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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

Tonight we welcome David Bevan who will talk to us about London's Wild Flowers.

Subscriptions

The committee has accepted the recommendations, made by our treasurer at last month's AGM, to increase the membership fees to £10 per year. Fees for 2016 can be paid to our membership secretary, Ross Howie, tonight.

Society Notice Board

We hope that society members will soon have a notice board upon which to post any garden related news such as open gardens, gardening tools/plants for sale or reliable help from trusted gardeners. The idea was suggested by Kathy Aitken, who has very kindly offered her husband's services to make one for us.

Photography Competition

We will be holding a photography competition as a class in our Spring Show in April. Photographs should be taken in your own gardens of individual flowers or general views and should be printed on paper 8 ¼ " x 5 ⅝ " or 210mm x 148mm (A5) Now that spring is finally with us it's time to get snapping !

Dates for your Diary

Now until 4th September, Hall Place exhibition "How Does Your Garden Grow" 10-5 pm organised by London's Garden Museum, which is currently closed for refurbishment.
Fri 25th March Great Comp Garden, Comp Ln, Sevenoaks, TN15 8QS opens with an Easter Bunny Hunt around the gardens for the children. Adults £8,conc. £7, children £3
Mon 28th March & Sun 10th April Mere House, Mereworth ME18 5NB. NGS opening 2-5
Sat & Sun 2 -3rd April Great Dixter Spring Plant Fair (TN31 6PH) 11-4pm Adm £8.50
Fri 8th April Borde Hill Gardens (RH16 1XP) Famous tree experts offer advice to the public. Entrance £8.20/conc.£7.20 Call 01444450326 for details
Sun 10th April Great Comp Spring Fling Plant Fair with over 20 exhibitors. 11-5pm
Sun 17th April Hall Place Plant Fair, Bexley DA5 1PQ 10am -3pm Adm Free
Fri 22nd-24th April Losely Park Spring Garden Show (GU3 1HS) 10-5pm £3.50 conc £3
Fri 1-2 April RHS London Spring Plant Extravaganza 10-5pm Entrance £5
30th April Parliament Hill Farmers Market + "RHS experts on Tour." Plant sale & talks
15th May Blackheath Farmers Market + "RHS experts on Tour." Plants sale & talks

Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice Open Gardens

This year gardens will be open in aid of this good cause on 11-12th and 18-19th June. They are asking for people to join in and offer to open their gardens. For details call 020 8319 9230 or info@gbch.org.uk

Members' Spring Flower Show

This will take place on Monday 18th April here at Charlton House old library.
Schedule as follows:

CLASS:

1. DAFFODILS/NARCISSI - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
2. TULIPS - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
3. SHRUBS, FLOWERING - 3 stems of any cultivar except camellias
4. CAMELLIAS - one stem
5. SHRUBS, FOLIAGE - 3 stems any cultivar
6. SMALL VASE OF MIXED SPRING FLOWERS
7. ANY POT-GROWN PLANT (indoor or outdoor)
8. POT OF SPRING BULBS
9. FLORAL ART - arrangement of spring flowers. Space available 20" square.
May be arranged at home. Flowers may be purchased
10. SPRING PHOTOGRAPHS OF YOUR GARDEN (up to 4 per person.)
Max size A5 (or 210mm x 148mm) or 8 ¼ "x 5 ⅝ "

Please remember to bring suitable vases in which to display your exhibits and place them in the appropriate classes upon arrival.

OUTINGS

Friday 20th May- Penshurst Place and Gardens

Thursday 21st July Society visit to RHS Wisley

Top Jobs for March

- 1 Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- 2 It's not too late to sprinkle general purpose fertiliser (e.g. Growmore) around the garden especially hungry shrubs and roses.
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses and prune out diseased and dead stems
- 4 Keep weeds under control
- 5 Place supports for taller herbaceous plants before they grow too tall.
- 6 Mulch around plants to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- 7 Sweet Peas can be sown outside this month.
- 8 Dead head daffodils. Leave the foliage to die back naturally for 6 weeks before cutting.
- 9 Finish cutting back hardy perennials.
- 10 Lift and divide overcrowded perennials then replant a section of healthy growth.

Hall Place Butterfly Jungle is still open. Some say it's better than Wisley and much closer. Details on

<http://www.bexleyheritagetrust.org.uk/hallplace/butterfly-jungles/>

Kathy Aitken sent me news of a garden product that will be released on April 1st.
It's an alcohol based lawn feed. Sprinkle it on the lawn and the grass comes up half cut.

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