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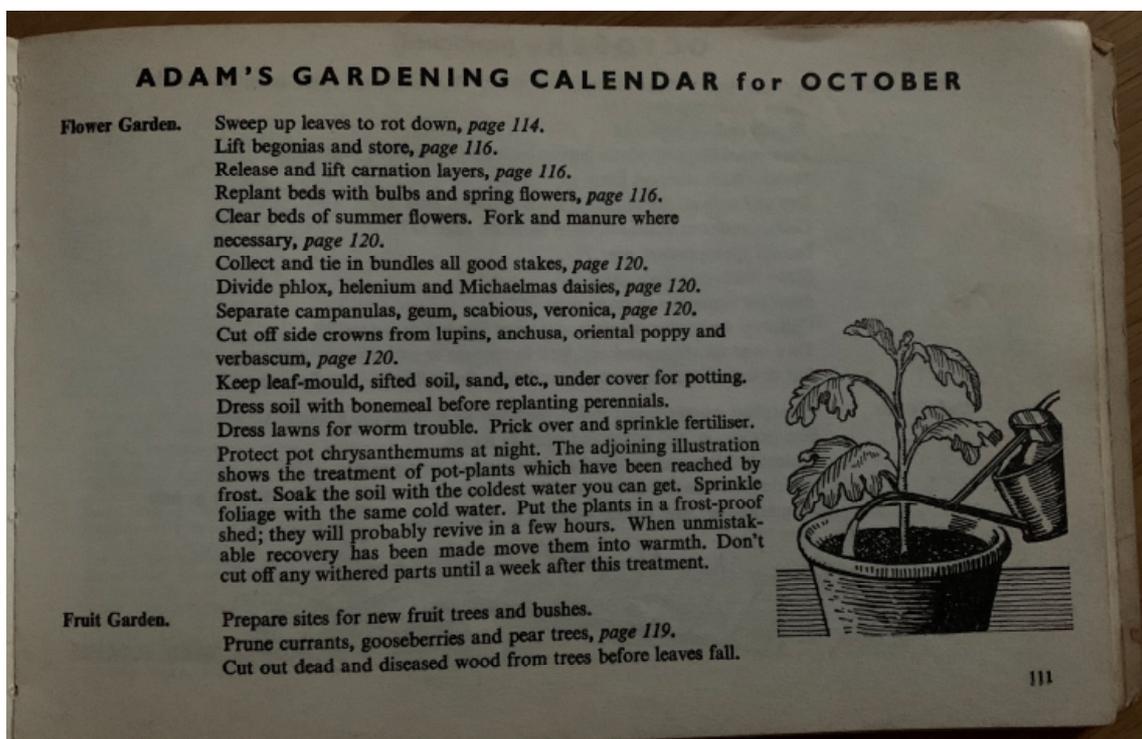
Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2020

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

For those of you who don't follow the CABAHS blog, Melanie's lovely post included the following gardening tips from 'Adam the Gardener' in 1954. Do compare them to Pat's tips below and what you yourselves would recommend for this time of year!



Interestingly, I was having a conversation with a gardener I know who used to look after one of the big estates in Scotland, but moved south when he married. He commented on the worm casts in my lawn and pointed out that when he was younger there were proprietary treatments that would kill worms! Of course these have since been banned. I was reminded of this when looking at Adam's 'Dress lawns for worm trouble' in the list above!

Our presentation this month on Monday October 19<sup>th</sup> will be from Julia Larsson, who will be talking about garden birds, a topic which many have close to their hearts. This will take place via Zoom. I repeat the offer we made last month: *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.* Furthermore, Zoom, for many, is a gateway to greater social engagement in all kinds of activities.

We had 15 submissions for the potato competition which was won by Tim Shepherd, with a harvest of 3lbs 3ozs. We have yet to give Tim his packet of crisps prize!

