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

NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

Tonight we welcome Neil Miller who will be speaking to us about the gardens at Hever Castle. This talk will be particularly interesting for those members travelling on our outing to Hever next Friday.

Top Plant Award

Last month we launched our "CABAHS Top Plant" award for which members are asked to vote each month. This is just a bit of fun but it is 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. A button represents a vote. 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 Hever Castle and Gardens on the 19th May and there are still a few last minute tickets left at £26. They include coach and entrance, & can be purchased tonight from Elizabeth Crawley. Pickup times are:
09.30 am at Tudor Grange, 114 Westcombe Park Road SE3.
09.45 am Charlton House
10.00 am Court Road Bus Stop, opposite Mottingham Village Post Office

The Great Get Together- takes place on Saturday 24 June from 11- 6pm. Entry is free.
HELP REQUIRED TO MAN OUR STALL AND PROVIDE PLANTS

Royal Artillery Barracks, Repository Rd, Woolwich, SE18 4BB

This year our society plans to have a plant stall at this event. As we are currently in need of funds we hope that members will grow as many plants in pots as possible to sell on our stall. We also need volunteers to man the stall during the day. If you think you can help, for an hour or two, please sign the list by the register, or speak to a committee member. Please also tick the appropriate column if you are able to supply some well-grown, potted and labelled plants.

It is one of the UK's largest Armed Forces Day events and is combined with the Royal Borough of Greenwich's big summer community celebration. Other attractions include live music stage, sports try-out sessions, armed forces stalls, vintage military vehicles, healthy living zone, veterans' parade, children's crafts, zorbing balls and laser tag, family funfair, and lots more. Thank you in advance for your support!

Those who enjoy visiting gardens should buy May's issue of Gardener's World magazine to receive a 2 for 1 entrance card to various gardens for the whole of the year.

Sad News

Long standing society member Sue Kebell sadly passed away recently. Our condolences go to her family and friends.

Dates for your diaries

20th May Plant Fairs Roadshow, Telegraph Hill Centre, Kitto Rd, New Cross SE14 5TY
1pm -4pm Adm £2 www.plant-fairs.co.uk/

21st May 12 The Meadows, Chelsfield, BR6 6HS 11-5.30 Adm. £4 for St Christopher's Hospice

21st May Battersea Main Garden East open garden for charity "Thrive"* see below 12-4

27th May Elizabeth Crawley's open garden at 298 Shooters Hill Road, SE18 4LT 11-3pm
Park in Zangwell or Farjeon Rd. Buses run past the door. Teas and small plant sale.

27,28,29th May Kent Garden Show at Detling ME14 3JF No dogs.9.30-5pm £8/£7

27-28th May. 27 Elstree Hill, Bromley BR1 4JE £6 inc wine and nibbles 6-8.30pm

28th May. 47 St. Johns Rd, Petts Wood BR5 1HT 2-5pm £3-50 for St Christopher's

18th June 2-5pm Mike Hill's open garden, 118 Eltham Hill SE95EF Plants & teas for sale

17-18th June Greenwich & Bexley hospice open gardens TBA

24-25th June " " " "

23rd June Salutation Gardens Dusk Tours Tickets £15 Call 01304 619919

25th June Open Garden 39, Holbrook Lane, Chis. 2-5pm for St. Christophers Hospice

25th June Plant Fairs Roadshow. Hall Place, Bexley DA51PQ 10-3pm Adm. free

*Thrive is a very worthwhile charity that delivers gardening therapy to people living with disability, isolation, physical or mental ill-health. See www.thive.org.uk

Also for great gardening advice and tips go to www.daviddomoney.com. David does features on the Thrive website like "Growing Herbs", "How to Grow a Wild flower Meadow", "Plant Hall of Fame," "How to get Rid of Weeds"and many more.

Spare Flower Pots please?

Following on from Jillian Smith's very successful open garden and plant sale, a couple of weeks ago, she is now very short of flower pots. If anyone has any 5",7" or 8" flower pots to spare please could they bring them in for her.

Congratulations Jillian. She made a remarkable £280 for Greenwich & Bexley Hospice

Top Tips

1 Hoe regularly to keep weeds under control

2 Put plant supports in place for tall-growing cottage plants eg Delphiniums & Digitalis

3 Prune spring flowering shrubs as soon as flowering is over.

4 Plant out young veg but be sure to harden off first.

5 Open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days

6 Mow lawns weekly

7 Watch out for viburnum beetle and bright red lily beetle

8 Plant out summer bedding in containers and borders towards the end of May.

9 "Chelsea Chop" late-flowering herbaceous perennials to reduce eventual height

10 Harvest rhubarb. Pull stalks from up to half of the crowns then water if dry.

At our next meeting, on the 19th June, Dr John Hughes will talk on Judging for the RHS.

May is one of the busiest months in the gardening year but don't forget to take time to sit back, relax and enjoy it from time to time.

Happy gardening - Viv Parson

vivparson@hotmail.com