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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950



www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER July 2023

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday 17 July at 7.30pm at Charlton House Old Library. Our speaker will be Philip Oostenbrink, talking about his specialist subject, Jungle Planting, or how we can take the 'houseplant look' outside. He is head gardener at Walmer Castle in Kent, where he has made a jungle garden in the moat!

There will be the usual plant sale. Please bring along your lovely, surplus plants, clearly labelled. Or perhaps some seeds from your favourite plants to share. Proceeds help support the events programme of the Society and the Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice.

There will also be a show table with a prize for "Best on the Table" along with a raffle. Refreshments will be provided by Frilly's Café. Fee for guests to attend is £2.

Anna will have more details about our Wisley outing on 29 September and will be asking you to sign up to make sure of your seat on the coach! She will be taking payment (£17) this month.

CABAHS Dates for Your Diary

Monday 21 August	Gardeners Question Time, 7.30pm, Charlton House. Please send us your questions! Don't miss this opportunity to get expert advice on all your garden problems.
Monday 18 September	Autumn Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Display, Charlton House, 7.30pm
Friday 29 September	RHS Wisley by coach. Please sign up to this outing which should be a fantastic treat of a day.
Monday 17 October	Alexandra Cambell, blogger, will talk about the Middle Sized Garden at Charlton House, 7.30pm

Find the full calendar for 2023/4 on the CABAHS website: <https://cabahs.com/calendar/>

Out and About...

- Ham House Garden, Richmond-upon-Thames, Surrey TW10 7RS, Garden History Guided Tours, 3-21 July, 11.30 am and 1.30pm. Free for National Trust and RHS members, standard adult entrance fee to house and garden for non-members.

- Hyde Hall Flower Show 2-6 August with displays, expert talks and the chance to buy plants from specialist nurseries
- Autumn Plant Fair, Sussex Prairie Garden, Morlands Farm, near Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9AT, 3 September, 12am-5pm
- Wisley Flower Show 5-10 September with displays, expert talks and the chance to buy plants from specialist nurseries

Anna enjoyed the CABAHS members' visit to Fulham Palace.....

On one of the first really warm days of June, a small group of members met up at Cannon Street Station and travelled by the District Line to Putney Bridge. From there it was a five minute walk along the embankment and through Fulham Park and across the moat to the gatehouse of Fulham Palace.

Fulham Palace was the home of the Bishops of London for over 1,300 years until 1973 and it was once a vast estate. Bishop Henry Compton occupied the palace for 38 years from 1675-1713 and was an avid gardener and plant collector, commissioning plant collectors to bring him seeds and cuttings, especially from North America. He is attributed to importing the first known *Magnolia virginiana* into the country.

Most of our party had not visited the gardens before, so it was a pleasure to see the grounds and walled garden for the first time. The vast walled garden was constructed in 1760s and it's refurbishment over the past few years has paid dividends: our group wandered through the beautiful knot garden; peered into the glasshouses to admire the pelargonium collection; absorbed the fragrance and beauty of the climbing/rambling roses soaking up the warmth from the historic brickwork; and were very taken by the large kitchen garden with cleverly designed vegetable beds that are meticulously maintained by the gardeners, and, I understand, a large group of volunteer staff.

The walled garden also encompasses lawns and flower borders, with places to rest under the shade of the trees, an apple orchard and bee hives and we were pleased to purchase flower posies, herb and vegetable seedlings from the in-situ plant shop. After much exploring, refreshments on offer at the cafe provided much conviviality and respite from the hot sun for our little party.

The grounds consist of 3.5 acres so there is much to see. We noticed visitors enjoying their coffee and soaking up the sun on the terrace and families having picnics under the majestic trees. We only had a chance to explore part of the grounds so I'm sure we will be taking along friends and family for future outings.



Pat's 10 jobs for July

1. Now is the best time to plant autumn flowering bulbs such as nerines and colchicums so order some now.
2. If you are going away for a few days or longer save the need to water by placing saucers under your pots and moving as many things into the shade as you can.
3. Make sure to deadhead repeat flowering roses regularly by cutting back the flowering stem to the next leaves down the stem unless you want to keep them for colourful autumn fruiting hips.
4. Water and feed clematis well especially if they are in pots or planted up against a dry wall as if they get too dry they can suffer with powdery mildew.
5. Give wisteria a second prune to limit their size and growth by shortening long whippy growths back to five or six leaves from the main stem.
6. Now is the time to take semi ripe cuttings from evergreen plants placing around the edge of a pot of sandy soil and leaving in a shady place until well rooted.
7. Lift and divide iris now cutting off surplus woody rhizome and then trimming the foliage back to a third and replanting in a sunny spot with the rhizome showing above soil level so it can be baked by the sun.
8. Lift first and second early potatoes as if they are left in the ground much longer they can suffer damage.
9. Continue to sow salad and oriental greens. Mine have to go in pots or troughs in the garden or they end up being slug fodder on the allotment.
10. Remember that although wasps are a summer nuisance they do help to control other pests in the garden so don't be too keen to swat them.

July Plant of the Month: *Stipa barbata* (Silver Feather Grass) from Anna...

With its silvery plumes, *Stipa barbata* is considered the most beautiful of all the grasses and is one of my top-ten plants. A clump-forming, semi-evergreen perennial from Southern Europe, *Stipa barbata* sends up numerous silvery plumes in late May and is a stand-out feature in any planting scheme for around two months.

It's a drought-loving species that has excelled itself in my front, sloping garden this year because, I suspect, there has been very little rain this spring, resulting in 18 fronds (seed awns) which I am thrilled with. (Last year only three.) The plant produces delicately narrow, pale green leaves, which enhance the silvery and silky flower heads as they become wispy, fluffier and curly with age, dancing around in the breeze, to my delight.

I have clay in my garden which this species is not keen on so this plant is the only one remaining. But in Beth Chatto's famous gravel garden one can admire several magnificent *Stipa barbata* that have become a real feature in the overall design and when you next visit the garden make sure you seek them out. In my garden I have creamy spires of *Verbascum* 'Gainsborough', white *Lychnis*, *Eryngium* 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost' and Pat's *Erigeron annuus* adjacent creating a harmonious planting scheme."



On the CABAHS website....

(If clicking through a problem, copy the URL into your browser search bar)

- Read Angela's account of Tim Ingram's talk "Success with Seeds"
<https://cabahs.com/2023/06/23/june-2023-talk-success-with-seeds/>
- Find out what to look for at this time of year in the Old Pond Garden at Charlton House
<https://cabahs.com/2023/06/01/what-to-look-out-for-in-the-old-pond-garden-june-2023/>



- "Our Greek host was kind enough to give me some seeds of this beautiful plant..." Read about holiday temptations that must be resisted!
<https://cabahs.com/2023/06/27/our-greek-host-was-kind-enough-to-give-me-some-seeds-of-this-beautiful-plant>
- Read "A Tale of Two Gardens", Kathy's account of Juli's in Plumstead and her visit to Hampton Court
<https://cabahs.com/category/garden-visits/>
- Enjoy Kathy's visit to Prior Street Allotments during the recent Open Gardens Festival in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice...
<https://cabahs.com/2023/07/13/prior-st-allotments-open-garden-2023/>

Happy gardening all!
Contact us on: garden@cabahs.com