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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 AUGUST 2020

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

This is proving to be a year for much altered plans, whether it be on an individual basis or as organisations. At our July meeting, the Committee decided that members might like to make-up a gardening limerick - not only were we a little slow at doing this ourselves, we have had little response from our membership (see end of Newsletter, do send more in if these inspire you!). Similarly, the members' evening on 17 August which we proposed as a Gardener's Question Time session, had little interest. We are proposing therefore to host speakers for the remainder of this year via Zoom - we have had several expressions of interest already - and will carry out a 'test' run on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30. This will also be an opportunity for members to meet virtually and exchange ideas. Please see the attached information for details of how to participate.

Our Annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Display will be held on 21 September at 7.30. We are hoping that we will be able to hold this either at Charlton House or in the Charlton Assembly Rooms. All precautions will be strictly observed. This will include the following classes:

1. Vase of flowers, 3 stems of 1 cultivar
2. Bowl of mixed flowers (max. 12"x12")
3. Vase of shrubs or foliage, 3 or more stems, mixed
4. Vase of dried seed heads
5. Five Fuchsia blooms, 1 or more cultivars (flower heads only, containers supplied)
6. Ornamental pot plant (incl. cacti & succulents)
7. Display of fruit, 1 or more type
8. Display of vegetables, 1 or more type
9. Tomatoes (dish of 5)
10. Display of herbs
11. Display of pressed flowers (NEW!)
12. Floral arrangement: an arrangement of home grown flowers in a tea cup
13. Competition: Potatoes (washed, in named transparent bag)

Entry is open to all members and you can enter as many classes as you like. Please note that only members can enter the Show - we have a number of members on our lists who have yet to pay their subscription - this has been an interrupted year and it will have slipped from people's minds, but it would be good to bring this up to date.

With the cancellation of our popular trips this year, Anna has been looking at more local visits to Hall Place, Greenwich Park and the Olympic Park, to be arranged in small groups. We will let you know the details of these as soon as they are finalised.

The plant sale to raise money for the Old Pond Garden at Charlton House on Sunday 9 August went extraordinarily well - it raised £1,070 half of which will go to the restoration of the garden and half to the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice Appeal. Of course thanks must go to all those who contributed plants, to the huge number of people who turned out to help, to the organisers and to the people who came to buy. Check out the CABAHS website "News" page for a video record of the day.

### Gardening notes

- Vita Sackville West's garden at Long Barn is privately owned. If you have been unable to visit, watch the Garden Masterclass video *Long Barn*, where the current owner talks through the history and planting.
- The **Lindley Library** takes a look at orchid portraits in its online exhibition, *Enduring Beauty*, while *Healing Gardens* looks at the medicinal stories of popular garden plants. Visit [rhs.org.uk/digital-collections](http://rhs.org.uk/digital-collections).
- Although **Sussex Prairie Gardens** has canceled its excellent Unusual Plant and Garden Fair this year, it is still hosting a number of other events. Check out [sussexprairies.co.uk](http://sussexprairies.co.uk) for details.
- **The Garden Museum** has a new Google Arts and Culture platform through which you can take a virtual tour of the museum, if you do not feel up to visiting yet! *Please check our website for more events.*

### Pat's 10 jobs for August:

1. Collect seeds from annuals such as nigella, cerinthe and annual poppies and make sure they are perfectly dry before storing in paper envelopes. I save vegetable seeds too which can save quite a bit of money.
2. At this time of year camellias and rhododendrons need plenty of water at the roots to make good buds for next year's flower display. If they don't get it they can drop their buds so be sure to keep well watered in prolonged dry spells.
3. Keep deadheading perennials in the garden for a continuous display except where you want to leave some seeds for the birds to enjoy.
4. In hot weather, make sure you keep your pond topped up but avoid using tapwater if you can and use rain from rain butts where possible. This will stop the water quality changing too dramatically and avoid any increase in algae on the surface.
5. If you want to protect berries from being eaten by birds, cover plants using 4cm gauge netting to avoid trapping any birds or insects and make sure it is tightly stretched.
6. Once veg is cropping productively allow one or two kitchen garden plants to go to seed such as leeks, globe artichokes or brassicas to provide food for birds in autumn.
7. A variety of Chinese vegetables can be sown now to provide autumn and winter pickings including various types of pak choi and chinese cabbage but look out for slugs which love to dine out on them.
8. Look out for reduced bargains at the garden centres and drop these pots into your borders to enliven the display where plants are starting to go over. Move pots around in the garden too where things are beginning to fade or have gone to seed. It can make a real difference.

9. Look out for seedlings of foxgloves and other plants to pot up for using next year or provide for our next plant sale!
10. Deadhead repeat flowering roses regularly for a continued display. With roses that flower only once leave heads to form hips for a colourful autumn display. Roses always benefit from a potash feed to keep going.

Some Limericks (courtesy of committee/google!)

A Charlton gardener called Fred,  
Spends most of his time in his shed,  
He potters about  
And only comes out  
To enter his greenhouse instead!

There once was a person from Charlton  
Who set off on a mission to garden,  
He pulled up a thistle  
And said with a whistle  
So that's why I should put my gloves-on!

There was a young girl in Blackheath  
Who gardened just using her teeth  
She thought she was cool  
Not using a tool  
But the results were beyond belief!

There was an old gardener in Greenwich  
Who grew a great deal of spinach  
She cooked quite a lot  
Then gorged from the pot  
And said this is making my chin-itch!

(That's enough limericks, ed.)

Good Home Wanted:

Finally, member Jean has a Spider Plant which needs a good home if anyone can help. It is apparently 1m spread and 95 cm high, so a large home or conservatory may be needed! Anyone interested (and can collect it from Jean in Blackheath) email as below and we will put you in touch.

Happy gardening all and take care!

Contact us on: [cabahshortisoc@gmail.com](mailto:cabahshortisoc@gmail.com)