



I must have flowers, always, and always.

Claude Monet

CONTENTS

Next Meeting	1
Forthcoming Outings	1
Welcome to	2
Report-back.....	2
• Seasonal Raffle	
• Plantify visit	
Beth Chatto's Gravel Garden	3
As a Matter of Interest	4

NEXT MEETING

Monday, 4 August 2025 at 19:30 at The Athenaeum

Members: No entrance fee

Visitors: R40 per person

A BORING STORY

Paul Barker is a subject expert and will give a talk on the Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB).

Paul has been actively involved in addressing the PSHB issue since 2018, organising workshops and training sessions even before the beetle was discovered in Helderberg. He was part of the teams that identified the beetle in Somerset (2019), Stellenbosch (2021), Newlands (2023), Constantia (2024), and Tokai (2025).

As a member of the National Steering Committee for PSHB, Paul has been mandated by the Department of Agriculture to coordinate green waste management. He also coordinates a monitoring group on iNaturalist, which has successfully tracked the beetle's spread across the city.

Paul primarily works with private landowners, offering pest surveillance, organising integrated pest management (IPM) programmes, and designing replanting strategies. He also has the privilege of working with the Friends of the Ardenne Gardens in Claremont.

**NB: The Exhibit Table and Nursery Table will be open for business again!
Bring your specimens and plant contributions for these tables.**

FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

Thurs, 7 August at 09:45 for 10:00 – visit Shadowlands Nursery in Kuilsriver, a well-known wholesale grower of quality plants since 1994.

Jenny Liedtke, who works there and is a CHS member will be showing us around, with her Manager, for approximately an hour and then we can have time to look around. They grow shrubs, 6 pack ground covers and herbs and an ever-expanding range of succulents. Many of their plants are indigenous.

This is a wholesale nursery and I am sure everyone will recognise the labels on their pots and the type of plants they sell. They grow shrubs, 6-pack ground covers and herbs, and an ever-expanding range of succulents. Many of their plants are indigenous. The good news is that, although they are a wholesale nursery, they have changed their minds and we *will* be able to purchase plants!

Limited to 25 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than Monday, 4 August.

Sat, 20 September at 08:45 for 09:00 – visit very special Conservation Area at the Kenilworth Racecourse.

This is managed by Nature Care Fund and forms part of Nature Connect. It is a 52-hectare nature reserve, situated in the centre of Kenilworth Racecourse. Due to its location it has been left undisturbed for more than 100 years, making it now the best preserved patch of “Cape Flats Sand Fynbos.” This tour is for 2 hours.

Limited to 30 members. RSVP to Glenda by no later than Wed, 17 September.

WELCOME TO ...

... Meryl Butt who recently joined the CHS. We hope that membership of the CHS will bring her as much pleasure and knowledge as it does all our members.

REPORT BACK

Seasonal Raffle

This was another successful occasion. An amount of R1710 from 57 members and visitors (R1480 in March from 45 members and visitors) was made for the CHS coffers. There were approximately 90 prizes for the lucky winners. A big thank you to all members who contributed towards this.



Above, left: Admiring the array of prizes

Above, right: Eyes down and looking for their number to be called;

Left: Two of the prizewinners, Gillian and Jane.

Outing to Plantify



We had a lovely morning out at Plantify, a small green oasis in the City, selling all types and sizes of house plants. They aim to green our homes in a way that is fun, accessible and suits different lifestyles. They have an online shop and offer plant care advice, repotting services and plant maintenance and seem to have a regular clientele. There were Philodendrons, Christmas Cacti, Dieffenbachias, Stag Horn Ferns, Palms, Hoyas, Chinese Money Trees, Beetle Peperomias, Panda Ears Plants to name a few. Other items included hanging baskets, Kokedama, pots, baskets and terrariums. The plants were all looking

very healthy and cared for by Stephan and a small team.



Stephan gave lots of information regarding general care. Overwatering or under watering is a difficult aspect of indoor plant health. He described the different signs to show overwatering and under watering and evidence of heat damage on leaves. It seems a plant has more chance of recovering from under watering than overwatering. Once the roots start rotting it is hard to save the plant. He explained the feeding programmes and also how important the position is regarding light requirements and the fact that indoor plants are sensitive to changes, draughts and being moved about.



Belita, Anne, Angela and John

A few of us (right) braved the Dogs Bollocks next door and the staff were very kind and not rude to us at all. It seems this only happens once a few drinks have been had and probably later in the evening.

Anne Gleeson

BETH CHATTO'S GRAVEL GARDEN

Reviewed by Jean Fillis

The late Beth Chatto had a garden which is still open to the public and managed by her granddaughter. It is near Colchester in Essex, north of London and on the East coast of England. Essex is apparently the driest area of the country and even in 1992 when she started this gravel garden, the temperatures reached 30°C in Summer. The plan was never to water the new gravel garden, just rely on rainfall.

