tickets; the buying crowd; Jean at the ready to answer questions.





Above: The cashiers, Dutch and Lynne, coming to grips with operating the Yoco machine; Isabella and Chris viewing the herb stand; the scrumptious eats at the tea garden.

Below: A few of the tea garden team – Shelley, Janet and Judi; more plants and buyers; Tony with his ‘hat’ bought on the new Gardenphernalia table.



Other areas that worked well were the parking where Andrew Clarke was a polite and imposing presence, and the cash tables run by Glenda and her helpers kept our Yoco machine humming.

We ended by drawing numbers for the lovely raffle prizes, all beautifully wrapped by Belinda. The winners were Hammaad Railoun, Hilary de Kok, Kevin Gleeson, Lorraine Welch, Karen Dallas, Elwyn Whitford, Barry Levitt and Angela O’Connor-Smith.



Above: Belinda and Chris handing over prizes to three of the winners.

Before we knew it, we were dismantling equipment and packing stuff away. Then started the wait for that figure, and it was 24 hours before we found out that we had made R35 200.00! *C'est magnifique*, and our thanks goes to every single person who contributed plants and/or eats, or who volunteered, or loaned us equipment – if you helped the CHS in any way at all, take a bow!"

Although he has thanked everyone, and we, the members, thank the Plant Sale Committee for a job well done, it is Chris to whom we must express our appreciation. His innovations, enthusiasm, drive and energy are very infectious and just what is needed to make a success of the task at hand. Thank you. We look forward to more of the same in the years ahead.

WELCOME TO ...

... Anita Erens, Willem Kemp, Fabio Pellacini, Ada Haindl and Ruth Amooore. We hope that membership of the CHS will bring them as much pleasure and knowledge as it does the rest of our members.

REPORT BACK

April Exhibit Table

Foeniculum vulgare "Green Fennel"

Crassula spathulata – groundcover

Ivy Leaf *Geranium*

Euphorbia hypericifolia "Diamond Frost" – prolific flowerer

Anemone hupehensis – "Japanese anemones var Japonica" – these late flowering perennials are low maintenance and give beautiful colour to the autumn garden. They grow well at the back of the garden with *Plectranthus* and *Hydrangeas*, which are flowering at the same time. they look good when clustered. Suckering roots spread. Anne says: "Mine are tall – shoulder height. Attractive leaves too."



POLLINATORS IN NEED

From RHS's *The Garden*, September 2014

People are being urged to adopt five simple practical steps to help boost the success of insect pollinators such as bees and hoverflies.

Bees' Needs is part of a campaign leading up to the launch this autumn of the Government's National Pollinator Strategy for England, and is hosted by The Wildlife Trusts for DEFRA. The initiative is supported by organisations including the RHS Bumblebee Conservation Trust and the National Farmers' Union. Although tailored to bees, the five steps should benefit all UK insect pollinators. Measures such as planting more flowering shrubs and leaving hibernation sites undisturbed will help pollinators access the habitat and food they need to flourish, so they can continue to pollinate the country's food crops.

Easy ways to help pollinators:

1. Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees.
2. Let patches of land grow wild.
3. Cut grass less often.
4. Do not disturb insect nests and hibernation sites.
5. Think carefully about whether to use pesticides.

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE



Here are last three members of the Committee.

Back, L to R:
Isabella Hayden;

Anne Gleeson;
Chris Wren-Sargent;
Belinda du Rand

Front, L to R:
Susan Armstrong;
Marianne Alexander;
Glenda Thorpe;
Cherise Viljoen

Anne Gleeson tells us: "I joined the CHS in June 2019 but I wasn't a regular until about 3 years back. I started helping with writing the odd article on flowers that were put in the monthly newsletter. Then in April 2024 I was asked to join the Committee. I am on the Plant Sale sub-committee and also organise the Outings. I love anything to do with gardens, flowers, birds, swimming in seas and rivers and the outdoors. I have been part of a garden club for many years and the Chairperson for 7 years. I joined the CHS to get ideas and learn from the horticulturists and very experienced gardeners. It is always good to swop ideas and we then all benefit. I have so enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many of the members."

Susan Armstrong has this to say: "My interest in plants and gardens began in my youth. Living on the mountain above Simonstown, we would walk with my mom in the surrounding veld, learning the names of many of the indigenous plants. I particularly remember the sight of thousands of pink Watsonias which came up *en masse* after one of the huge bush fires we experienced. I also enjoyed helping in the garden planting a mix of indigenous (seed from Kirstenbosch) and exotic flora.

Over the years, with moves to various places and conditions, I did what I could with the gardens, but it was only in my present home, in which I have lived for 35 years, that I have established my own style. This has changed according to what does well in the small space, from exotic to indigenous and now more succulent!

A collector by nature, this has extended to succulents, of which I have too many to count and, to a certain extent, indigenous bulbs. I recently joined IBSA (Indigenous Bulb Association of South Africa) due to my interest in bulbs.

I have been a member of CHS for over 30 years, initially helping Barbara Hey with the tea. When she gave up the 'job', I was "tea lady" for many years. It is only this year that the tea organisation has been handed over.

Helping with sorting and pricing plants for plant sales has been my task for a number of years."

And last, but not least, *Cherise Viljoen* has this to tell: "I joined the Cape Horticultural Society in 1998 while I was a student studying horticulture at CPUT. 'Life' then took over but I re-joined in 2008, pregnant with my second daughter.

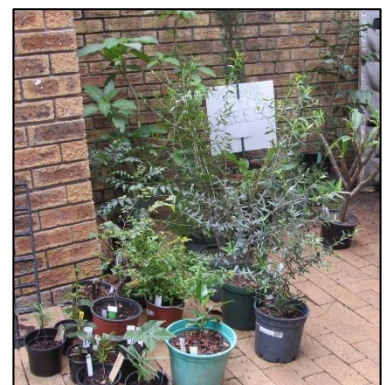
I've found the access to knowledgeable gardeners, plant enthusiasts and growers an incredibly valuable resource. The plant sales, shows and outings are things I have loved participating in. I have always enjoyed the fellowship amongst the members and sharing of plant bits and information. A plant society with so much history is a wonderful story to be part of.

Over the years I have judged at our Flower Shows and, being on the Committee, I have been the organiser of both outings and, currently, speakers. And now I am truly honoured to be the current Chairperson."

Come and vote for your 2025/26 Committee on the 5th.

MORE PLANTS ...

If you didn't manage to get to the Plant sale, then here are a few more photos to 'drool' over:



Photos: C Wren-Sargent, A Gleeson, A & G Thorpe