

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 JULY 2016

Welcome to our members' evening during which we will be holding an informal "Gardeners' Question Time." Society members can put their horticultural queries to the panel or have mystery plants identified. The panel consists of Jim Heath, Nicolas Bevan, Jillian Smith and Mike Hills. Also, as we are fortunate to have many very experienced gardeners in our midst, we hope that all will feel free to volunteer answers if the panel are struggling with them.

We will also be holding a gardening quiz tonight. Quiz questions can be found at various points around the hall, with papers for their answers nearby. Answers to the quiz, and raffle winners, will be announced during our refreshments break.

As we are now unable to run a stall at the Family Fun Day here at Charlton House on the 23rd July, the donated plants will be on sale here tonight.

Finally, we have a chance to view entries for our photography competition. As you know the 4 winning photographs will be printed on gift cards and sold to raise funds for the society.

Dates for your diary

20th July Hall Place Open Air Theatre Canterbury Tales Call 01322621238 tickets £10

23rd July Coolings, Knockholt, TN14 7NN- local food and produce market 10-4pm

4-7th August RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show 10-5pm free for RHS members, if not £10

13th-14th August Great Comp Summer Show 11-5 pm. £8 Plants, Pimms, Music, Crafts

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

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

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

Margaret Lay's Open Garden

Margaret will be opening her garden to the public on Saturday 23rd July 2-4pm at 16 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath, SE3 8BT. Refreshments will be available.

Outings

Tonight is members' last chance to purchase tickets for our coach outing to RHS Wisley on Thursday 21st July. As we are an affiliated society entrance for society members is free and we only pay for the coach to see this wonderful garden. If you would like a ticket please see Ron or Ross.

Refreshments

Tea and coffee will be available from the refreshments trolley for £1.20 per cup.

Top Tips for July

- 1 Sow beetroot, lettuce, radish and carrot seeds. Cover rows to protect from carrot fly
- 2 Cut back long whippy shoots of wisteria to just 6 leaves. Water with tomato feed.
- 3 Prune crossing branches of stone fruit eg cherry/plum to improve air flow
- 4 Pick sweet peas for the house to encourage more flowers to grow
- 5 Cut out reverted foliage on variegated shrubs
- 6 Continue lily beetle watch- squash both bright red beetles and their messy larvae.
- 7 Cut back hardy geraniums, after flowering, to encourage new growth
- 8 When soil is dry water plants such as rhododendrons, agapanthus and camellias
- 9 Water fruit and veg, when weather is dry, using rain water where possible
- 10 Ensure frogs, newts and hedgehogs can exit ponds via stones or branches

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.

Lavender Tours

This month tours of "The Hop Shop" lavender farm in Kent are available. Weekday tours cost £6 per person and must be booked in advance, (payment on the day). Weekend tours cost £5 and can only be booked on the day, in person. Children 12 & under are free. Refreshments of apple juice and lavender biscuits are provided after the tour.

For children of 12 & under the tour is free but £1.50 is charged for refreshments.

They also offer lavender oil massages but are already sold out for this year!

The tour lasts approximately 1 hour 25 minutes. No dogs are permitted.

To book call the Hop Shop 01959 523219 or go to Castle Farm, Redmans Lane, Shoreham, Sevenoaks TN14 7UB

Dowderry Nursery are also offering lavender tours on 24th July, 31st July and 7th August at 3pm. The tours of the display garden nursery include a talk on lavender diversity. Tickets £5 call 01732810081. Dowderry Nursery is at Pillar Box Lane, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9SW

August Meeting

Peter Cox will be speaking to us about "Growing Roses" at our meeting in August.