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



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017

Tonight we welcome Tim Anderson, who will tell us about the "Secret Garden in Marion Park" in Charlton.

Overwintering Your Tender Plants

Plants with rhizomes or tubers such as cannas and dahlias can be lifted and stored somewhere dry and frost-free but if, like me, you prefer a less labour intensive way to protect your plants, try covering them with a 6" layer of mulch. I used to cover mine with white fleece but every time it caught my eye from the kitchen window I thought I had a visiting white cat or ghost in my garden!

Place small tender potted plants in the greenhouse or cold frame. If you are unable to move large plants, such as bananas, pack lower stems with straw and wrap them with horticultural fleece.

Wildlife in Your Garden

If you are having trees lopped or pruned in your garden this autumn offer wildlife, such as hedgehogs, lizards and frogs, a shelter for the winter, by leaving a pile of logs in a quiet corner of your plot. Don't forget to check bonfires for hedgehogs before you set light to it.

Top Tips for November

- 1 Re-use spent container compost, from pots, as a mulch. Check for white vine weevil larvae before spreading on the flowerbeds.
- 2 Buy and plant tulip bulbs now (if you're lucky Ross may have some left on sale)
- 3 Plant bare-rooted roses.
- 4 Lift parsnips after the first frost.
- 5 Beat the birds to your red holly berries by picking some stems and storing them in a shallow bucket of water in a cool sheltered place.
- 6 Divide old rhubarb (or buy new) Re-plant crowns 1 metre apart.
- 7 After leaf fall, prune young apple or pear trees to promote growth.
- 8 Continue taking hard-wood cuttings from most shrubs including roses & clematis.
- 9 Clean out bird boxes so that they may be used as winter roosts and will be ready for nesting next spring.
- 10 Delay Christmas tree needle drop by spraying the tree with hair spray before bringing it into the house.



Dates for your diaries

15-23rd Nov Eltham Palace Enchanted Garden 4.30-9pm. Tickets are only bookable online £10 adults £7.50 for children. Members £10 and £6 respectively.

Roots to Work Event Thursday 23 November 2017 09:30am – 16:15pm

This is a day of workshops, speakers and networking opportunities for people interested in kick-starting or developing a food-growing enterprise or career. It will be held at Roots and Shoots, Walnut Tree Walk, Kennington, London. SE11 6DN £30 tickets include tea, coffee & vegetarian lunch. For tickets visit [www. eventbrite.co.uk/e/roots-to-work-2017](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/roots-to-work-2017)

Provender Nurseries November Sale

Provender, in Swanley, are having a sale this autumn with 20% off selected Miscanthus, 50% off selected outdoor lighting and 25% of decorative containers and pots.

Remember to borrow one of our society trade cards if you plan to visit.

They can be found at The Landscape Centre, Ledenhatch Lane, Swanley, BR8 7PS
www.provendernurseries.co.uk

Kew is a special place to visit at any time of the day or year, but the festive light show gives it a magical twist, as the mile-long trail through the garden sparkles with 60,000 lights, passing a Christmas karaoke juke box and eight newly commissioned artworks. These include singing Christmas trees, a light installation of 1,700 swaying flowers and a roaring fire garden. Some of the garden's oldest and tallest trees are also beautifully lit along the way. The finale is the iconic Palm House and pond lit up with coloured laser beams and streams of light dancing to Christmas songs.

• *From £16 adult/£10 child/£48 family/under-fours free; until 2 Jan, www.kew.org*

Christmas Glow, RHS Wisley

The garden is glowing with giant illuminated flowers and trees including a liquidambar, giant redwood and scots pine. The glasshouse is decorated like a gingerbread house, and displays seasonal plants such as poinsettias, Christmas cacti and bromeliads. There are lanterns around the lake, and the plant centre has been turned into Santa and Mrs Claus's grotto. The cafe serves hearty goulash, hot chocolate with marshmallows and spiced apple juice. Visitors can stock up at the Christmas shop, join stories and songs with Santa, and attend gingerbread-decorating workshops.

• *From £9.90 adult/£3.60 child, until 2 Jan, rhs.org.uk*

Outings planned for 2018

Now that the shorter darker days of autumn are here it's very cheering to know that Anna has some lovely horticultural outings planned for us next year. We hope to visit Sissinghurst Gardens in June and Hyde Hall in September 2018.

Sadly tonight is the last society meeting for this year.

Our next meeting on 19th February will be our annual AGM and Bring and Buy Stall so please turn out your cupboards, when you put away your new Christmas presents and bring in any unwanted gifts etc. for the sales table at our next meeting.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Bountiful New Year.



Viv Parson

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