The entire garden of 7 acres incorporates many different areas depending on the types of soil and the topography. There is a Scree, Woodland, Mediterranean, Reservoir and a Water garden as well as the latest, the experimental Gravel garden of only ¼ acre.

It used to be the visitor’s previous parking area and was very compacted so a subsoiler tool was used to loosen up the soil, which was gravel, sand and stone. The grass was poisoned and left for a while, then borders and several island beds were marked out and were composted before planting. Paths were gravelled as well. The area already had a 3-metre tall hedge behind and several trees as background although more were planted, including Juniperus Skyrocket and Cypress.

New plants were thoroughly soaked before planting and watered for the one and only time in the plants’ life. Plants chosen were mostly Mediterranean and New Zealand species to start, with some American, Lavender, 2 types of Santolina, Cotinus, Genista (Broom) Helichrysum, Cistus, Lavatera, Artemisia plus Brachyglottis from New Zealand with Clematis climbing up amongst them.

Much weeding was required at first, then in the second Spring a mulch of 12mm fine gravel was spread between the plants between 25 to 50mm deep. Some areas out of sight were mulched with straw. In later years old rotted straw was used to blend in better. It kept the soil cool and damp in the very hot weather.

1995 to 1997 had extremely hot summers but as it was an experiment no watering was done and few plants were lost. There were still many hours spent weeding. In 1995 it was 140 hours just from March in late winter to mid-summer in July.

More plants were introduced later: Sedums, Lambs ears, Gypsophila and Euphorbia myrsinites, Verbascum and Verbena, plus many different bulbs. Nicotiana and Bidens flowered in midsummer until the frost. Many tall plants like Lavatera were pruned by half and then again in March to 75 cm tall. Many shrubs needed hard pruning after flowering to keep them compact and reduce leafless stems.

This book not only covers the Gravel garden but the Scree garden as well, with beautiful photographs on almost every page. Although few South African plants were used then, by now it would be interesting to see if there are more, as our plants are more popular now and many can cope with cold.

Googling the website, I was sad to find that the cost to enter the garden is around R400 based on our poor exchange rate. We are visiting the UK this month and we will be passing right by to view the new house my son has bought, but it is too expensive for six of us to visit. Such a shame!

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST ...



2025

FRIENDS OF THE RONDEBOSCH COMMON

SPRING WALKS

WHERE: MEET ON THE COMMON AT THE SAWKINS RD BENCH

WHY: DISCOVER THE MAGIC OF RONDEBOSCH COMMON WALKS ARE LED BY VARIOUS EXPERTS WHO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND APPRECIATION OF THIS SPECIAL PLACE.

WHEN: MEET AT 11H30. EACH WALK LASTS ABOUT 90 MINUTES, BRING WARM CLOTHES & WALKING SHOES (WELLIES) AS IT CAN BE WET.

JULY	27
AUGUST	17 31
SEPTEMBER	14 28
OCTOBER	12
NOVEMBER	16

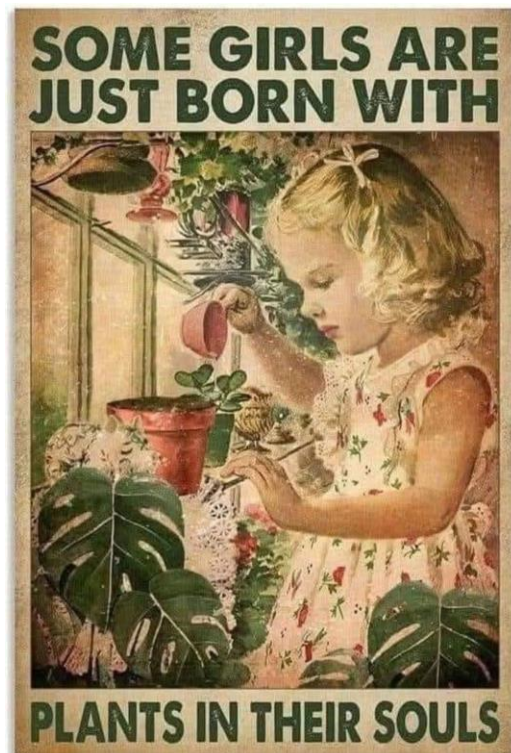
DONATIONS GO TOWARDS CARING FOR THE COMMON

OUR RONDEBOSCH COMMON BOOK (R200.00) CARDS & BIRTHDAY CALENDAR (R150.00) WILL BE ON SALE.

WALKS FREE FOR MEMBERS, VISITORS R20 DONATION

WWW.RONDEBOSCHCOMMON.ORG.ZA

JOIN FRIENDS OF RONDEBOSCH COMMON FACEBOOK GROUP & POST YOUR PHOTOS!
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JANE TURNER 9739@MAIL.COM



Photos: A Gleeson, A & G Thorpe