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Vice Chair Kathy Aitken
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Membership



President Nicolas Bevan
Vice President Joyce Snipp
Vice President Jillian Smith

Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019

Welcome to our 2019 AGM and Bring and Buy and plant sale. The agenda for the AGM this evening is as follows:

- 1 Chair's welcome.
- 2 To receive apologies for absence.
- 3 To confirm minutes of the 2018 AGM.
- 4 To receive the Chair's review of 2018.
- 5 To receive the Treasurer's report for 2018.
- 6 To elect officers and committee for 2018/2019.
- 7 To present the Show Table cup.
- 8 Any other business.

The Treasurer's annual financial statement is shown at the end of this Newsletter. The minutes of last years 2018 AGM are on the website and copies are available for those who don't have access and would like one.

Membership subscriptions can be paid tonight, but please do this after the business of the AGM is completed. Please check the address/e-mail/phone details we have for you carefully before signing the forms! Show your receipt at the March meeting to collect your membership card for 2019. We have an exciting programme of talks for 2019, all details are on the Noticeboard tonight as well as our website.

Dates for your diary

- **Leonardslee**, near Horsham, one of the UK's most renowned spring gardens, reopens under new ownership in April and the gardens will be open to the public for the first time in a decade.
- **Pierre Bonnard: The Colour of Memory**, 23 January - 6 May, Tate Modern, reflects the artist's interest in gardens and gardening.
- **Kew Gardens - Orchid Festival** until 10th March. Celebrate the colour of Colombia in the Princess of Wales conservatory. Included in entry fee (£15-18).
- **Yew Tree Cottage, Penshurst** - 27th Feb, 12-5pm, open for the NGS, £3. Snowdrops, hellebores and Spring bulbs.
- **The RHS** is holding a series of displays from 4 February - 4 March on the ways in which people have thought about the healing powers of plants. At Wisley, Rosemoor, Hyde Hall and Harlow Carr.

- **London Parks & Gardens Trust** - 11 March, 6.30pm, 77 Cowcross St (near the Barbican) - "The Shirley Wilderness" a talk about the development of the Shirley poppy. Tickets £12.
- **Blackheath Flower Club** - 15 March, Mycenae House 2pm, Graham Harmer will be demonstrating. Visitors welcome, £6.
- **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**, Natural History Museum until 30 June. This is mainly animals of course, but it includes some stunning pictures of plants and flowers.

Monty Don is presenting a two-part series on Japanese gardens, the first episode was on 15th Feb, BBC2 at 9pm, well worth "catching up" if you missed it, and the next one is next Friday 22nd Feb.

Winter in Vija's garden

Now is the time to order seeds and chit early potato varieties. In my garden *Viburnum bodnantense* is in flower and also *Sarcococca* (sweet box) - both are highly scented. I have a winter flowering clematis 'Freckles' on a tripod at the bottom of my garden. It is an absolute pleasure, but I think needs to be closer to the house to be fully appreciated at this time of year!

And I have discovered mice have made a home in my seed store this winter. They have enlarged one of the drawer holes for better access!



Pat's 10 jobs for February:

- 1 Now is the time to prune Wisteria and Campsis by cutting back the sideshoots to two to three buds. This can be done again in July after flowering.
2. Cut back late summer and autumn flowering clematis (Group 3 eg viticella type) to 30cm or 12 inches above ground level and feed with a little bone meal and mulch well with compost.
3. Prune back winter flowering jasmine once the flowers fade and remove any dead or diseased wood while tying in the main stems.
4. Prune Calamagrostis and other cool-season ornamental grasses down to ground level before the new shoots start to emerge
5. Mulch shrubs, trees and hedges after pruning, with well rotted compost
6. Lift and divide clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites once they finish flowering planting at the same level they were at before. Or bring them in for the Plant Sales table of course!

7. Sow hardy annuals now if you have a greenhouse to get a head start on those you will direct sow in March.
8. Autumn fruiting raspberries bear fruit on new canes so chop all stems down to the ground now. Summer fruiting types fruit on year old canes so don't cut these back yet.
9. Tidy strawberry plants by taking off the old dead leaves and removing any runners.
10. Buy in pot grown primroses and bulbs in flower and add to containers as these early flowers help support bees roused early from hibernation (and look lovely!).

Unusual Seeds

If you are a member of the RHS, don't forget you can order up to 15 packets of seed from them for £8.50 up to 31 March. They have a lovely seed catalogue of 175 different species to choose from. Search for */rhs-members-seed-scheme*

Outings

We have sold most of the tickets for our first outing of the year to Wisley, just a few left so book asap. Our second visit will be to Chenies Manor on 14 July. Members who are interested should buy their tickets soon and before the end of March to secure a place.

Oak Processionary Moth spread

You may have seen this in the news recently, especially as Chelsea has banned all oak trees to try to contain the spread of the toxic moth. It is known to be in the Greater London area now and is a Forestry Commission notifiable pest. We have pictures on the noticeboard, to help make sure you can recognise it (and don't touch!).

It's National Nest Box Week!

The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) asks you to celebrate this from 14-21st February by putting up a nest box to help the birds. Good timing as it has turned so mild lately.

Provender

With the planting season just beginning in earnest, members may like to take advantage of our association with Provender nursery. Committee members hold cards, which allows us to buy plants on a discounted basis, and these are available for short term borrowing.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting, on March 18th, will be a talk on Greenwich Park by Jim Buttress. As Jim is a bit of a garden "celebrity", and it's a very nice local interest topic, we would like to make a real effort at advertising this meeting widely and hopefully reach more potential members. There are lots of flyers by the Noticeboards, please do take one and let friends, neighbours and perhaps your local shops know about this.

There will be a coffee morning meeting at Charlton House café on the first Monday of the month as usual, March 4th at 11am, all welcome.



Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society

Founded 1950

68th FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Year ended 31st December 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Members' Subscriptions	1120	820	780
Raffle Profit	430	341	341
Sales Table	475	546	308
Bank Interest	—	—	2
Garden Visits	69	163	—
Donations (net)	—	71	—
Plant Fairs	394	487	130
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£2,488</u>	<u>£2,428</u>	<u>£1,561</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Hire of Rooms	400	354	331
Speakers	325	394	456
Affiliation Fees	147	142	137
Public Liability Insurance	75	70	70
Photocopying	208	191	173
Printing & Stationery etc	65	116	161
Refreshments (net)	36	63	58
Miscellaneous	30	146	40
Donations (net)	57	—	28
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£1,343</u>	<u>£1,476</u>	<u>£1,454</u>
NET PROFIT	<u>£1,145</u>	<u>£952</u>	<u>£107</u>

FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31st December 2018

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
	£	£	£
ASSETS			
Community Inst. Res. Account	—	—	2071
Current Account	5921	4779	1762
Cash in Hand	13	10	4
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£5,934</u>	<u>£4,789</u>	<u>£3,837</u>
LIABILITIES			
Balance brought forward	4789	3837	3730
Net Profit	1145	952	107
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>£5,934</u>	<u>£4,789</u>	<u>£3,837</u>