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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
Founded 1950

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**NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2020**  
*Grow Friends, Grow Fit ... Grow a Garden!*

The end of the year seems to be creeping up on us very fast, although the lovely weather is allowing us to continue to enjoy life outdoors. On the CABAHS Committee we continue to work hard to engage your interest with activities which fit these difficult times. The visit to Hall Place was successful and we have another planned to Great Comp. (Please note that during September and October RHS members have free access to the gardens). At short notice, three CABAHS members including myself, agreed to open our gardens to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and to provide an opportunity for members to come together. It is probably not the best time of year to open your garden to public view, when plants are no longer at their best, but the event went well and visitors were kind with their comments and I was struck by their generosity. It is something which the Committee have decided we will continue into future years - we simply need small clusters of members gardens!

We had planned that our annual Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Display would be held on 21 September although in a slightly different format, but government guidelines have clarified that it will be extremely difficult for us to hold this at all and to ensure that we stay within the rules. We therefore took the regrettable decision to cancel the Show for this year. Although the Potato competition lives on, if only by photograph!

With the continuing restrictions to the number of people who can gather together, we anticipate holding CABAHS meetings on Zoom for the remainder of 2020. For those of you who have not signed up yet, please do. It is a simple process and no money needs to be paid. Once registered, it is equally easy to participate in a Zoom meeting. If there are those of you who would like help with any of this, do contact a member of the Committee.

It is now possible to comment on the Blog entries on the website. You should click on the heading of the blog you wish to comment on and you will then (if you don't wish to use social media) be asked to give your name and an email address - you can give CABAHS for the latter. We look forward to hearing your views!

Playing catch-up, the Kent Federation has added a new "Members Gardens" page to its website (kentfed.com). The idea is that members and exhibitors can e-mail photos of vegetables - flowers - pot plants - craft - domestics etc. that they are proud of and would like to share. We like to think we were there first!

With many of us taking advantage of the lovely weather and visiting gardens, Anna has contributed the following:

**"Chenies Manor Gardens** looked lovely when CABAHS' members visited during July 2019 for the Rare Plant Fair. But when I visited the gardens on the recent August Bank holiday Monday I thought they looked absolutely exquisite. The gardens are planted up with what seems like hundreds of varieties of dahlias and all labelled. The colours in the sunken garden were dazzling jewel-like, consisting of colour-coordinated shades of purple, wine, and magenta, with an array of flowering salvias, asters, phlox, verbenas etc. to compliment the arrangement. Then there is the white garden, pink border and the hot border set against the warm brickwork of the Manor. The gardens are open Wednesdays and Thursdays 2-5 until the end of October and tickets are obtained online. Afternoon tea (pre-booked) can

be enjoyed in the gardens where the garden furniture is spread out. Very well organised. Not to be missed -see their tulip video."

### Gardening notes

- The **Chelsea Physic Garden** are holding a Houseplant Festival in their embankment location on 10<sup>th</sup> October, 10.30 - 5.30. Booking is essential
- **Great Dixter** is holding its Unusual Plant Fair on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> October. Again booking is essential.
- *Our website has a long list of virtual tours and visits, with podcasts and videos you can subscribe to.*

### Pat's 10 jobs for September:

1. Now is the time to split perennials to either spread around the garden or give away or donate to the sales table when we can have one again!
2. Make sure you keep deadheading dahlias to keep your display going. Dead blooms are pointed, so don't pull off the round ones which are the new ones.
3. Order your spring bulbs soon and then start planting narcissi and others when you can, but don't plant tulips until November
4. Finish taking cuttings of perennials and tender perennials and plant up, as they need a chance to get going before the winter
5. Don't forget to deadhead plants in hanging baskets and window boxes as they may be good for a while to keep going through the autumn
6. Plant up pots for winter interest, the garden centres are full of cyclamen and violas which should see you through
7. Control powdery mildew by removing affected leaves and making sure you water well. Don't add them to the compost heap though. I love Monardas and they are martyrs to it and can look pretty awful this time of year.
8. Help green tomatoes to ripen by removing any leaves that may be shading them from the sun. They still have time to ripen before you start making green tomato chutney!
9. Time to lift your maincrop potatoes. Wash and dry them well before you store in paper sacks in the dark.
10. Try to net ponds now before leaf fall which will pollute the water and turn it green.

### Local Hero

If you visit Blackheath Standard shops, try to walk past the end of Delafield Road and admire the pretty new planters and green roof on the bin store at Ginkgo Financial's offices. The owner is on a mission to reduce littering and anti-social behaviour by greening and caring for this little corner. And it is working, they say there is a lot less fly tipping and silver canisters since he started doing it!

### Finally..

Could we urge those of you who have still to pay your membership fee for this year to do so? We know there has not been much opportunity recently! You can send a cheque or it can now be done online if you contact us for details.

**Next Meeting:** October 19<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, a Zoom talk on Garden Birds by Julia Larsson.

Happy gardening all and take care!

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