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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2020

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

As a committee we are working hard to continue to engage the interest of our members. Kathy's emails provide updates and also direct readers to our website where there is more information. We continually create new items for the website, including weekly blog entries and our monthly Newsletter continues a long tradition of communication with members. As noted before, our Treasurer Ron is working on a Review of the last 70 years of CABAHS and old Newsletters provide a wealth of information, enabling him to build up a picture of what was interesting and going on at the time. Please feel free to send in anything of interest for the website or history.

As we had such a good response to the Spring Show we decided to include an additional Show just for this year. We will hold an online **Summer Show** instead of a meeting, on **July 20th**. Detailed instructions on how to enter will follow and we hope there will be another excellent response! The show will comprise of the following classes:

1. Photograph of your garden border.
2. Vase of flowers.
3. Photograph of a pot plant, indoor or outdoor.
4. The star performer in your garden.
5. A container display.

We will also be holding a **monthly quiz**, which will appear on the website on the first Monday of each month, beginning in July. Be ready!

As lockdown is gradually easing, we are planning to hold a **Plant Stall**, probably at Charlton House, at the **end of July** or early August. We will be asking for as many donated plants to sell as possible, and of course hope you will come and buy some too.

Gardening notes

- **The Garden Museum** continue their interesting range of videos and podcasts. Christopher Woodward is doing a huge sponsored swim to raise money for the museum. Like many others, it dearly needs support.
- Although a number of the NGS gardens are now open (booking is essential) they continue with their virtual garden tours and tutorials online.
- Fergus Garrett is delivering online lectures using Zoom. It costs £15 to register and they are incredibly informative.
- Noel Kingsbury and Annie Guilfoyle have created a series of **Garden Masterclasses** on YouTube. Although these seem rather amateurish at times, they include lengthy interviews with, for example, the head gardener at West Dean,

Fergus Garrett, Dan Pearson and many others and have lovely views of the gardens they describe.

- **The Royal Academy** have a video series exploring artists' gardens, including Emile Nolde, Max Liebermann, Pierre Bonnard and several others. And, of course, Monet's garden at Giverny. A little escapism.
- **The Garden Podcast** continues and includes a lovely interview with Jekka McVicar about ways to get the most from herbs. Download at rhs.org.uk/the-garden-podcast.

Please check our website for more events.

Pat's 10 jobs for June:

1. Ensure all dahlias are planted out before the middle of month after being hardened off but watch out for slugs and snails who just love those fresh shoots.
2. Finish planting annual flowers by the beginning of the month (now!) after hardening off or you won't get a good show until it's too late.
3. Continue deadheading all types of roses to keep them looking good. Use sharp secateurs to cut off the flowers down to the first leaf beneath flower. Mine have been lovely so far and the scented varieties are lovely in a vase.
4. Tie in shoots of clematis to trellis or supports or allow to clamber up a shrub as if left untethered they can snap easily in the winds that we've had recently or get battered by heavy rain which can do a lot of damage to flowers on everything.
5. Collect hellebore seeds from your favourite plants once the capsules split to reveal the seeds and sow immediately but wear gloves as the sap can be an irritant. Look out also for self sown seedlings which you can transplant elsewhere (*or pot up for sale!*).
6. Prune shrubs such as camellia, rhododendron and weigela immediately after flowering and keep well watered throughout the summer.
7. Remove strawberry runners now and pot up if rooted or place on top of pots of compost and pin down until they root to increase your stock. Plants only really are good for four years at the most.
8. Sweetcorn can now be hardened off and planted out. It relies on wind for pollination so plant in blocks, not in rows, spacing plants about 16 inches apart.
9. Top fruit such as apples and pears should start to shed some small fruits, known as the June drop, and is nature's way of thinning the fruit and allowing the rest to develop to a good size.
10. Ladybirds and birds should take care of heavy infestations of aphids and provide them with a vital food source but if that's not working a gentle squirt with water should dislodge some of them at least without resorting to chemicals.

Happy gardening all and take care!

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com