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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
Founded 1950

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[www.cabahs.wordpress.com](http://www.cabahs.wordpress.com)

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## NEWSLETTER MAY 2020

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

This is the second Newsletter to be distributed without our monthly members' meeting. We have been extraordinarily lucky with the weather so far, which has helped to lift the spirits of many, although I am sure many gardeners are now hoping for a spot of rain!

We had a wonderful response to the Spring Show! 32 members submitted almost 100 photos of their flowers and gardens, with Faith C. winning Best in Show.

As part of our Anniversary, our Treasurer, Ron, is working on a Review of the last 70 years of CABAHS. He would like to include a section for Members' Memories - please send in your stories and anecdotes. All members, whether long standing or recent, can contribute as this is for posterity - all details will be interesting to members in another 70 years time!

A while ago, we asked you to complete a Members Feedback survey. This is useful to the committee as it helps us when considering what kinds of subjects might be interesting when looking for speakers. The results are published in full on our website, but a brief summary is below:

- 81% of our members have a lawn, 94% have a flower border, but only 28% have a vegetable bed. 89% grow plants in containers, 32% have a pond and 51% a compost heap.
- 85% of us buy plants from Garden Centres, 36% from stores & supermarkets and 26% online. Just under half of us buy from Specialist Nurseries.
- 72% sow seeds and take cuttings. 64% of us feed the birds and are interested in attracting wildlife. Thank you everyone who took part.

### Gardening notes

- Don't forget the **RHS Chelsea Flower Show** is on TV from the 18<sup>th</sup> May, covering shows of the last decade and items on plants and nurseries.
- The **Garden Museum** continue their interesting range of videos and podcasts. A recent addition is one on Beth Chatto.
- Fergus Garrett is delivering online lectures using Zoom. It costs £15 to register and they are incredibly informative.
- **Charlton Community Garden - plant sale** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 4.30-6.30pm. As part of your daily exercise, enjoy a walk around Charlton and buy plants en route! Eastcombe Ave, Sandtoft Rd, Bramshot Ave, Inverine Rd and Elliscombe Rd. Map on the website.
- Hospice Open Gardens: Dates are delayed to August, but you are invited to send

in a 2 minute video of your garden, so they can make a compilation virtual tour. Call Tim Barnes for info (0208 858 1185) or see our website.

- Anna has donated lots of seeds of *Eccremocarpus* (see the Blog page for her article). E-mail [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com) if you would like some. Mixed pink and yellow.
- The **London Parks and Gardens Trust** has a number of interesting videos of the parks and gardens of the city.

*Please check our website for more events.*

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

1. Make sure all those straggly perennial plants hanging around the garden getting potbound, are planted either in the ground or in pots if you don't have the space to make a good show for later on.
2. Finish doing the Chelsea Chop on perennials such as penstemon, phlox and hylotelephium (sedum) by cutting down to above a leaf joint. This makes for a much sturdier, compact plant although flowers will be later and smaller. If you don't want to do the whole plant just do part of it to extend the flowering season. It's particularly good for tall plants that flop.
3. Slugs and snails are particularly active now and you will find them lying happily under and around pots awaiting your removal to elsewhere\* (see note below).
4. Inspect shrubs in pots for scale insects, which I find particularly bad on my Viburnum bodnantense "Dawn" that are being farmed by ants. They are easily removed by hand although somewhat time consuming.
5. We have been lulled into a false sense of security by the recent warm weather but it is now turning cold, particularly at night, so protect seedlings by bringing under cover or cover with fleece at night.
6. I pinch out the sappy shoots of late flowering clematis to make for more flowering shoots later on and don't forget to keep feeding them with a high potash feed but do stop once flowering commences as it will reduce the flowering time.
7. Pot up your annual seedlings of both vegetables like tomatoes and annuals such as zinnias, nicotiana and others leaving out to harden off during the day, bringing them in at night until they are a more substantial size.
8. Be aware of nesting birds who are now feeding their young. I have some great tits in an urn and if I forget and get too close to their nest they swoop at me as a warning to keep away. I also have black caps in some shrubbery next door.
9. Sadly, spring bulbs are coming to an end and my weekend job is to remove my tulips from their pots as they don't do well in pots the following year although narcissi seem to. Some tulips will survive in the ground for following years, although never seem to flower so well in mine.
10. Sow courgettes, pumpkins, squashes and all types of beans this month for planting out at the end of the month when things warm up at night. Hopefully garden centres will open soon and we'll be able to stock up on supplies.

(\* Kathy says her "elsewhere" is in a bag, in the freezer and then in the green bin..)

**NHS and Key Workers:** If you have been working and not had time to tend to your garden, please drop us a line if you would like our members to grow some plants for you.

Happy gardening all and take care!  
Contact us on: [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com)

