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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019

Tonight we welcome Simon Sutcliffe from How Green Nursery, who will be talking to us about his experience of growing plants for Chelsea.

Our Annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Display will be held on 16 September at 7.30 in Charlton House library and will include the following classes:

- 1 Vase of flowers, 3 stems of 1 cultivar.
- 2 Bowl of mixed flowers
- 3 Vase of shrubs or foliage, 3 or more stems, mixed.
- 4 Vase of dried seed heads
- 5 5 Fuchsia blooms, 1 or more cultivars (flower heads only, containers supplied).
- 6 Ornamental pot plant (incl. cacti & succulents).
- 7 Display of fruit, 1 or more types.
- 8 Display of vegetables, 1 or more types.
- 9 Tomatoes (dish of 5).
- 10 Display of herbs.
- 11 Preserves: jam, jelly or marmalade, chutney or relish.
- 12 Baking: **Apple and Cinnamon Loaf** (pick up the recipe tonight).
- 13 Floral arrangement in a **jam jar or can** from your food cupboard.
- 14 Competition: Potatoes (washed, in named transparent bag).
- 15 Competition: Fuchsia pot plant (grown from plug supplied last Spring).

Entry is open to all members and you can enter as many classes as you like. Please have a go at something, remember this is not a high level RHS show, the emphasis is on a fun display not perfection!

On **18 November** we will be hosting **Nick Bailey** for his talk on '365 days of colour'. Please note that this will be a ticketed event. A lot of interest has already been expressed and members are encouraged to book their place this evening, as we anticipate that tickets will sell quickly. Ticket price of £5 will include free refreshments and raffle. On sale after tonight's talk.

A huge thank you to all who contributed plants and helped on the day to make our stand at the **Mycenae House Summer Extravaganza** such a success. If you have not already read the details on the website: we made an astonishing £510 from plant sales. It was encouraging to see some visitors returning from the previous year and

we had lots of compliments on our plant quality. The **Horn Fair at Charlton House** will be on **20 October** and we aim to run a stall as in previous years. We would be grateful for plant donations and help on the stall, let a member of the committee know, or email us, if you are interested.

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

- **Mottingham Horticultural Society Show** - Sat, August 24th 2.30-5pm at Eltham College.
- **NGS Open Garden** September 7th, 11-5pm, 226 Conisborough Crescent Catford SE6 2SF - this is the garden of new members Alex and Joe. If you didn't see it on the previous opening in July, it is well worth a visit!
- **NGS Open Garden** September 1st, 2-5.30. 24 Grove Park SE5 8LH.
- Take a look at **The Tide**, a network of elevated spaces in North Greenwich, which includes a floating garden. Check greenwichpeninsula.co.uk/the_tide.
- **Kew Gardens** - Chihuly Reflections on Nature, glass sculptures - on until October 27th and well worth a visit.

Pat's 10 jobs for July:

1. Now is the ideal time to take cuttings from penstemons and salvias etc, which are really easy and will have time to make decent sized plants before winter.
2. Keep spring flowering shrubs like rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas well watered now or they will fail to make good buds for next years flowers
3. Trim lavender now, and it should flower again before autumn
4. To keep rambling roses manageable, thin out one in three of the oldest stems tying in new shoots and shorten sideshoots by one third. I pruned Rambling Rector four weeks ago and it has rocketed again!
5. Collect seeds from perennials and hardy annuals like poppies and nigella. Make sure they are completely dry before storing in paper bags for next spring.
6. Spring sown or planted onions and shallots are ready for lifting when their foliage turns yellow and falls over. Dry bulbs for two weeks in a sunny place before storing in a cool dry place.
7. Cordon tomatoes should be 'stopped' once four trusses have set outside and six trusses under glass to allow the fruit to ripen. Do this by removing the tip of the main stem two leaves above the top truss.
8. Harvest runner beans and French beans while young and tender before they become those awful things they sell in shops!
9. Complete summer pruning of apple and pear trees this month by shortening any lateral stems longer than 8 inches (20 cm)
10. Allow some flowering and vegetable plants to run to seed to provide food for birds and other wildlife.

POTATO competition - Cut down stems as they turn brown and allow 2 weeks before digging up the potatoes. Allow to dry on the soil surface for a couple of hours.

HOLIDAYS! A note for this holiday season: the RHS is calling on holidaymakers not to bring plants back from abroad to keep our UK plants healthy.

We are still struggling with the plants sales table! Please note that this does not open until 7.30, to allow members to set up. We will not sell or reserve plants until everything is set up and ready.

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com