

Chairman Jillian Smith
Vice Chairman Jim Heath
Secretary Paula Traquair
Treasurer Ron Roffey



President Nicolas Bevan
Vice President Joyce Snipp
Membership Ross Howie

Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2016

Tonight we welcome Peter Cox who has come to talk about "Growing Roses." Peter has a specialist rose nursery in Rochester called Eastcroft Roses. Working in the field of commercial rose growing, Peter is an expert on rose propagation, pest and disease control and pruning. Peter also has some beautiful roses for sale this evening. For further help he can be contacted at www.eastcroftroses.co.uk

Margaret Lay's Open Garden

On Saturday 23rd July Margaret Lay invited us all to visit her beautiful garden. As usual her garden was full of colour, partly due to the many different cultivars of phlox and helenium. The sunny day was a resounding success and Margaret raised a whopping £182 for Demelza and also the Blackheath Flower Society.

The Kings Fund has just published a report about gardening and health -It recommending that the NHS prescribe gardening for wellbeing. There is a suggestion that the public should inform their local doctors' surgery about gardening projects. The report is quite full of statistics and interestingly its not just the older age groups that benefit - it seems about 40% of the 25-40 age group are keen on gardening as a form of exercise and keep fit. See www.kingsfund.org.uk/publications/garden-and-health

Dates for your diary

20th August Coolings, Knockholt - Orpington Floral Art display 10-4pm Free entry

3rd September Sussex Prairie Unusual Plant and Garden Fair. Morlands Farm, Wheatsheaf Rd, near Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9AT 1-5pm

6-11th September RHS Wisley Flower Show 9-6pm free to members +1

11th September Plant Fair & Open Garden Knowle Hill Farm, Ulcombe, Maidstone, ME17 1ES. 11 - 4pm £5

27th November Joe Swift talk at Blackheath Halls 3pm £16/£18 call 0208 463 0100

(NB Do not be deterred by an incorrect message on the website saying that tickets are sold-out but proceed to see available seats and you can still book)

28-29th October 'Shades of Autumn' Show at RHS Halls London SW1P 2QD 10-5pm

Members may take guest in free on Saturday only

Many gardens are open for the ngs each weekend of the summer. See www.ngs.org.uk

Have you ever fancied creating a wild flower patch in your garden or allotment? Then you might like to register with Grow Wild to get a free seed kit of wild flowers.

<https://www.growwilduk.com/seed-kits>

Thompson and Morgan are currently offering 100 "free" Allium bulbs in the Gardeners World magazine and on their website although you will have to pay £5.65 for postage.

TopTips for August

- 1 Continue dead-heading
- 2 Clear fallen leaves from roses with black spot. Dispose of these in your dustbin
- 3 Prune shrubs eg hebe and lavender after flowering, leaving some green growth
- 4 When dry, water rhododendrons & camellias so that flower buds form for next spring
- 5 Cut out flowered stems of rambling roses to the ground. Tie in new shoots.
- 6 Sow fast-growing 'catch crops' eg rocket, radish, lettuce & turnips
- 7 Keep protective measures against carrot fly until autumn
- 8 Do not use lawn weedkillers if dry as they only work when weeds are active
- 9 Mow summer flowering meadows at end of month. Leave hay to allow seeds to drop
- 10 Plant out autumn flowering bulbs such as Colchicum and Crocus speciosus

Our next meeting we will be our annual Autumn Flower and Vegetable Display.

The classes are as follows:

- 1 Vase of flowers, 3 stems of 1 cultivar
- 2 Bowl of mixed flowers and foliage, arranged for all around effect, 12" x 12"
- 3 Vase of shrubs, 3 or more stems flowering or foliage, could be mixed varieties
- 4 Pot plant, flowering or foliage
- 5 Display of fruit, 1 or more cultivars
- 6 Display of vegetables, 1 or more cultivars
- 7 Pot of cacti or succulents
- 8 An arrangement of herbs
- 9 Preserve, jam, jelly or marmalade
- 10 Home-made chutney or relish
- 11 Baking : biscuit, bread or cake made with unusual ingredient from your garden
- 12 Floral art. Seasonal arrangement
- 13 Arts&Crafts Display. Anything hand made is eligible for this popular section of the show.
- 14 Achimenes. Any members who still have these in flower may bring these in memory of Terry Harvie
- 15 Potato competition- potatoes should be in named, transparent plastic bags also sunflower head competition entries- the largest head wins

Coolings "Show of Shows"

This is a reminder that our society hopes to show exhibits at Coolings " Show of Shows" on 24th September. The event is fairly informal and should be fun for all. Exhibits may be staged 8am - 10am, with 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. Also there are several childrens' classes. See our notice board for more details of all classes.

It's easy to enter. Simply choose your class from the list on our notice board and then get growing! Go along on the day between 8 -10 am to hand in your exhibits. As only 3 exhibits per society are allowed, our entries will be decided at our September flower display 5 days before. If you are unable to get there yourself, but would like to enter, please arrange to give your exhibits to either Kathy Aitken or Viv Parson who can take them for you.