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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER JULY 2021

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

This month we welcome Dusty Gedge, who will be talking to us about roof gardens. Originally we had planned that the presentation would take place on the roof of IKEA, but like so many things over the last year or so, this has turned out not to be possible!

The summer solstice has now been and gone and we are at last experiencing some weather that is more like summer. Members have taken the opportunity to get out and see some gardens and below you can see some brief summaries of visits which have been made.

Pat made a visit to Riverhill Himalayan Garden near Sevenoaks

Riverhill Himalayan Garden commands a beautiful setting on the side of a hill off the A21, It's a historic hillside house and garden owned by the Rogers family and is renowned for its collection of Rhododendrons and Azaleas and many beautiful trees. There's a walled garden, a rock garden, a maze and a bluebell wood but all are set into the hillside and some of the climb is not for the fainthearted, as it is quite steep. When we first visited, the walled garden had just been restored but is now maturing and has a vegetable garden at the top end. There's a terraced cafe too at the entrance and a reasonably well stocked nursery selling plants and garden paraphernalia. Well worth a visit for the spectacular views from the top of the hill over the Kent countryside. You need to book at www.riverhillgardens.co.uk.



Anna writes:

Sissinghurst Castle's gardens are looking their best at the moment: rose garden full and blowsy; the white garden romantic and overflowing with Ammi Major: the hot garden a 'wow': and the newly recreated 'Delos' garden by Dan Pearson captures a Mediterranean island atmosphere. A fantastic day out!



In Cornwall, I visited St. Michael's Mount, more for the garden than anything else and was astonished by the variety of plants growing there and the range of succulents, tucked into cracks and crevices, some of them reaching larger than dinner-plate size.



A watery sun could be glimpsed from time to time through the periodic mizzle. I was fascinated by the number of Aeoniums which appeared to have self-seeded, the ones in my garden don't even flower! This was rock gardening on a whole different level!



A Garden Visit for members:

For those of you who were unable to visit the lovely garden at **The Gatehouse, Eltham Palace SE9**, the owners have given us the opportunity of a special tour of the garden with refreshments on **Thursday 22nd July at 6.30pm**. A fee of £3.00 to be payable on arrival, which will go to the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice. Please contact us at cabahshortisoc@gmail.com if interested, so we have an idea of numbers.

Funding News: Charlton House walled gardens

We had some wonderful news from Royal Borough of Greenwich this week. They have awarded £5,000 to CABAHS in partnership with the Trust, in order to continue our revival of the walled gardens. This will be specifically for the Long Border, and is not only for plants but also to install an electrical point (cups of tea become possible!) and seating.

Gardening notes

- **The Garden Museum's** exhibition on Constance Spry, '*Constance Spry and the Fashion for Flowers*' runs until 26th September, but this is now also available online for those who may not be able to visit in person.
- **The Garden Museum** are also hosting an online event, *The Celebrity of Floristry* on 27 July, 7pm. Tickets, £10, need to be booked in advance
- The **Great Comp Summer Show** takes place 7-8 August, 10.00-5.00. Please check their website for booking information. <https://www.greatcompgarden.co.uk/the-great-comp-summer-show-saturday-7th-sunday-8th-august-2021/>
- **The Secret Life of the Garden** - August 3rd - family workshop run by Charlton House over the school holidays. Volunteers and members welcome to come and help out, please contact cabahshortisoc@gmail.com if interested.
- **RHS Hyde Hall Flower Show** - August 4th Wednesday. A members' trip has been planned, with car shares arranged. A few spaces left if you are interested.
- **Dulwich Picture Gallery** is showing a photography exhibition, **Unearthed: Photography's Roots**, which shows photos from the 1840s to today, told through stunning still lifes of plants and botany. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. See the website for details and booking.

Pat's 10 jobs for July:

1. If you didn't do it last month prune your wisteria now taking back those whippy side shoots to 2 or 3 buds.
2. Keep picking your sweetpeas and don't allow any to go to seed and feed every 10 days with a high potash feed keeping well-watered too as they hate to dry out.
3. Weeds are growing fast at this time of year so keep a lookout and remember the old adage - if you allow them to seed, you'll have 7 years of weeds!
4. Take cuttings of Salvias, Penstemon and Pelargonium now and trim to just below a leaf node and plant round the edge of a pot into gritty compost.
5. Also watch out for blackspot on roses and remove badly affected leaves and do not add to the compost heap where it will spread even more.
6. Sow biennials now such as wallflowers, either directly into finely tilled soil or into seed trays. Once they reach a reasonable size pot on into individual pots.
7. Repot house plants that are actively growing into the next size pot and feed at least fortnightly during the growing season.
8. Make sure to remove side shoots on cordon grown tomatoes and keep tying into their supports and again feed every 10 days with tomato food or comfrey feed which is free if you have a ready supply of comfrey although it doesn't smell too good!
9. Pick soft fruit regularly and freeze after washing if you don't have enough to do anything with and don't forget to protect with netting as I did and the pigeons helped themselves.
10. Leave an area of your lawn to grow long to enable daisies and other wild flowers to flower and attract pollinators.

August Meeting - August 16th

This will be a variation on our usual "Gardeners Question Time" meeting. Excitingly, we intend to hold the meeting in the Charlton House walled gardens instead of on Zoom. This will be weather dependent so be prepared to dress appropriately! Please send in your gardening question in advance if you can (email below), in case it needs research.

Happy gardening all!

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com