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President Nicolas Bevan
Vice President Joyce Snipp
Membership Ross Howie

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

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2016

Tonight we welcome Jude Lawton who will be speaking about her invaluable work for Plant Heritage. This is the world's leading cultivated plant conservation charity, bringing together the talents of botanists, horticulturalists and conservationists and the dedication of keen amateur and professional gardeners. Through a number of conservation projects, including the National Plant Collections and Threatened Plants Project, they are helping to safeguard our unique garden flora across Britain and Ireland.

Autumn Show

Last month's autumn show proved to be very successful, colourful and fun. Thanks to all who contributed their flowers, pots, arrangements, conserves and other exhibits to make the show tables look so wonderful.

The silver rose bowl for "Best in Show" was won by Vija Vilcins for her beautiful tradescantia. Fran Alderson won Coolings vouchers for her pretty bowl of mixed flowers while Pat Kane's vegetable basket won the silver trowel and £5 in Coolings vouchers. The floral art silver cup was won by Siân Tribe for her "Seasonal Arrangement in a Milk Bottle."

Our thanks go to our chairman, Jillian, who gave us an exuberant and interesting commentary whilst admiring each exhibit. Also thanks to our president Nicolas Bevan for judging the competition.

Dates for your diary.

22 Oct 2-4pm Cream Tea and flower demonstration - see below

23rd October Apple Day at Borough Market with growers, traders & samples etc 10-4pm

28 -29th October. RHS "Shades of Autumn" Show at RHS Halls SW1P 2QW 10-5 pm
Members free and may take a guest in free on Saturday only.

11-13 November. London Urban Garden Show at Lindley Hall SW1P 2QW 10-5pm
Members free, non members £6 in advance or £9 on the door.

27th November Joe Swift talk at Blackheath Halls 3pm £16/£18 call 0208 463 0100

Cream Tea and Flower Demonstration.

Members are invited to this event by Blackheath Flower Arrangement Society. It will be held at Stone House, Lewisham Way, SE4 1XF on Sat 22nd October 2-4pm. Tickets are £15, available from Siân Tribe on 07787790028 or siancaroline@googlemail.com

Name Labels

At our last meeting we trialed the use of name labels inviting members to stick labels on their clothing so that we get to know each other. Feedback suggests that the idea was successful. People suggested it made it easier to make new friends.

Coolings Show of Shows

On the 24th September our society entered a number of exhibits at the Coolings "Show of Shows" at Knockholt. We also had a stand to promote the society. Several of our exhibits won top three places and vouchers and certificates were awarded at the end of the day. This was our first attempt to enter this informal show and we enjoyed mixing with other local horticultural societies.

Sales Table

Tonight Jillian has brought in bags of tulips, which will be on sale at the back of the hall.

Greenwich and Bexley Hospice Christmas cards will also be on sale this evening.

Top Tips fo October

- 1 Continue to divide and replant herbaceous perennials
- 2 Wrap tender banana plants in fleece before frosts arrive.
- 3 Sow hardy broad beans now.
- 4 For beautiful Amaryllis blooms at Christmas, pot bulbs now, 2/3rds above soil surface
- 5 Clear weeds choking ponds, leaving them on the sides for a few days so that accidental evictees can scramble back in.
- 6 Reduce the height of tall roses by 1/3rd to prevent damage by wind rock. Prune climbing roses now.
- 7 To take hardwood rose cuttings plunge 9"lengths into sand-lined trench. Leave for a year to root.
- 8 Whilst soil is warm, move any shrubs that have outgrown their spaces.
- 9 Apply grease bands to apple & pear trees to prevent winter moths climbing up to lay their eggs
- 10 After clearing flower borders mulch with 3" well-rotted compost /leaf-mould or well-rotted manure

Feedback

The committee would be very grateful for some help and feedback with our various society events. Which speakers, events and competitions have you enjoyed during the past year? A simple tick form will be left near the signing in book for members to fill in.

Secateurs

If, like me, you lose your garden hand tools periodically throughout the year, you might like to invest in some brightly coloured ones so that they no longer get composted with the contents of your wheel barrow. Burgon & Ball have a special offer on at the moment for Florabrite bypass secateurs with florescent handles (pink or yellow.)They normally retail at £16.95 and are currently on offer at £8.47. Quote code RHSOCT at the checkout at www.burgonandball.com

Next month Felicity Hall will be coming to speak to us about Constance Spry, the celebrated flower arranger, educator and author of the mid-20th century. She broke artistic boundaries in many ways, not least of all, by mixing hedgerow flowers and formal flowers in one and the same arrangement.