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Vice Chair Kathy Aitken
Secretary Paula Traquair
Treasurer Ron Roffey



President Nicolas Bevan
Vice President Joyce Snipp
Vice President Jillian Smith

Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

Annual General Meeting 2021

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it was not possible to hold our AGM this year. Instead, we are pleased to present our President, Chair and Treasurer's reports here. If you have any questions, please contact us at cabahshortisoc@gmail.com as usual.

President's message

One of my pleasant duties as President at this time of year is to preside over the Society's Annual General Meeting, which gives members the opportunity to listen to reports from the Chairman and other Officers and to express their own views about the current and future activities of the Society. For reasons that we all understand it is not possible for us to gather together for an AGM at this time, so those reports are being circulated for members' information; I am sure that our Officers will be glad to respond to any comments or questions that you may have.

These are strange and difficult times for us all; but I hope that like me you are able to take solace from your gardens. Winter is not over but the days are lengthening, snowdrops and hellebores are bursting into bloom, winter-flowering shrubs are tempting us out by their blossom and their scent and birds are beginning to sing. Even if it is too cold or wet to venture out, we can at least plan for the future, taking advantage of the seductive gardening catalogues that arrive at this time of year.

Realistically, and sadly, it will be some time before we are able to meet together again. Our Committee are to be congratulated on the great job they have done in keeping us informed and amused by electronic means and that will continue until Covid restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile we must all be sure to take care to keep ourselves and other people safe.

Nicolas Bevan
CABAHS President

Chair's Report

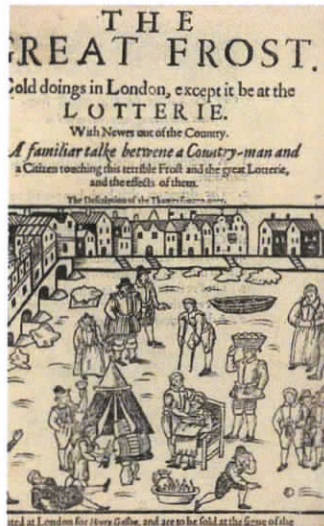
This is the first yearly report in the history of the Society to be sent out to members electronically and a result of the unusual circumstances in which we find ourselves.

As I wrote in the January 2021 Newsletter, back in January 2020 we had a full schedule of live events planned, most of us had never heard of Zoom and we were deliberating the management of our online presence. With our additional logo, *Grow Friends, Grow Fit, Grow a Garden*, we were proposing to celebrate 2020 as our 70th anniversary year. We had planned to produce a history of the Society, worked on by Ron Roffey for several years, but the progress of this was also halted. Our intention had been to distribute this to Members. Instead, I attach a summary of developments by the decade (Appendix 1), which will give you a flavour of the content and some of the key events in our history.

As it turned out, our additional logo was bang on message: gardens turned into a place of solace for many and people in their droves turned to gardening as a means to manage difficult times. The wonderful weather in April, May and June enabled many of us to get lots of jobs done during lockdown with some of us even sitting in the sun without feeling guilty and thinking we should be doing this, that or the other!

At the turn of the year, 2019/2020, we had expressed an interest in working with Charlton House on the walled garden as part of our 70th anniversary celebration. Some of you will remember the presentation that Kathy gave at our last AGM. To support this proposed volunteer project, we also made an application to the Greenwich Neighbourhood Fund, which proved to be successful. What has come to be called The Old Pond Garden Project developed its own momentum, which may have been in part due to restrictions on social activity, but nevertheless attracted large numbers of volunteers and doubtless supported the community. It also attracted a significant number of new members to our Society. (Kathy's review of the Project is on our website).

Jenny had, as usual, organised a full programme of speakers for 2020. But, as all of you now know, we had to do a smart about face. We began well with the January lecture, "*Gales, Greenhouses and Global Warming*" given by Ian Currie, who talked about changing weather patterns. Ian gave us an insight into the shifts which have and still are taking place.



In March, Russell Bowes talk, "*Dig for Victory*", gave us some fascinating information on the Dig for Victory campaign during the Second World War. As a garden historian, he was well placed to talk about this.



But with the first lockdown introduced on 23rd March, our programme suffered a hiccup. We successfully scrambled to continue activities, but not all our planned speakers were equipped or comfortable with using Zoom. Julia Larsson was able to give us a talk on garden birds in October and Twigs Way presented us with the variations in wildflower names in November.

