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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

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

With much of the nation on gardening leave, gardens will be playing a vital part in both the mental well being and physical health of all of us - where we are lucky enough to have access to one. These are challenging times for all of us and CABAHS will be trying to keep you occupied and in touch throughout. Obviously many of our activities have been put on hold, but we will be ready to resume these as soon as restrictions ease and government guidelines permit.

Of course, these restrictions also apply to our Spring Show, but we will be holding this online for the first time in the history of the Society!

Classes for our Spring Flower Show - April 20th

- 1 DAFFODILS / NARCISSI - 3 stems, one or more cultivars OR a pot or clump.
- 2 TULIPS - 3 stems, one or more cultivars OR a pot or clump.
- 3 SHRUB, CLIMBER OR CLEMATIS, flowering
- 4 CAMELLIA, RHODEDENDRON, DAPHNE OR PEONY display
- 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.
- 10.MY GARDEN SCENE

Please submit a photo and send it to the CABAHS email, or WhatsApp/text to 07785 358 538 anytime between now and April 17th. All photos submitted will be loaded to the Shows page over the weekend and will be available to view on Monday 20th April. "Best in Show" will be decided by Members, by popular vote (Class/letter, 1A etc).

Gardening notes

- The NGS have virtual garden tours online and there are also garden tutorials to keep you busy.
- All the talks by Jim Endersby on **Utopian Gardens** are available on the Gresham College website. This includes a number of past lecture series on a range of topics which many may find interesting.
- **The Garden Jungle** by Dave Goulson - a highly recommended book, thought-provoking but an easy read, all about plants, wildlife and gentle environmental issues.

- **Hayward Gallery 4 March - 17 May**, *The Exhibition Among the Trees* explores new ways of capturing the beauty of trees and this is now available online.
- The **Garden Museum** have a range of podcasts and films available, which includes current exhibitions as well as other interesting items.
- **Pineview Plant Nursery** (owner Colin gave us a talk 2 years ago) is selling direct as the road shows have been cancelled. Call him on 01732 882 945 if interested.
- **PlantSavers.co.uk** delivers bundles of plants and donates to the NHS at the same time. They also deliver compost, although expensive at £25 for 120L.
Please check our website for more What's On virtual events and News.

Pat's 10 jobs for April:

1. Make sure to mulch borders with either garden compost, well rotted manure or leaf mould to retain moisture and improve soil texture.
2. Inspect new growth on roses for aphids which can appear quickly in warm dry weather and are easy to disperse with a spray of water before they do any damage.
3. Self sown foxgloves can be dug up carefully and moved to their final flowering position but make sure to water in well. White flowered ones have pure green leaves and pink ones usually have a purplish tinge to the stems and leaves.
4. If you have enough compost, and it's becoming hard to come by, repot house plants into a slightly larger container and water and feed every couple of weeks from now.
5. Now is the time to plant summer flowering bulbs such as Eucomis and Gladioli.
6. Sow annuals this month that prefer to be direct sown, such as Nigella, Larkspur and Calendula into weed free and finely dug drills and mark so as not to disturb them.
7. Make sure all seed potatoes are planted this month, starting with earlies and proceeding with maincrops by mid or end of April, either in the ground and earthed up or in pots to which compost is added once shoots appear.
8. Vegetable seeds can be sown directly into prepared beds now such as carrots, beetroot, spinach and peas. They will need thinning as they come through. I always find that carrots do better in containers and the higher up from the ground the better to avoid carrot fly later on.
9. Please be aware that birds are nesting now so avoid cutting back shrubs where they may be making their home, provide clean drinking water for them and avoid putting out peanuts which could choke baby birds.
- 10 And finally a plea for the specialist nurseries. All the flower shows are being cancelled this year and this is where the small specialist nurseries sell their plants. Please buy from them online and don't use the big wholesale nurseries who will survive anyway. The small ones definitely won't if they don't get your support. The RHS has an A-Z list of exhibitors available (there's a link on the News page of our website).

Plant Swaps/WishLists:

If you can't find seeds/plants or have surplus ones, please email us and we will try to match people up to do swaps. Can't promise, but we have had some success so far!

NHS and Key Workers: If you have been working on the front line during the crisis - (thank you!) and not had time to tend to your garden, please let us know if you would like our members to grow some plants for you, ready for Afterwards.

Happy gardening all!

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com