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

NEWSLETTER JULY 2017

Tonight we will be holding an informal gardeners' question time. All members are invited to ask our panel horticultural questions and the panellists will endeavour to answer them. If, however, they are unable to do so they will ask for help from the audience. We are lucky enough to have a wealth of gardening experience amongst our members and hope that answers can be found amongst our ranks to the trickiest queries.

We have also displayed various quiz sheets around the hall. Please join in the fun in answering the quiz sheets by writing the answers on a sheet with your name at the top. Please be sure to make a note of each quiz sheet and question. Answers will be read out at the end of the meeting.

There will also be the usual raffle, sales table and refreshments.

GREAT GET TOGETHER PLANT STALL

Congratulations to all those who helped with the "Great Get Together" plant stall. Nearly £200 pounds profit was made and many potential new members visited our stall. The weather was kind to us and hopefully everyone who worked on the stall enjoyed their day. We hope that you will visit the "news" page on our website for the photos of our stall. Thank you to all who donated plants and time (and a gazebo!)

Dates for your diaries

Until 18 Aug "Gardeners World at 50" exhibition at RHS Lindley Library, SW1P 2PE
28-30 July Losely Park Garden Show, Surrey GU31HS 10-5pm tel 01483304440
22-23 July NGS open garden-Eureka, Buckhurst Road, Westerham Hill, Kent, TN16 2HR
12-4pm £4.50 Homemade teas
12-13 Aug Eureka Garden open as above
5 Sep Hadlow College, Shooters Hill 2-5pm Container Gardening taster course £10
6 Sep West Dean Gardens guided tour and lunch 11-3pm £55
11 & 12 Sep Hadlow College, Shooters Hill 10.30-4pm Vegetable Container Gardening taster course £30
21 Sep "My Dogs Got No Nose" - play at Great Comp, Sevenoaks TN15 8QS 7pm £15
5 & 22 Sept Hadlow College, Shooters Hill 10-1pm Basic Garden Design Course £10
19, 20, 25, 26 July Lullingston Lavender Fields, £6 ring for details 01959523219

Eltham Palace Gardens SE9 5NP

The gardens are looking particularly good right now. Don't miss their blue and yellow wide border. They are open every day 10-6pm, except Saturdays and some Fridays and are free to members of English Heritage. Free parking and restaurant.

Sale Table

Please give generously to our sales table as tonight's takings will go to a very worthwhile cause - Greenwich and Bexley Hospice which provides specialist end of life care for adults with a wide variety of chronic and terminal conditions.

Top Tips

1. Take semi ripe cuttings of herbs & shrubs to grow in cold frames & on window ledges
2. Summer prune Wisteria cutting back long whippy shoots to 5 buds from main stem
- 3 Continue to feed and water hanging baskets
- 4 Pinch out side shoots on tomatoes and tie plants in to supports
- 5 Dead-head rhododendrons, if not yet done. Be careful to avoid new young leaf buds.
- 6 Harvest summer fruiting raspberries and prune to ground level when fruiting is over
- 7 Lift first early potatoes by end of July
- 8 Collect rainwater to last throughout the summer
- 9 Encourage bees & hoverflies into the garden by growing some single flowers
- 10 Ask a neighbour to water your pots while you are away on holiday

Cuttings

There are so many outstanding plants that are flowering or performing well at this time of year. People often ask me for my favourite but the answer is that it is impossible to have just one. It just depends on what ever is looking good at the moment. However I am currently in the unenviable position of having to choose plants to take with me to my new, smaller gardenand so choose I must. I have decided that some of the hardy shrubs I cannot live without are: Philadelphus "Belle Etoile"(Mock Orange), Deutzia x rosea 'Campanulata' and Sambucus nigra porphylla 'Black Lace.' I can recommend each of these as outstanding plants. The Philadelphus has beautiful, large flowers and the most heavenly scent, the Deutzia flowers it's socks off (you can barely see it's leaves) and the Sambucus which has bunches of pink flowers against dark plum lacey foliage followed by clusters of dark, juicy berries.

To this end I am currently frantically taking cuttings, which is a great way to increase your stock. Not only is it fun to see if you can succeed in propagating your own plants but also it's more-or-less free. "What's not to like?" as people say. Also, if you end up with a surplus, please do bring them in for our sales table.

Viv's Method :

Cut stems, early in the day, from a non-flowering shoot, cutting off the material neatly above a bud on the parent plant. Place the cutting material in a clean plastic bag with a label, to keep them fresh, until the next stage.

Trim each cutting to 4"-6" with a good sharp knife and take off several lower leaves to reveal 1"- 2" of stem. Dip the end of each stem in water then hormone rooting powder and insert the cuttings around the edge of a pot filled with 50% potting compost and 50% sharp sand or perlite. Water well and allow to drain.

I keep my cuttings in a cold frame during the first year, until rooted, then I grow them on in larger pots before planting out. Good luck!

As I write the spectators at Wimbledon are getting drenched but I am secretly delighted that it's pouring with rain. No watering pots tonight & full waterbutts by morning. Hooray!

At our next meeting, on 21st August- Mr Roy Vickery will talk to us about " The Work of the South London Botanical Institute."

Viv Parson

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