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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

Grow Friends, Grow Fit ... Grow a Garden!

This evening we welcome Russell Bowes, whose talk is titled 'Dig for Victory'. Russell is a freelance garden historian, garden tour guide and researcher.

Remember to pick up a seed potato this evening, to enter in our Autumn Show. Please also remember to renew your membership for the coming year, or if you have done so already, you can collect your membership card this evening.

Vija asks: Is it spring yet?

From February to March in 2018 and 2019 we experienced a terrific 'cold snap' dubbed 'the Beast from the East' and a number of us were concerned that we would have few entries for our Spring Show. Apart from being soaking wet, with record levels of rainfall, this year has been very mild. With plants in flower everywhere, we may find that we have bloomed too early this year! The Rip van Winkle narcissi that I bought last year from Rose Cottage Plants are looking beautiful, next to a low growing Acer which is just coming into leaf. A photo is posted on our website.

Regarding **Coronavirus**, we are assuming meetings as normal for now but will follow Government guidelines and let you know by e-mail (or phone) if there are cancellations.

Classes for our Spring Flower Show - April 20th

- 1 DAFFODILS / NARCISSI - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
- 2 TULIPS - 3 stems, one or more cultivars
- 3 SHRUBS, FLOWERING - 3 stems of any cultivar except Camellias
- 4 CAMELLIA, AZALEA or RHODODENDRON - one stem
- 5 SMALL VASE OF MIXED SPRING FLOWERS
- 6 ANY POT-GROWN PLANT (indoor or outdoor)
- 7 POT OF SPRING BULBS
- 8 PIPIT DAFFODILS - competition
- 9 TEA CUP Floral Display - arrange at home, flowers from garden or shop.

Please bring your own containers, but water is available at Charlton House for cut stems.

Garden Visits:

You can sign up for the Beth Chatto visit on Friday May 1st tonight, £23.50 for coach and garden entry, see Anna or Pat.

Notes for your diary

- **Great Comp Spring Fling and Plant Fair** 19 April 11am - 5pm.
- **RHS Lindley Library**, 16 March - 12 June, *Enduring Beauty: The orchid portraits of the RHS*.
- **Good Gardeners of Planet Earth**, a talk by Jim Endersby at Gresham Halls, 23 March, 7.00.
- **Hayward Gallery 4 March - 17 May**, *The Exhibition Among the Trees* explores new ways of capturing the beauty of trees.
- **The Garden Museum**. *Sanctuary: Artist-Gardeners 1919-1939*, an exhibition of the 'golden age' of garden painting, 26 February - 5 April. And on 7 April a talk by Beth Marshall 'Grow yourself healthy', which chimes with our anniversary logo!
- **Chiswick Camellia Show**, 27 February - 22 March. Their 10th anniversary.
- **Hall Place Plant Fair**, 19 April 10am - 3pm.
Please check our website for more events.

Pat's 10 jobs for March:

1. Time now to divide overcrowded perennials such as phlox and rudbeckia and replant elsewhere or bring in for the plant sale table.
2. Remove and replace the top 2 inches of compost in permanently planted pots of perennials and shrubs and give them a slow release feed.
3. Cut back last years growth on any remaining grasses to make way for new shoots.
4. Deadhead daffodils as they fade but allow the foliage to die back naturally.
5. Finish pruning Hybrid Tea and floribunda roses and give them a feed with a general purpose food and give them a good mulch with compost or grass clippings.
6. Prune coloured stems of Cornus so that growth comes through for next year which will be much brighter in colour.
7. Chit your seed potatoes by placing on a tray (empty egg boxes are good) and leaving in a bright place which is frost free. Plant in early to mid April.
8. Fruit trees and bushes need a good feed this month with either a general purpose food such as bonemeal or pelleted chicken manure and mulch. I use sulphate of potash with good results.
9. Indoors a wide variety of seeds can be sown such as leeks, lettuce, onions and peas.
10. Put nesting material out for birds in a fatball cage such as wool and even hair groomed from pets.

Old Pond Garden restoration project: Huge thank you to all members who have given their precious gardening time to helping weed and tidy the beds. It is looking so much better already, and we just await news about our funding application before deciding what to plant in them. Whether you volunteer or not, please just come and visit these peaceful gardens and enjoy them. Even better, combine with a trip to see the new film of "The Secret Garden" with Julie Walters & Colin Firth, coming out at Easter. Then visit the real thing - we even have a resident robin, singing his heart out most days!

Remember to borrow a Provender card for some good discounts if you are plant shopping.

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com