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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
Founded 1950  
[www.cabahs.wordpress.com](http://www.cabahs.wordpress.com)



## NEWSLETTER JULY 2019

Tonight we are holding our annual informal **Gardener's Question Time**. We have received a number of questions from members and our panellists will endeavour to answer them. You, our members, have a wealth of gardening experience and contributions from the floor are welcome! We will follow the same format as last year, which proved successful and will also have a display of pictures from members' gardens on screen for everyone to enjoy.

As last year, we are giving you a half yearly report to accompany the Newsletter, which we hope you find interesting reading.

Proceeds from our Plant Sales this month will be donated to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice again, so please bring & buy plants generously. As before, we ask that you give our volunteers time and space to set up, and please note that we do not sell or reserve plants until everything is ready.

The **Mycenae House Summer Extravaganza** is coming up soon on Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup>, 12-5pm. We are looking for people to donate plants and to help on the stall. A member of the committee can collect plants on the Friday/Saturday before if that helps, or bring your plants to the event before it begins (label clearly so that we can organise quickly). We do hope you can come along to the event, it was very successful last year and has a nice "local" feel to it, which is quite hard to achieve in London. Food, music and craft stalls. Street parking is free on a Sunday.

### Dates for your diary (also see What's On page of our website)

- **Blackheath Flower Arranging Society**, 19 July, 2pm at Mycenae House: Clarissa Harris demonstrating.
- **Gardener's Cabinet: Andy Sturgeon** - every season at the Garden Museum, Tim Richardson hosts a 'Gardeners' Cabinet' to learn the secrets of what makes great gardeners tick. 17 September, 7-8pm. Tickets are £25 and need to be booked in advance with the Garden Museum.
- **National Park City festival - 20-28 July**  
London is celebrating becoming a "National Park City" and will have several events, including open roof gardens on 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> July.
- **120 Fenchurch Street** roof garden, including Jennifer Steinkamp's wonderful artwork "Botanic" inspired by the Stanford wildflower seeding project. Free.

- **Beckenham Place Park** re-launch 20 July, 12-7pm. Lewisham's largest park and swimming lake is officially opening, a good family day out.
- **Great Comp Summer Show** - 10-11 August, 11 - 5pm, Plant stalls.

### **Pat's 10 jobs for July:**

1. Summer prune wisteria either this month or next by cutting back whippy shoots to 5 or 6 buds from main stem.
2. Prune large rambler roses now if they've finished flowering to keep within bounds unless you want to retain flowering stems for autumn hips
3. Prune early summer flowering shrubs such as weigela and philadelphus by cutting back to strong lower shoots and thinning out a third of woody stems
4. Lift and divide bearded iris retaining young pieces with leaves then trim and replant making sure the rhizomes are not buried. Discard old woody rhizomes
5. Sow biennial herbs now for winter such as parsley, coriander and chervil
6. Start to lift garlic if the foliage is more yellow than green and hang up to dry in a sunny place
7. Tomato plant side shoots draw energy from the plant so pinch off as soon as they appear
8. Stop picking rhubarb now but water and mulch plants well
9. Sow carrots now for winter and thin out for large carrots
10. Make a woodpile in a corner of your garden to encourage shelter for wildlife. We had 5 toads under ours at the allotments.

### **Help wanted**

There is a rota on the Noticeboard tonight, for anyone who feels they can help out with either selling raffle tickets or with serving refreshments occasionally. If enough people sign up, you will only be called on a couple of times a year and it would really help relieve the Committee a bit.

### **Pond Life**

The RHS has been running a great "wild about gardens" campaign recently. Adding a pond, large or small, is one of the best things you can do for wildlife in your garden.

Of course it's great if you can fit in a good sized, deep pond (like Monty's!) - but even a washing-up bowl or old sink can be re-purposed as a mini pond, providing wildlife can get in/out. The RHS leaflet about ponds is on the Noticeboard tonight, and on our website. Lots of garden centres sell beautiful aquatic plants, Thomsons in Shooters Hill has some good ones. The more toads, frogs and dragonflies you can encourage to the garden, the less real "gardeners" pests there will be.

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, when Simon Sutcliffe from How Green Nursery will be telling us about Growing Plants for Chelsea.

Contact us on: [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com)