

Chairman Jim Heath  
Vice Chairman Vija Vicins  
Secretary Paula Trequair  
Treasurer Ron Roffey



President Nicolas Bevan  
Vice President Joyce Snipp  
Membership Ross Howie

Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society

[www.cabahs.wordpress.com](http://www.cabahs.wordpress.com)

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017

### FEBRUARY MEETING

Welcome to our 2017 AGM and Bring and Buy Sale. The agenda is as follows :-

- 1 Chairman's welcome
- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To confirm the minutes of the 2016 AGM
- 4 To receive the chairman's review of 2016
- 5 To receive the treasurer's report for 2016
- 6 To elect officers and committee for 2017/2018
- 7 To present the show table cup
- 8 Any other business

Copies of the treasurer's annual financial statement and minutes of the 2016 AGM will be available at the meeting

### Stella Godden

It is with great sadness that I have to let you know of the death of Stella Godden. She had been unwell since a fall about 15 months ago. Up until then she had been an active member of the society, possibly for over 40 years. Stella took on the role of secretary many years ago. The exact date is not to hand, possibly in the 1990's. She also produced our newsletter for many years. Although her garden was small it was full of good and interesting plants. The addition of a conservatory added the scope of a new range of plants and gave her great pleasure.

There will be a service in her memory at Hither Green Crematorium on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 1.45pm and all will be welcome to Stella's house afterwards at 21 Fairby Road, Lee, SE12 8JP. Please let Jillian know numbers for catering purposes. Family flowers only. Donations to the N.S.P.C.C.

### Jillian takes a break

Our Chairman Jillian Smith is to retire this month due to family illness. Jillian is not leaving us completely but will remain a member of the society. She has been a stalwart of the society for at least 40 years, having been an officer of the committee since 1979. She has twice held the position of chairman, from 1984-92 and, more recently, from 2007-2017.

Jillian has managed the society admirably and given us the most entertaining talks in our spring and autumn shows. Her famous twice-yearly open gardens were always well-attended and made lots of money for charity. She organised many successful coach outings and once brilliantly re-routed our coach driver to another garden when the M25 was blocked. She was the perfect host for welcoming and thanking our

guest speakers with her warm charm. We will miss her witty sense of humour and I know we all give her our wholehearted thanks from the whole society.

### SHOW TABLE

Our monthly show table allows members to exhibit flowers and foliage from their gardens. Members must exhibit every month to gain points, which are totalled at the end of the year to find our annual winner.

The winner this year was Jane Dyer with 79 points. Kathy Aitken was in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 61 points, Terry Graham took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 57 points and Jenny Shoban was in 4<sup>th</sup> place with 44 points.

Congratulations to you all and thank you to all exhibitors for making a beautiful display for members to enjoy.

Please join in if you can but do not forget to bring your own vase.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscription fees can be paid to our membership secretary, Ross tonight. Show your receipt at the March meeting to collect your new card. Please indicate if you are an RHS member and include your email address (if you have one) when you fill out your membership form.

### OUTINGS

The society will visit an RHS garden with only the coach fare to pay. Details to follow. We look forward to this year's outings, which will be planned by our new outings secretary, Anna Lainé. All are invited to join the flower club to Hever Castle and Gardens on Friday 19th May. The cost will be approximately £28.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Feb RHS Botanical Art Show 10am-5pm free entry. Lindley Hall, SW1P 2QW

26<sup>th</sup> Mar Gardens of Kent at Coolings, Knockholt. 10-4pm Free entry

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Mar RHS Spring Plant and Orchid Show. 10am-5pm Lawrence & Lindley Halls. Members £5

### Top 10 jobs for February - When in doubt Prune and Mulch!

1. Prune "cool season" ornamental grasses close to ground level
2. Prune Wisteria and Campsis to 3 or 4 buds of last year's growth.
3. Prune late summer & autumn- flowering clematis(gr. 3) to lowest pair of strong buds.
4. Cut back fuchsias, santolina and lavatera to low well-placed branches.
5. Mulch shrubs, trees, hedges and climbers after pruning with manure or compost.
6. Prune winter-flowering heathers as the flowers fade.
7. Water Hostas in pots with Slug It /Slug Clear, if you have some. This works by killing the slug/snail eggs. However this has possibly been taken off the market. Madness!
8. Cut back autumn fruiting raspberries to ground level and mulch around stems.
9. Apply general fertilizers eg. Growmore/ blood fish and bone /chicken manure to beds
10. Ensure debris is cleared from under bird feeders to discourage visiting rodents.

Spring is nearly here. Happy gardening.

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