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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 JULY 2020

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

Looking back at our July Newsletters from previous years it is sad to see how many of our activities we have been unable to continue with in 2020. This time last year we were preparing for the Mycenae House Summer Extravaganza and asking members to donate plants to our stall there. Anna was busy organizing the trip to Chenies Manor and Jenny was already drawing up a list of speakers for the following (this) year. As a committee we were looking ahead to planning for the Horn Fair at Charlton House later in the year and thinking about the classes for the Autumn Show.

We are very much looking forward to being able to host our speakers again, whether via Zoom, or in a socially distanced environment at Charlton House. We are thinking that the members' evening on 17 August will be a Gardener's Question Time session. If Charlton House has been able to re-open, this will be held in the Old Library as usual; alternatively, we will hold the event via Zoom. *In preparation, please begin to send questions to CABAHS email this week so that we have a good set ready for the day.*

We are planning a REAL (not virtual!) Plant Stall on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>, from 11 am. This will be held in the Charlton House Old Pond Garden, so we are looking for plant donations and help on the stall. As long as the weather is good, we hope to combine the plant sale with a picnic in the grounds for members and friends. A social (distance) occasion to look forward to! *Please contact CABAHS email if you can help or have plants we can collect.*

At our last meeting, the Committee decided that members might like to make up a gardening limerick and then had some good fun devising gardening limericks ourselves! Here is the one that started it all:

An indolent vicar of Bray,  
His roses allowed to decay.  
His wife more alert,  
Bought a powerful squirt  
And said to her spouse, "Let us spray!"

*Send your gardening limerick to the CABAHS email.*

Please check the website to see the entries for the July Summer Show. And we hope you are enjoying the monthly gardening quiz page!

## Gardening notes

- Check out the videos from **Chawton House**, available free on YouTube. These include the role of the garden in the novels of Jane Austen, a short instruction on how to take photographs of your garden and why getting your feet wet was such a problem in the 18<sup>th</sup> century!
- **Fergus Garrett** is delivering a lecture on 'Integrating annuals and perennials into your borders' on 29 July via Zoom. Booking is essential.
- The **V&A** have a series of online videos, 'Bringing Nature into Your Home', which include some of Constable's paintings.
- **The Garden Museum** has made its celebration of Derek Jarman's garden available on social media. Their website also includes an interesting article on the design and development of Sir Frederick Gibberd's garden.

*Please check our website for more events.*

## Pat's 10 jobs for July:

1. If your lavender has finished flowering and the flowers are turning brown cut back the flowering stem to a leaf joint and you should get another flush before the end of summer
2. Stop feeding clematis once they flower or you will shorten the flowering period but do remember to keep them watered especially if they are not that well established. My supposedly late flowerers have been in flower for weeks! They have been really prolific this year.
3. If you are a very keen dahlia grower then you need to disbud the flower heads to get bigger blooms - but if you are happy with smaller flowers then there's no need.
4. Cuttings will root readily now, especially penstemons, pelargoniums, salvias and others. Place around the edge of a pot of gritty compost and keep in a shaded place for a day or two and don't leave in strong sunlight until they get going.
5. In very dry weather aim to water directly at plant roots and not all over the foliage which can cause scorching to some plants especially in bright sunshine. Mulching helps to conserve moisture.
6. Keep picking sweetpeas and don't allow them to go to seed or they will stop flowering entirely and feed weekly. Watch out for greenfly on tender new shoots which can result in the plants becoming infected with a virus.
7. Make your own comfrey feed by soaking lots of cut up comfrey leaves in water and leaving for three weeks. Then dilute in a watering can and use to feed plants and vegetables. Make sure your bucket has a lid as the smell is most unpleasant but the plants will love it.
8. Continue deadheading all plants in containers to keep them looking good and stop them going to seed.
9. Cut back alchemilla and pulmonaria hard and hopefully get another flush of flowers in a few weeks. Do the same with hardy geraniums too and they will spring back in no time.
10. Don't forget to keep bird baths topped up with fresh water and clean regularly as they can become a source of disease.

Happy gardening all and take care!

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