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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com



NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019

Our talk this evening is from Stephen Harmer, author and Head Gardener at Tonbridge School, about **The Plant Hunters**. There will also be the usual Plant Sales, Raffle, Refreshments and the Show Table.

All proceeds from our Plant Sales this month will be donated to the **Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice**, so please bring and buy plants generously!

Please note that we can't start selling plants until 7.30pm. So if you arrive earlier we would be grateful if you would take a seat and give our volunteers some space and time to set everything up.

The Show Table should be in full view tonight and we are expecting a great June display (despite the rain!) so do go and admire everything.

Next meeting (July 15th) is our Amateur Gardeners Question Time. If you haven't yet, please send in your questions (to the CABAHS e-mail or hand them in at tonight's meeting) so we have time to do some research.

Parksfest Summer Extravaganza, Mycenae House is on Sunday 28th July, 12.00 – 5.30. We would be grateful for any donations of plants, especially those in flower. Also looking for volunteers to help on the stall, it's always a great day out.

Anna has written this about the visit to Greenwich Campus Roof Gardens:

Our party of 17 met in the foyer at 11am after a chat and coffee in the adjacent campus coffee shop. Dr Benzion Kotzen, our charming host and guide, escorted us up to the eastern elevation of the roof space. This area houses the solar panels and a thin layer of grass aimed to attract wildlife. At the viewing platform on the western elevation of the roof we were able to look down at some of the gardens.

The rear of the building has been staggered in height and this has led to the opportunity to create several roof gardens.

*We were led down to the third floor and entered a sheltered south-east and generous-sized, sociable patio garden, housing several tables and chairs and a chess set. Its deep flower border was looking stunning, which included clumps of tall spires of soft cream-coloured *Verbascum* 'Gainsborough'.*

On our tour we were shown a garden plot with rows of herbs etc. and espalier quince trees: an absolutely beautiful wildlife area with a large, natural-looking pond with mature shrubbery; a stunning, wildflower daisy meadow in full flower; a narrow terrace

of trees and alliums (the irises were long over); and a small west-facing Mediterranean courtyard and alliums. The majority of these gardens were protected by mature hedging on the eastern elevation.

Our enthusiastic host also showed us the fish tanks, the model-making workshops and a lecture theatre. The gardens are not open to the public so we felt very privileged to visit.

Dates for your diary

- **George Rowlett: Paintings of Sarah Price's Garden at the Garden Museum until 4 August.**
- **Borde Hill Garden, Rose talk and tour. 20 June, 10.30 - 2pm (£29 RHS members).**
- **Charlton Community Garden: 22 June from 1pm: Plant Sale and join in mulching the Café Orchard bed if you like!**
- **Hall Place, Bexley : 23 June, 10-3pm Plant Fair**
- **The RHS have introduced a Grow Your Own app - designed for a range of skill levels it will give advice. Free at rhs.org.uk/gyoapp.**
- **Blackheath Flower Arranging Society, 21 June, 2pm at Mycenae House: Jane Patterson demonstrating.**
- **NGS Open garden 13 and 14 July, 11-5pm, £4, 226 Conisborough Crescent, Catford SE6 2SF. This is new members Alex & Joe's garden!**

Pat's 10 jobs for June:

1. Roses have been spectacular this year but deadhead regularly to keep the display going by making a slanting cut on the stem above a leaf
2. Deadhead all other perennials too to keep them flowering always making a cut above a leaf node
3. Make sure that you are staking everything that is not already done as recent heavy rain soon makes everything flop over and its surprising how heavy stems become
4. Be vigilant about looking for slugs and snails which can devastate plants after rain
5. Remove faded flowers on camellias and rhododendrons by pinching off flower heads without damaging new buds
6. Plant out dahlia tubers either in the ground or in containers but watch out for slugs and snails which love the emerging fresh foliage
7. Make sure you have pinched out the tips on broad beans to help prevent blackfly although mine are infested and I squish them off with water. These easily spread to other crops, especially beans
8. Remove runners from strawberry plants which diverts energy from the emerging fruit but they can be pegged into the ground or pots to increase stock as plants are usually only good for about 4 years
9. Harvest lettuce, chards, kales and spinach regularly or they will quickly run to seed
10. Tie in shoots of runner beans to their supports until they are ready to climb up and make sure supports are strong enough. Mine all fell over last year and I couldn't get them back up!

And one last reminder: could members, as far as is reasonable, bring loose change with them to pay for plants, raffle tickets and refreshments? We find we are struggling sometimes to find change!

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com