In April we held our Annual Spring Show, again online for the first time, and raised £320 for the Greenwich and Bexley Hospice via the JustGiving page we linked to it. Faith submitted the winning Best in Show entry.



The Potato Competition was won by Tim Shepherd who donated his winnings - a packet of crisps - to the Greenwich food bank.

With the lockdown restrictions temporarily eased, we decided to hold a bumper plant sale in the Old Pond Garden at Charlton House on 9th August. We raised an amazing £1,070 from the day and had sold out of plants by 2pm. Half the funds have gone towards the walled garden restoration, and half donated to the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice. A huge effort and thank you to all those who staffed the day, contributed plants and, not least, to those who bought plants.

We had planned two trips to gardens for 2020, but of course these had to be cancelled. In the absence of our organised trips, Anna successfully arranged two garden visits - Hall Place on 9th September and Great Comp on 21st and 25th September - using WhatsApp to coordinate car shares and meeting places.

A local initiative to open three members' gardens within a short walk from each other in Mottingham on the August Bank Holiday Monday was another successful venture and raised £319 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Our Newsletter, Round Robin and website pages have tried to keep members up-to-date with events and garden news as much as possible and also to engage members with activities and ways of sharing their own news. The website regularly attracts attention and the number of views and the way in which these are distributed can be seen in Appendix 2. Winning entries, photos of visits, gardening tips and so on can all be found on the website, maintained and kept up-to-date by Kathy.

Our membership stands at 127 and we look forward to welcoming everyone back through 2021. (Please see Appendix 3 for further details on membership).

I would like to thank my very capable and hard-working Committee for all their help and support in this very strange year. All have been involved in the working of the Society, but it would take too many pages to mention everyone and the work they all do. Anna is currently working on organising visits for the coming year. We have a terrific programme of talks in place which we hope you will join with us, certainly on Zoom for the first part of the year - please check the Programme of Events page on our website for information. We have plans for another bonanza plant sale in the grounds of Charlton House again. (Don't forget to start to bring on plants in preparation for this.) Our Treasurer's Report follows and demonstrates that we are financially sound with an adequate amount of cash reserves and are well placed financially to weather the COVID pandemic.

Stay safe, fellow Members, and continue to enjoy your gardens and good health.

Vija Vilcins

CABAHS Chair

Treasurers Report

We started our 70th birthday year with our highest membership and cash balances for some time. This provided us with the confidence to arrange an ambitious programme to celebrate the occasion, the cornerstone of which was the restoration of The Old Pond Garden at Charlton House.

Our first three meetings attracted encouraging attendances and financial returns but a worldwide pandemic - Covid 19 - started sweeping the country at the end of March, causing the Government to introduce meeting restrictions and lockdown measures. After a brief respite in the summer, these returned in the autumn and for the rest of the year. This had a dramatic effect on our plans but it was not all bad news. In a temporary lifting of restrictions in August, a plant sale was held and £1,070 was raised - half of which (£535) was donated to the Greenwich & Bexley Community Hospice with the remainder earmarked for the Old Pond Garden project, supplementing the £1,000 previously agreed for a memorial bench. A major contribution to the project was a successful application to the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund for a grant of £6,000, the balance of which is shown as restricted funds in the Financial Statements.

It is my usual practice to compare our current result with the previous year but this would be meaningless in the current situation. The profit position this year of £4,432 includes the net income of £3,134 for the Old Pond Garden and monies held on behalf of members for the cancelled garden visit of £395. Making allowance for this, the revised figure is £903. As we have already decided to allocate £1,535 to this project then our true result is a loss of £632.

Ron Roffey

CABAHS Treasurer



Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society

Founded 1950

70th FINANCIAL STATEMENT Year Ended 31st December 2020

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
	£	£
INCOME		
Members subscriptions	1,080	1,245
Raffle profit	80	393
Sales table	207	389
Garden visits	395	290
Pond Garden Project - Net	3,134	-
Plant Fairs	1,134	619
Donations (net)	-	30
TOTAL INCOME	<u>£6,030</u>	<u>£2,966</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Hire of rooms	153	491
Speakers	317	600
Special Lecture (net)	-	361
Affiliation Fees	51	151
Public Liability Insurance	75	75
Photocopying	85	289
Printing Stationery etc	105	26
Refreshments	92	47
Miscellaneous	165	122
Donations (net)	555	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£1,598</u>	<u>£2,162</u>
NET PROFIT	<u>£4,432</u>	<u>£804</u>
Note: Breakdown of Profit		
Old Pond Garden	£3,134	0
Allocation to Old Pond Garden	£1,535	0
	<u>£4,669</u>	<u>0</u>
Garden visits (monies held)	£395	0
Deficit	-£632	£804
NET PROFIT	<u>£4,432</u>	<u>£804</u>



