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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com

NEWSLETTER June 2023

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday 19 June at 7.30pm at **Charlton House Old Library**. Tim Ingram of the Plant Fairs Roadshow will be talking about "Success with Seeds". He will be giving us tips on germinating the trickiest of seeds to ensure plants galore and a magnificent summer show each year. **There will be a plant sale. Please bring along your lovely, surplus plants. 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 free for members, provided by Frilly's Café. Fee for non-members is £2. See below for information about some great outings. Anna will have more details and will be asking you to sign up.

CABAHS Dates for Your Diary

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| Saturday 15 July | <p>A note from Anna about our next outing to Great Dixter (to fit in with those that work Monday-Friday), using shared cars. (Great Dixter will only allow coaches a morning or an afternoon stay due to parking limitations, hence shared cars).</p> <p>Gardens open at 11am but nursery opens from 9am and there are lots of choice plants on offer. Straightforward journey, taking approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours on A2, M25 and A21. Suggest drivers leave home early to miss holiday traffic and enjoy coffee in carpark before visit to nursery. Suggest bring food and drink for picnic in car park as outdoor cafe always has a long queue (as food yummy) and seating is very limited. It will be busy on a Saturday. Entry for garden £13.00 and entry for house and garden £14.50, paying individually at gate. Suggest guests make a contribution towards driver's petrol. Monday evening is the last chance to sign up. Next week Anna will start matching up members in need of a lift with drivers' seating availability.</p> |
| Monday 17 July | Philip Oosterbrink will be talking about "Jungle Planting", 7.30pm, Old Library Charlton House. |
| Monday 21 August | Gardeners Question Time, 7.30pm, Charlton House. |
| Monday 18 September | Autumn Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Display, Charlton House |
| Friday 29 September | RHS Wisley by coach. Please note the date of this outing has changed. More details will follow. |

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

Out and About...

- CABAHS member, Juli Field is opening her garden, 5 & 6 Polthorne Grove, Plumstead SE18 7DP on Sunday 18 June 2-4pm, entry £2 in support of Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice.
- Open Gardens Festival in support of Greenwich and Bexley Community Hospice 24 & 25 June. Several CABAHS members are opening their gardens.
<https://www.communityhospice.org.uk/>
- Exhibition at the Garden Museum “Jean Cooke: Ungardening”. 21 June to 10 September. Cooke (1927-2008) lived and painted for many years in Blackheath. Her paintings are both lyrical and very personal.
<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/jean-cooke-ungardening/>
- RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival Tuesday-Saturday 4-9 July. Fabulous florals and glorious gardens!
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/rhs-hampton-court-palace-garden-festival>

Anna enjoyed a day out to Sissinghurst Castle

I was invited to Sissinghurst recently and I didn't hesitate to say Yes, Yes, Yes!!! The 1st June began as a very cold day but ended with a clear blue sky whilst enjoying our tea and scones on the terrace outside the restaurant, soaking up the warm sunshine. We sat and talked about the gardens, with the highlights being the white wisterias - glorious; the white garden all fluffy and romantic set within its formal green boundaries of box and yew; the heavenly perfume of the huge variety of beautiful irises in the rose garden; and the maturing of Delos garden designed by Dan Pearson with some very nice Dianthus enjoying the sandy soil. To finish the afternoon off we walked along the lane to the large, no-dig vegetable garden, situated on a south-facing slope and it was impressive with a capital 'I'. Seemingly, 140 varieties of fruit and vegetables are produced in meticulously maintained strips and it was interesting to note that feverfew was used (among others) as an insect deterrent. The journey only takes 90 minutes and we thought the gardens were looking absolutely fantastic - the best display in years - so don't forget to say Yes, Yes, Yes to a visit to Sissinghurst Castle this summer.



Pat's 10 jobs for June

1. Cut oriental poppies to the ground after flowering to encourage a flush of fresh foliage.
2. Stake perennials before they flop over as stems can easily snap. Pea sticks are best so save your prunings or beg from someone else.
3. Remove spent flowers on rhododendrons and camellias straight after flowering and prune back if necessary. If you do it any later you may lose next year's flowers.
4. I think we've all lost some salvias this year so make sure to take softwood cuttings now as per Terry's instructions and don't forget to label as I do and then have to wait for them to flower! Make sure to keep out of the sun until they are rooted.
5. Plant out dahlias and cannas now making sure to stake well but be vigilant. One of my dahlias was obliterated overnight so keep checking.
6. Sow biennials now such as foxgloves, wallflowers and honesty. I have always relied on honesty self-sowing but was disappointed this year with my one flowering plant.
7. Support sweet peas and clematis by tying in shoots which seem to be all over the place this year and growing so fast.
8. Don't forget to remove side shoots on your tomatoes and tie them in to their stakes. I am way behind due to the earlier cold weather and still have some to plant but don't worry they will catch up later on.
9. Support runner and french beans by tying to their supports until they get going up the cane.
10. Save water by only watering the roots of plants and not wetting soil for the sake of it

June Plant of the Month: *Rhaphiolepis indica* (Indian Hawthorn) from Anna



Rhaphiolepis indica (Indian Hawthorn) is another species that is not well known and consequently underused and underrated in the UK. This is an evergreen shrub with small leathery leaves, originating from Asia where it grows wild and is used extensively in the US in landscaping schemes, especially as clipped specimens and hedging. I just don't see it growing in UK gardens, which is such a shame. Perhaps it's grown on the coast, where it is very tolerant of salt spray and lighter soils? I found my plant at the RHS 'Secret Sunday' plant fair at the Blackheath Farmer's Market a few years ago and was thrilled to come across it. As the photos show, I grow



mine in a container (facing north) in order for its architectural structure to stand out in my over-planted courtyard garden! A slow-grower, it's happy so far (with no frost damage) and flowers for over a month in May and June, followed by black berries which, seemingly, are edible once cooked and ideal for jam making, although I've not had the courage to do this. The small clusters of very pretty, Hawthorn-like flowers emit a gorgeous fragrance and there probably would be even more clusters if I grew it in full sun. Its name is difficult to remember (I had to look it up, AGAIN!!!) but I wouldn't be without mine as it's such an attractive specimen.

On the CABAHS website....

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

<https://cabahs.com/category/garden-visits/> scroll down to find each 'post'

- Read about Lynda and Joe's visit to Christchurch Community Garden and be surprised what can be achieved with a lot of energy on a small plot of land.
- Read about Pat and Vija's visit to Sarah Raven's garden at Perch Hill in East Sussex. The day before had seen torrential rain so they definitely needed their wellies!
- Enjoy Melanie's lovely photos showing Exbury Gardens in Hampshire at their Springtime best
- Read about Stella's Scottish odyssey around some lovely and unusual gardens north of the border.

Happy gardening all!

Contact us on: cabahshortisoc@gmail.com