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

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2016

Tonight we welcome Rachel Castle who will be speaking to us about Auriculas. We will also be holding our annual hospice plant sale. Thank you to all those who have donated plants for the sale.

Members' Photographs

We would like to remind members to take photos of their own gardens to enter into our photography competition. Please bring up to 4 A5 prints (210mm x 148 mm) to our July meeting. The chosen 4 entries will then be printed on good quality cards and sold as greetings cards to raise funds for the society. Photographs should be taken of member's own gardens. Images taken either on digital cameras or very high quality mobile (eg iPhone) are preferred.

Dates for your diary

25th June Coolings Food and Produce market & Orpington art club exhibition 10-4pm.
28th June at 2.30pm Hall Place Head of Estates tour of garden, hot drink & cake £12
3rd July Hall Place Plant Fairs Roadshow DA5 1PQ Adm. free 10-3pm
14 & 15th July Great Comp Open Air Theatre 7.30pm. Call 01634 338338 for £20 tickets
20th July Hall Place Open Air Theatre Canterbury Tales Call 01322621238 tickets £10
13th-14th August Great Comp Summer Show 11-5 pm. £8 Plants, Pimms, Music, Crafts
Many gardens are open for the ngs each weekend of the summer. See www.ngs.org.uk

Elizabeth's Open Garden

When Elizabeth Crawley opened her garden to the public on Saturday 4th June she made £630 from her plant sales, refreshments and donations for Marie Curie Cancer Care and B.F.A.S. What a marvellous effort. Congratulations Elizabeth.

Refreshments

Charlton House who supply refreshments for our meetings have put up the price of our tea and coffee to £1.20. Please could members remember put their money in the pot provided, when they take their drinks, as we make a loss on this each month.

Charlton House Family Fun Day

Our society will be holding a plant stall at this event on Saturday 28th July at 1-5pm. We urgently need donations of plants, unused packets of seeds to sell and also volunteers to help man our stall. We hope this will publicise the society and perhaps encourage new members. The event may also help to raise much-needed funds. The day will have a World War 1 theme, with some of the organisers wearing period costumes.

Outings

There are still a few places available on our coach outing to RHS Wisley on Thursday 21st July. If you would like a ticket please see Ron or Ross.

Top Tips for June

- 1 Regularly feed fruit, vegetables and ornamentals with liquid fertiliser.
- 2 Dead head Rhododendrons taking care not to pinch out newly emerging leaf buds.
- 3 Scatter straw under ripening strawberries to avoid soil splashes, snails and slugs.
- 4 Pinch out side shoots on tomatoes and tie plants to supports.
- 5 Tender vegetables may be planted out now.
- 6 Successionally sow small quantities of salads, herbs and greens every 2-3 weeks.
- 7 Prune spring and early summer-flowering shrubs eg Weigela, after flowering.
- 8 Deadhead delphiniums and lupins to encourage a second flush of flowers.
- 9 Ventilate the greenhouse on hot days.
- 10 Remove blanket weeds from ponds with a stick. Leave at side for bugs to escape.

Coolings "Show of Shows"

Our society has been invited to participate in this major show at Coolings 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.

Woody Heucheras

If your Heucheras are looking tired, have several centres and are growing from woody stems you could try dividing them. Lift the plant and carefully divide it into sections, making sure each section has sufficient roots. Then plant each section so that the woody stems are below soil level. Each should then put on growth with renewed vigour. I tried this on my "Crème Caramel" and was delighted with the result.

July Meeting

We will be holding a gardener's question time and garden quiz at our next meeting. Please bring your horticultural questions, mystery plants to identify and problem plants to show the panel.

Viv Parson
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