Charlton & Blackheath Amateur Horticultural Society

Founded 1950

FINANCIAL POSITION Year Ended 31st December 2020

	£	<u>2020</u> £	<u>2019</u> £
ASSETS			
Current Account			
Restricted Funds (Old Pond Gdn)	3,134		
Unrestricted Funds	<u>7,990</u>	11,124	6,654
Cash in Hand		46	84
TOTAL ASSETS		<u><u>£11,170</u></u>	<u><u>£6,738</u></u>
LIABILITIES			
Balance brought forward		6,738	5,934
Net Profit		4,432	804
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u><u>£11,170</u></u>	<u><u>£6,738</u></u>

OLD POND GARDEN ACCOUNT

RECEIPTS

Greenwich Neighbourhood	
Growth Fund	6,000
CABAHS allocation	1,000
Plant Sales profit	535
	<u><u>£7,535</u></u>

PAYMENTS

Plants, seeds	1,608
Memorial Bench	1,018
Tools	240
Balance	4,669
	<u><u>£7,535</u></u>

Appendix 1

CABAHS by decade

1950's

CABAHS formed by amalgamation of the Blackheath Horticultural Society and the Charlton Horticultural Society. Membership around 40. First flower show held on 9 September 1951. Three guineas allocated for lectures. Meetings held at Woodlands (now Mycenae House).

1960's

RHS Banksian medals awarded for three classes at the annual show. Competed in the Inter Society Class at the Greenwich Show. Affiliated to the National Chrysanthemum Society. Lady Howard introduced a children's section at the show.

1970's

Formal constitution agreed. Membership around 80 in 1973. First Newsletter (1973) delivered by members to save postage. Subscription increased to 30p. Entered a float in the Woolwich carnival. Planted a Poplar Aurora in Kidbrooke House grounds for Plant a Tree in 1973 campaign. Society hosted a broadcast on the short-lived Greenwich cablevision. Queen Mother visited three member's gardens (1975). Membership closed as reaches 200 (1977). Added flower arranging classes (1979).

1980's

Floral Art Group meetings start at Kidbrooke House (now Mycenae House). Three Society shows held, Spring, Summer and Annual. Hosted Gardeners Question Time at United Reform Church, Charlton and the National Maritime Museum (1986). Awarded Silver Gilt in RHS windowbox competition. Participated in St Alfege's Church Flower Festival.

1990's

First Meeting at Charlton House, membership around 100, subs £2. Bronze medal for Courtyard Garden entry at RHS Chelsea Flower Show (1992). Member volunteers help run the greenhouse and garden at Greenwich Hospital. Silver medal in Window box and hanging basket competition at RHS Chelsea Flower Show (1994). Summer Show discontinued and Spring Show reverted to an evening display (1997). Stand at the Horn Fair and Greenwich & Bexley Hospice.

