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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

Welcome to our annual Spring Flower Display. Those who have brought flowers and pots to display are invited to place them in the appropriate classes.

CLASS:

1. DAFFODILS/ NARCISSI - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
2. TULIPS - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
3. SHRUBS, FLOWERING - 3 stems of any cultivar except camelias
4. CAMELIAS - one stem
5. SHRUBS, FOLIAGE - 3 stems any cultivar
6. SMALL VASE OF MIXED SPRING FLOWERS
7. ANY POT-GROWN PLANT (indoor or outdoor)
8. POT OF SPRING BULBS
9. FLORAL ART - arrangement of spring flowers. Space available 20" square.
May be arranged at home. Flowers may be purchased
10. SPRING PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR GARDEN (up to 4 per person.)
Max size A5 (or 210mm x 148 mm) or 8 ¼ "x 5 ⅝ "

Open Gardens

Elizabeth Crawley will be opening her garden again on Saturday 4th June from 1-4pm.
Address: 298 Shooters Hill Rd, SE18 4LT. Refreshments and plants will be on sale in aid of Marie Curie Cancer Care and B.F.A.S.

Viv Parson will also be holding an informal open garden on Sunday 29th May at 1-4pm.
The invitation is limited to her friends and society members and their partners only.
Viv's address is 10 West Park, Mottingham, SE9 4RQ.

Membership

Those who have paid their membership subscriptions may collect their cards from Janet, who has kindly agreed to stand in for Ross, this evening.

Outings

There are still some places available on our coach outings to - Penshurst Place and Gardens, on Friday 20th May and to RHS Wisley on Thursday 21st July.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 23rd April Lambeth Palace Plant Sale SE1 7JU 10.30-5pm Adm £5. Garden tours £5
Mon 2nd May Godinton House & Gardens Plant Fair, Ashford TN23 3BP 11-4.30p Adm £5
Sun 15th May Blackheath Farmers Market + "RHS experts on Tour." Plants sale & talks
Sat 24th - Sun 28th May Chelsea Flower Show. Tickets are selling fast. Ring 08443387502
Sat 28th - Sun 30th May Kent Garden Show Detling ME14 3JF 9.30-5pm Adm. £8 conc. £7
Fri 3rd - Sat 4th June RHS London Rose Show SW1P2QD Free entry to member +1 on 4th

Mayoress's Spring Flowers Tea Party for Ladies only

You are cordially invited to attend this event on Monday 9th May 2 - 5pm at the Tudor Barn Eltham. It's a fundraising gathering on behalf of The Mayor's Charity Appeal - cost £35. There are two beneficiaries this year: Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice, and Early Dove School, Lusaka, Zambia. You are welcome to bring a guest. Gentlemen will be catered for separately.

For more details, please see the invitation on our Society's notice board, or contact The Mayor's Office at Woolwich Town Hall on 020 8921 6012.

Serena Lovelace, Mayoress of the Royal Borough Of Greenwich
(Members may remember Serena as a former regular at our society.)

Top Jobs for April

- 1 Remove frost protection from tender plants but remain vigilant in case of late frosts
- 2 Repair bumps and hollows in lawns, adding new turfs or re-seeding where necessary
- 3 Prick out annual seedlings when they have 2 true leaves. Keep indoors until warmer
- 4 Direct-sow sweet peas or plant out those grown under cover
- 5 Renovate evergreen shrubs taking care not to disturb nesting birds
- 6 Cut back cotinus and sambucas
- 7 To keep pests off brassicas and carrots cover with horticultural fleece
- 8 Sow vegetable and salad crops outside now eg beetroot, carrot, chard, lettuce.
- 9 Ensure bird baths contain fresh water
- 10 Feed and tie-in rambling and climbing roses

Congratulations to Janet and Jim

Our society was delighted to hear that members Janet and Jim Gillman have been awarded "Freedom of the Borough of Greenwich." Both have been borough councillors for many years and also school governors. Amazingly each has served as Mayor twice!

Coolings "Show of Shows"

Our society has been invited to participate in this major show at Coolings on 24th September. Exhibits may be staged 8am - 10am, judging from 10am - 12 am and public entry to the show at 12 noon. The awards will be presented at 3.30pm. There will be Classes for flowers, fruit, vegetables, produce, baking, crafts, painting and photography. See our notice board or ask committee members for further details.

Recent outbreaks of a serious plant disease may threaten UK horticulture. The bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa*, has been spread by insects, causing severe damage to plants in North, Central and S. America. Its affects grape, peach, olive, sycamore, oak, hebe, lavender, rosemary and euphorbia. Authorities hope to stop imports of affected plants from reaching the UK. Further research can be found on Wikipedia.

Next month Liz MacDermot will be speaking on the Restoration of Charlton Pet Cemetery. As funds are required to restore the cemetery members are asked to bring plants to sell in aid of the work. Plants should be well-potted and labelled. Thank you all, in advance for your generosity.

Viv Parson
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