

SPEAKER KIT · 2026

Catherine Horwood

Author & Historian

Horticultural and Social History



CATHERINEHORWOOD.COM

ABOUT CATHERINE

Author, Historian & Speaker

Catherine Horwood is an author and historian 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 brings a distinctive voice to garden writing: rigorously researched, richly biographical, and compellingly told.

Catherine is a popular and wide-ranging speaker at gardening clubs and horticultural societies across the UK, and is equally comfortable presenting online. Her talks draw on years of research and are illustrated with carefully curated archival images and photographs.

01

Beth Chatto: A Life with Plants

MOST POPULAR

Based on Catherine's award-winning biography. The remarkable story of a self-taught plantswoman who transformed British gardening — and the turbulent personal life behind the celebrated garden.

02

Penelope Hobhouse: A Life in Gardens

NEW 2026

Based on Catherine's forthcoming biography. An exploration of the life and work of one of the most significant garden designers and writers of the twentieth century.

03

Gardening Women: Their Stories from 1600 to Today

A sweeping survey of the women who shaped British gardening over four centuries — from Tudor herbalists to modern plantswomen.

04

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

The rose's journey through history, culture, and the British garden — from ancient myth to the Chelsea Flower Show.

05

Potted History: How Houseplants Took Over Our Homes

The surprising and delightful history of the houseplant — and why our obsession with indoor greenery is older than we think.

06

She Made a Garden: Marjorie Fish at East Lambrook Manor

The story of Marjorie Fish writer, plantswoman, and creator of one of England's most loved cottage gardens and her enduring influence.

07

Waterperry and Beatrix Havergal

The extraordinary story of Waterperry Horticultural School and Beatrix Havergal, the visionary principal who trained generations of women gardeners.

08

Four 20th Century Women Gardeners

Profiles of four remarkable women who defined twentieth-century horticulture their gardens, their writing, and their lasting legacies.

09

Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling

The story of women's long fight to gain access to formal horticultural training and the pioneering institutions who made it possible.

10

18th Century Forgotten Women Gardeners

Bringing to light the overlooked women who collected, cultivated, and wrote about plants long before they were given credit.

Praise from organisers & audiences

”

Catherine Horwood has given the Wimbledon Garden Club two excellent Zoom talks this year which were both informative, interesting and entertaining. She has a natural way of delivering the information and her slides are excellent. We have booked more talks from her!

JENNIFER NEWMAN — WIMBLEDON GARDEN CLUB

”

Zoom worked well with Catherine's talk — we could see her screen perfectly and the photographs were ideal for the talk. Would recommend her to other Garden Clubs without hesitation.

CORRINE MITCHELL — SHELSWELL GARDEN CLUB

“What a lovely speaker. It was a fascinating insight into Beth's life.”

“Lovely talk, very life-like — it almost didn't feel like a Zoom one.”

“The speaker was so interesting. It was a fascinating story of Beth Chatto.”

“Left me resolving to go there next summer. What an interesting life Beth had.”

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Everything you need to know

All talks available in person or via
Zoom · 45–60 minutes + Q&A ·
Catherine responds promptly to all
enquiries.

How do I book Catherine?

Email catherine@horwoodbarwise.com with your event date, location, audience size, and preferred talk. Catherine responds promptly to all enquiries.

What are the fees?

Fees vary by event, location, and format. Get in touch to discuss — Catherine is happy to consider a range of arrangements and open to conversations about what works for your organisation.

What if we have a limited budget?

Catherine supports gardening clubs and horticultural societies across the country and understands that budgets vary. Please don't hesitate to get in touch — a conversation costs nothing.

What are the technical requirements?

For in-person events: a screen and laptop connection — Catherine also has her own projector if needed. For online events: a stable internet connection. She provides all slides and supporting materials.

Can Catherine speak at festivals or private events?

Yes. Catherine welcomes invitations to literary festivals, cultural institutions, garden open days, and private gatherings in addition to gardening clubs and horticultural societies.

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Book Catherine

Get in touch to discuss availability, topics and fees

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INSTAGRAM [@catherine_horwood](https://instagram.com/@catherine_horwood)

FACEBOOK [Author Catherine Horwood](#)

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

GARDENS ILLUSTRATED
- FERGUS GARRETT