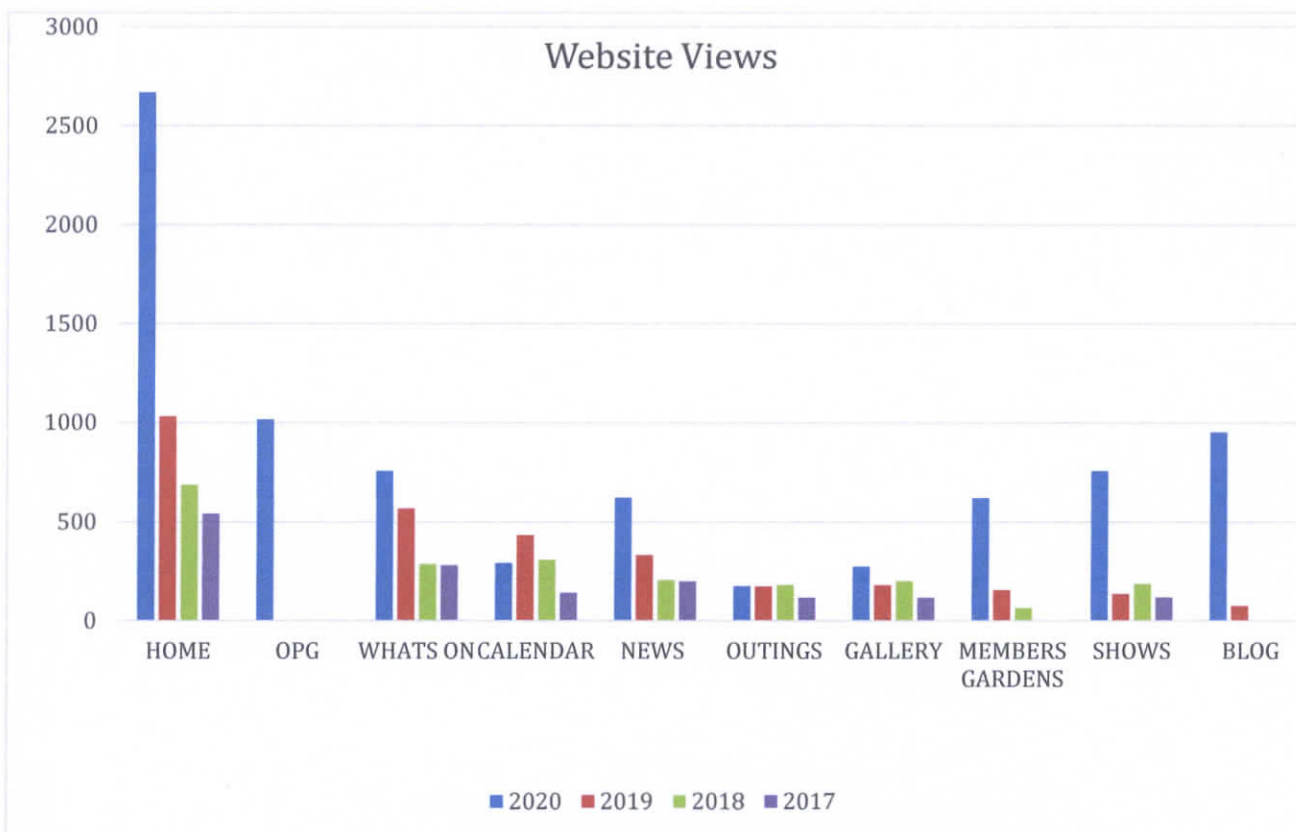
2000's

Formal Spring Show discontinued, becoming a display. Garden bench presented to Greenwich & Bexley Hospice. Awarded Solomon Cup as runners up in the London Gardens Society. Annandale School affiliated to the Society and wins 2 gold medals in the London Children's Flower competition. Membership drops to 59, Subs £5 (2005) New PA equipment, a membership drive and new member's card designed. Two months Sales Table income donated to Greenwich & Bexley Hospice (2009). Introduced Special Lectures (e.g. Lullingstone 2010, Great Dixter 2012). Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust formed and takes over running Charlton House (2014). Summer Parties discontinued as homemade items no longer allowed.

Website launched (2015). Logo competition judged by Mayor of Greenwich. Facebook launched, subs £10 (2016). Success in several categories at Coolings "Show of Shows".

Plant stall at Great Get Together and Horn Fair (2017). Stall at Honey Bee Day. Regular emails to members start in 2017. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) introduced and adapted to (2018). Membership up to 131 by 2019. Stall at Mycenae House Summer Extravaganza raises £500. Volunteer scheme for Old Pond Garden launched 2020. Global pandemic stops meetings. Plant sale in the garden raises £1,070. First Zoom lectures held.

Appendix 2



Appendix 3

CABAHS Membership by area 2020

Area			
Charlton	SE7	28	22%
Blackheath	SE3	25	20%
Blackheath/Westcombe Park	SE3W	15	12%
Greenwich	SE10	17	13%
Eltham	SE9	14	11%
Shooters Hill/Plumstead	SE18	9	7%
Bromley/Chislehurst	BR	5	4%
Lee/Grove Park	SE12	3	2%
Lewisham	SE13	3	2%
Other areas		8	6%
Total		127	