Our plan to end the year on a high note, with wine and refreshments as we did last year, has fallen against the Covid hurdle. However we will have an excellent speaker, Dr. Twigs Way, who is a widely published garden researcher and she will present a talk on Traditional Wildflower Names via Zoom. All members names will be entered into a free prize draw with the winner awarded a garden centre voucher.

Taking up Anna's challenge last month to sow salad seeds, I posted photos on the CABAHS blog of my one week old seedlings. However, I fear that I may have sown these just a fraction too late as they have grown very little since - I will let you know!

### Anna's Challenge

"My next challenge is tree peonies: to either take a cutting or sow the seed, inside or outside. Online videos demonstrate the effectiveness of indoor germination on kitchen paper towel within a sealed clear freezer bag. I have seed to give away and can deliver if anyone wants one."

### Gardening notes

- The **Garden Museum** is holding a discussion Oudolf vs. Robinson: Exploring Styles in Naturalistic Planting on 17 November 7pm-8pm, tickets £25 to be booked in advance.
- **Plant Heritage** have a series of virtual talks for £4 on special plant groups eg Clematis (Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>) and Chrysanthemums (Nov 4<sup>th</sup>).
- **Hall Place Bexley**, useful trip for entertaining youngsters over half term perhaps, try the Spooky Spider trail around the garden, £2.50.
- The **Garden Masterclass** are hosting a series of lectures. All of these are held online. Booking is essential and this can be done through their website. For example:
  - *My favourite Plant Genus - Hardy Geraniums* - Rosie Hardy, one of Britain's leading perennial nurserywomen on Wednesday October 21<sup>st</sup>, 18.00 - 19.00. £24.
  - *'Late Arrivals To The Party'* - Jimi Blake will focus on those plants that arrive late in the season looking fabulous as the earlier plants start to look tired!. Jimi will share with you the plants he uses to extend the season from summer into autumn at Hunting Brook Gardens. Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>, 18.00 - 19.30. £24.
  - *The subtle science and exact art of colour in English garden design—why gardening can rank as a fine art* - In 1882 Gertrude Jekyll wrote a short but seminal article in 'The Garden' in which she urged the readers to "remember that in a garden we are painting a picture". Timothy Walker looks at how to apply these principles in designing a border. Tuesday 1st December, 18.00-19.00. £24.
- On [rhs.org.uk/digital-collections](https://rhs.org.uk/digital-collections) you can explore the varied forms of dahlias, illustrated with botanical images from the Lindley Library.
- **Lullingstone Castle** is running a pumpkin carving event on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 12-5pm, must be pre-booked.

Do check out our website for further activities to get involved in.

### Pat's 10 jobs for October

1. If you need to, now is the time to move established evergreen shrubs preparing the planting hole first then watering in really well.
2. Protect fleshy leaved alpines now from winter wet which is their main enemy. Mine live under a slatted bench for the winter in a sheltered spot.
3. Prune tall shrubs such as Buddleia now by half to prevent windrock. I do the same for roses while complete thorough pruning in late winter
4. Rake up healthy leaves for making leaf mould by storing in open net bins or in pierced bin liners or hessian sacks, but making sure they are damp first as dry leaves just won't rot down.

5. Sow sweet peas indoors now for early flowers next year.
6. Lift, divide and replant very congested clumps of bulbs for a better performance in the spring
7. Harvest apples and pears as they ripen by twisting and gently pulling. If they resist they are not ready but leave some windfalls for the birds.
8. Plant garlic at least 6 inches apart with the pointed end up in free draining soil.
9. Cut down stems of asparagus and Jerusalem artichokes to just above ground level as the foliage turns yellow.
10. Leave some mature ivy unpruned as flowers provide nectar for the bees and berries for the birds.

Happy autumn gardening all and enjoy the autumn colour! Pat

And finally, could we urge those of you who have still to pay your membership fee for this year to do so? This can now be done online, bank details on request.

Happy gardening all and take care! Vija

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