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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2017

Tonight we welcome Colin Moat, from Pineview Nurseries, giving his talk "50 Shades of Grey" about plants for shady gardens.

Top Plant Award

This month we are launching the "CABAHS Top Plant" award. This is just for a bit of fun but its a great way to get to know each other's favourite plants and will probably spark some debates! Anyone can nominate their favourite plant, and each month we will put 4 at random up by the Noticeboard. We hope you will all vote for one, then at the end of the year we will put the monthly winners up for a final vote and that will be the CABAHS Top Plant. So get thinking and nominate your favourite plant - forms are by the Noticeboard, or you can email direct to cabahshortisoc@gmail.com

Outings

The next outing will be to RHS Wisley on Friday 28th April. This will only cost £14 to cover the coach expense so it's a real bargain. Full details will be available from Anna at tonight's meeting, where you can sign up to join the trip. (Full payment is required by April 10th - exact amount preferred) Pickup times are:

08.45 at Tudor Grange, 114 Westcombe Park Road SE3.

09.00 Charlton House

09.15 Court Road Bus Stop, opposite Mottingham Village Post Office

Dates for your diaries

26th March NGS Open Day at Great Comp 11-5, £8 on Mothering Sunday

26th March Gardens of Kent at Coolings, Knockholt. 10-4pm Free entry

29th-30th Mar RHS Spring Plant and Orchid Show. 10-5pm RHS Halls, London. Entry £5

1st April Ightham Mote NGS open day for Easter family fun 10-5 (National Trust)

1st & 2nd April Great Dixter Spring Plant Fair. 11-4pm £9 inc entry to garden.

1st -23rd April Hall Place Bexley DA5 1PQ Easter Garden Trail 10-4.30 £2-50 per trail

2nd April NGS Open Gardens 2-5pm £5 to include both gardens at 12 Overbrae & at 209 Worsley Bridge Rd, Beckenham BR3 1SX. Teas and some steep slopes.

21st-23rd April Losely Spring Garden Show, Guildford, Surrey. GU3 1HS. 10-5pm £3-50

24th April - 7th May Hever Castle Tulip Celebration with 7000 tulips.

29th April Spring Plant Fair at the Garden Museum in Lambeth Palace Road 11-4pm £7

Show Table

Now that spring finally has arrived and our gardens are full of spring flowers, please remember to bring in exhibits for the show table. Don't forget to bring your own vase.

Sales Table

We are always glad of any unwanted gifts, seed packets and items to sell on the sales table. Why not pot up garden plants that you are dividing and bring some along?

Members' Spring Flower Show

This will take place at our 10th April meeting 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. SPRING BULBS COMPETITION - 5 "Pipit" narcissi in a pot
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.

Top Tips

1. Some vegetable seeds can be sown indoors now and planted out later.
2. Wait until temperatures go above 7 degrees before sowing parsnips, brassicas and beetroot.
3. It's not too late to prune floribunda and hybrid tea roses when no frost is forecast.
4. Divide overcrowded clumps of herbaceous perennials every fourth year
5. Prune perennials such as penstemon and perovskia to the lowest growing shoot
6. Cut back shrubs such as hydrangea and caryopteris to lowest pair of buds when no frost is forecast.
7. Continue mulching borders with 2-3 inches of organic matter before growth starts.
8. Clear lawns and mow on a high cut.
9. Apply blood fish and bone meal or Growmore around fruit trees and bushes.
- 10 Replace top of soil of permanent pot plants with fresh compost and repot where necessary.

Greenwich and Bexley Hospice

The Plumpstead hospice shop is about to open a mini garden centre and would be grateful for plants, pots and seeds if you have any to spare. They are also looking for volunteers to open their gardens on behalf of the Hospice. If you can help in any way please contact their fundraising team on 0208 319 9230. The Open Garden Festival will run from 17-18th June for Blackheath, Bexley and Eltham and from 24-25th June for Gardens in Greenwich and Charlton. We hope to publish details of gardens that you can visit to support this worthwhile cause as soon as they are released.