

Catherine Horwood

Author & Historian · Horticultural & Social History
Biographies of Women Gardeners

- 6 books published
- European Garden Book of the Year 2020
- PhD — Royal Holloway, University of London
- BBC Radio 4 · Gardens Illustrated · Daily Telegraph · The English Garden
- Forthcoming: *Penelope Hobhouse: A Life in Gardens* (2026)

CATHERINEHORWOOD.COM



QUICK BIO

About Catherine

Catherine Horwood is an author and historian specialising in horticultural and social history, with a particular focus on pioneering women gardeners. Her books include the European Garden Book of the Year winner *Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants*. She has written for the *Daily Telegraph*, *Gardens Illustrated*, and *The English Garden*, and has appeared on BBC Radio 4 Extra, the RHS podcast, and Gimlet's *Every Little Thing*.

★ European Garden Book of the Year 2020
Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants

MEDIUM BIO

About Catherine

Catherine Horwood is an author, historian, and broadcaster specialising in horticultural and social history. She began her career as a journalist, spent time in academia, and has been a full-time writer ever since — focusing on her two great passions: gardening history and the history of dress. Her biography *Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants* (Pimpernel Press, 2019) won the European Garden Book of the Year 2020. Her other books include *Potted History: How Houseplants Took Over Our Homes* (revised edition) and *Roses: A Cultural History of the World's Favourite Flower*. She has written for the *Daily Telegraph*, *Gardens Illustrated*, and *The English Garden*, and has appeared on BBC Radio 4 Extra, the RHS podcast, and Gimlet's *Every Little Thing*.

FULL BIOGRAPHY

Author, Historian & Broadcaster

FULL BIOGRAPHY – FOR EDITORIAL USE

Catherine Horwood is an author, historian, and broadcaster specialising in horticultural and social history. She began her career as a journalist, spent time in academia, and has been a full-time writer ever since — focusing on her two great passions: gardening history and the history of dress. Her books explore the lives and legacies of pioneering women gardeners, and the cultural stories woven through our relationship with plants.

She writes at the intersection of horticulture, biography, and social history, asking how gardens and the people who made them have reflected — and challenged — the societies of their times. She is particularly drawn to the women who drove forward horticultural knowledge and taste, often working against the grain of convention. Her biography *Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants* (Pimpernel Press, 2019) won the European Garden Book of the Year 2020. Her other books include *Potted History: How Houseplants Took Over Our Homes* (revised edition) *Roses: A Cultural History of the World's Favourite Flower* She is currently completing a biography of the celebrated garden designer and author Penelope Hobhouse.

Catherine has written for the *Daily Telegraph*, *Gardens Illustrated*, and *The English Garden*, and has contributed to exhibitions and broadcasts on the history of women in horticulture. Her broadcast appearances include BBC Radio 4 Extra, the RHS podcast, Gimlet's *Every Little Thing*, Daniel Glenn's podcast, and Mic the Gardener. A trustee of the Camden Highline, she is a popular speaker at gardening clubs and horticultural societies across the UK.

Forthcoming · 2026

Penelope Hobhouse: A Life in Gardens

A biography of one of the most significant figures in late twentieth-century garden design and writing.

Available for preview interviews

Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants

Pimpernel Press · September 2019

★ European Garden Book of the Year 2020

A triumph, beautifully crafted by an author who has thoroughly researched and understood her subject. There is so much here to keep the reader gripped.

Fergus Garrett — Gardens Illustrated

A compelling and rewarding read, enhanced by Catherine's talents for research and telling a good story.

The English Garden

Brilliant, charming and beautiful... as this sympathetically written biography reveals, her apparently gilded life was far more turbulent than anyone could have suspected.

Daily Mail

Potted History: How Houseplants Took Over Our Homes

Revised and updated edition

I recommend Catherine Horwood's *Potted History* — it is full of excellent detail and has taught me much.

Robin Lane Fox — Financial Times

Catherine is a consummate garden historian with a talent for storytelling. This work reflects her considerable skill.

The English Garden

Roses: A Cultural History of the World's Favourite Flower

Reaktion Press · 2018

Social historian Catherine Horwood dances us through every aspect of its botanical, cultural and literary significance, its history, royal connections and horticultural development.

Country Living

PRESS REVIEWS

What the critics say

BETH CHATTO: A LIFE WITH PLANTS

”

A triumph, beautifully crafted by an author who has thoroughly researched and understood her subject. There is so much here to keep the reader gripped.

FERGUS GARRETT — GARDENS ILLUSTRATED

BETH CHATTO: A LIFE WITH PLANTS

”

A compelling and rewarding read, enhanced by Catherine's talents for research and telling a good story.

THE ENGLISH GARDEN

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Brilliant, charming and beautiful... as this sympathetically written biography reveals, her apparently gilded life was far more turbulent than anyone could have suspected.

DAILY MAIL

BETH CHATTO: A LIFE WITH PLANTS

”

One of the most intimate gardening biographies yet written, integrating her story with her achievements admirably.

DAVID SEXTON — EVENING STANDARD, BEST GARDENING BOOKS 2019

POTTED HISTORY

”

I recommend Catherine Horwood's Potted History it is full of excellent detail and has taught me much.

ROBIN LANE FOX — FINANCIAL TIMES

POTTED HISTORY

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Catherine is a consummate garden historian with a talent for storytelling. This work reflects her considerable skill.

THE ENGLISH GARDEN

BROADCAST & MEDIA

Available for comment & interview

Expert topics for journalists, editors
and programme researchers.

- Horticultural history & garden biography
- Biographies of women gardeners
- Social history of dress — 1920s & 30s
- History of houseplants
- Beth Chatto & the right plant, right place ethos

APPEARANCES

BBC RADIO

BBC Radio 4 Extra

Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood

PODCAST

RHS Podcast

The social history of houseplants

PODCAST

Gimlet: Every Little Thing

Houseplants — the cultural and social history of indoor plants

PODCAST

Daniel Glenn's Podcast

Houseplants and horticultural history

PODCAST

Mic the Gardener

Author interview — Beth Chatto biography

WRITTEN FOR

Daily Telegraph · Gardens Illustrated · The English Garden · Country Living · Financial Times · The Plantsman

PRESS & MEDIA KIT · 2026

Press Enquiries

Available for interviews, features, author profiles, broadcast appearances and expert comment

EMAIL catherine@horwoodbarwise.com

WEBSITE catherinehorwood.com

RESPONSE Within 2 working days

High-resolution headshots available on request — please include your deadline and intended use.
For **speaking enquiries**, see the separate Speaker Kit at catherinehorwood.com/speaking/speaker-kit

FIND CATHERINE ONLINE

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[catherinehorwoodbarwise](#)

Instagram · [@catherine_horwood](#)

Facebook · Author Catherine Horwood

"A triumph, beautifully crafted by an author who has thoroughly researched and understood her subject."

FERGUS GARRETT — GARDENS ILLUSTRATED