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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society

[www.cabahs.wordpress.com](http://www.cabahs.wordpress.com)

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2017

Tonight we welcome Dr John Hughes, who will tell us about the gardens of Roberto Burle Marx – a famous landscape architect and designer of many parks and gardens in Brazil. He was also one of the first people to call for conservation of the rainforests, and more than 50 plants are named after him.

### Save RHS Garden Wisley and 500 of its important trees

Part of one of the UK's most loved and horticulturally important gardens is under threat from potential Highways England plans to widen the A3 in what could be the ultimate garden grab. One of Highways England's proposed plans for the A3 threatens to take 10,000 sq. metres of land ( the area near the trial grounds) from RHS Garden Wisley destroying 500 trees and their wildlife. The RHS is calling upon Highways England to reject these plans. Sign our petition by the notice board if you also oppose them.

### Dates for your diaries

21-22 Oct Perry Court Farm Apple Fayre, Canterbury Road, Biltling, Ashford, TN25 4ES

25-26<sup>th</sup> October RHS Autumn Garden Show, Lindley & Lawrence Halls SW1P 2PE

10- 5pm. Also late evening 6-9pm. Members £5. Public £6, in advance. £9 on the day

1<sup>st</sup> Nov-21<sup>st</sup> Dec Intl. Photographer of the Year Exhibition Cambridge University

Botanic Gardens CB2 1JE 01223 336265

1<sup>st</sup> November Provender Nurseries' Allotment Day Swanley BR8 7PS 9am-3pm

4<sup>th</sup> Nov Westcombe Woodlands Volunteer Day. Maze Hill Gate 10-1pm

### Top Tips for October

- 1 Rake up fallen leaves from the lawn regularly and load into wire netting bin to make leaf-mould for next year. If possible mow the leaves first, before storing.
- 2 Cut down untidy herbaceous perennials but leave attractive seedheads eg. grasses, sedums and achillea for winter interest and some for feeding birds eg. cardoons.
- 3 Net ponds to protect against falling leaves.
- 4 Take hardwood cuttings from gooseberries & currants. Insert into slit trenches or pots
- 5 Sow sweet peas indoors for early blooms. Next spring move them to a cold frame to prevent leggy growth.
- 6 Prune tall plants eg lavatera, to avoid wind rock and winter damage.
- 7 Apply grease bands to fruit tree trunks and stakes to control winter moth.
- 8 Plant garlic cloves, tips upwards, leaving 12" between the rows.
- 9 Make a hedgehog hibernating box from a sturdy, insulated box and site in sheltered, shady spot in your garden
- 10 Move established shrubs now, planting as soon as possible. Water in well.

### New Plants on the Market

Autumn is a great time to put in new plants and, of course, everyone likes to try new varieties. I came across this website which shows some interesting new introductions: [www.hortweek.com/new-plants](http://www.hortweek.com/new-plants).

Speaking personally, a plant, which is new to me this year, has become a real favourite. I have grown a pot of 3 Nemesia "Wisley Vanilla", which I keep just outside my back door. All summer there has been a profusion of delicate, small, white flowers with a sensational vanilla scent for me to enjoy. Although it is now October they are still in flower! They can be grown in sun and partial shade. Look out for plug plants in garden centres next May.

### Gibbons Rent SE1 2EL

This is a green oasis nestled among the gentrified warehouses of Bermondsey, overshadowed by the glass and metal pillar that is The Shard. If you find yourself in the area near London Bridge, look out for this previously unloved alleyway that has been transformed by local residents. Gibbons Rent lies between Magdalen Street and Hollyrood Street.

### Plants Good for Pollinators

You might like to choose plants to attract more bees into your garden so here are a few to choose from:

Coneflower, cornflower, cosmos cotoneaster, crocus, daffodil, dead nettle, delphinium, dicentra, dog rose, echinacea, escallonia, everlasting sweet pea, flowering currant, forget-me-not, foxglove, fuchsia, globe thistle, gooseberry, grape hyacinth, ground ivy, hawthorn, hebe, hellebore, hollyhock, lungwort, lupin, mahonia, mallow, majoram, meadow clary, meadow cranesbill, melilot, michaelmas daisy, mint, mock orange, nasturtium, oriental poppy, ox-eye daisy, pear, penstemon, phacelia, phlox, pieris, plum, poppy, privet...pew!

I'm sure you will all remember, where possible; go for single flowers as bees have trouble finding the nectar (and pollen) in double flowers.

### The Big Bug Hunt

"The Big Bug Hunt" is an international research project using reports from gardeners like you to track how bugs and pests spread

Help collect sightings of common pests, to enable scientists to predict when to expect infestations. ( eg. aphids ) [www.bigbughunt.com](http://www.bigbughunt.com)

### Horn Fair 15<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Charlton House

Thank you to all members who contributed plants and helped to sell them at yesterday's Horn Fair. Thank you also to all of the committee who staffed the table and worked tirelessly to run the stall and raise money for the society.

Well over £200 was raised.

At our next meeting, on 20<sup>th</sup> November, Mr Tim Anderson will speak on "Maryon Park - The Hidden Garden."

Viv Parson

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