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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com



NEWSLETTER August 2023

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday 21 August at Charlton House. Please join us for our own special version of Gardeners Question Time! If the weather is dry, the Old Pond Garden and the Peace Garden will be open from 6.30pm. Both are looking at their best! The meeting will begin at 7.15pm in the Old Library, with our special guest panellist Joe Woodcock. Joining him in the hot seats will be our President Sir Nicolas Bevan and Mrs Pat Kane.

There will also be a show table with a prize for "Best on the Table" along with a raffle and a Plant Sales table. Refreshments will be provided by Frilly's Café.

Don't be disappointed if the panel don't get to your question. We are introducing a new section to the newsletter, **The Garden Doctor**, where you will be able to find solutions to your gardening problems all year round! More details at the end of this newsletter.

CABAHS outing to RHS Wisley, 29 September

Please sign up for our RHS Wisley Outing on Friday 29th September on Monday evening. Cost is £17.00 per person. Please bring the correct change. We will now be accepting online payments. If there are any seats not sold I will then invite non-members to sign up in September. Pick-up point is Charlton House and coach will depart at 8.30am. We hope to arrive at 10am but there may be a delay at the M25/A3 Junction 10 interchange due to roadworks. Whilst in the gardens do visit the fabulously designed World Food Garden (by Ann-Marie Powell) and enjoy coffee amongst the vegetable beds (truly), where tables and chairs are laid out around the planting beds, so that you can admire the interesting and unusual foods grown at the site. Visit the adjacent Hilltop Educational Centre for various activities. Hilltop Live is from 2pm and where you can obtain gardening advice and don't forget the adjacent, stunning wildlife pools next door. Visit <https://www.rhs.org.uk> for further information.

More CABAHS Dates for Your Diary

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| Monday 18 September | Autumn Flower, Fruit and Vegetable Show, Charlton House, 7.30pm. Details of classes will be emailed shortly! And will be posted on the website also. |
| Monday 16 October | Alexandra Cambell, blogger, will talk about the Middle Sized Garden at Charlton House, 7.30pm |
| Monday 20 November | Timothy Walker, horticultural expert and tv presenter, will talk about 'Sex, Lies and Putrefaction' at Charlton House, 7.30pm |

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

Out and About..

- Chelsea Physic Garden is offering free admission during the Chelsea History Festival, Saturday 30 September and Sunday 1 October, 11am-4pm. Registration essential.
- Autumn Plant Fair, Mount Ephram Gardens, Faversham, Kent, ME13 9TX, 11am-3pm
- Wisley Flower Show 5-10 September with displays, expert talks and the chance to buy plants from specialist nurseries

Anna enjoyed a visit to the Southwood Gardens of St James's Church, Piccadilly, SW1.....

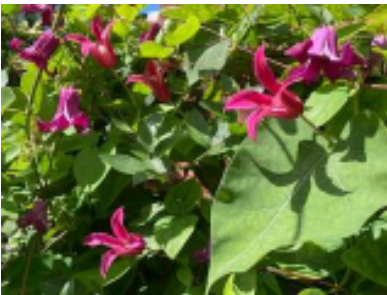
On a gorgeous August day recently I was making my way along Jermyn Street, SW1, towards the Royal Academy for the Summer Exhibition (fantastic, this year) and noticed a high wall and London Planes soaring above me into the brilliant blue sky. I thought, "Coffee time!", nipping directly into the café entrance which is part of the St James's Church (Wren designed) fabric. The famous courtyard was busy with tourists and office workers, many of whom were making their way up the steps to this secluded garden to enjoy their coffee or snack, the entrance to which sits a formal stone pool, flanked by two bronze children on dolphins. This charming feature commemorates Viscount Southwood, the philanthropist who commissioned the garden (formerly a bomb-damaged churchyard) after WW2, as a 'thank you' to Londoners for "their courage and fortitude", which was opened to the public by Queen Mary in 1946. On the upper level of the garden sits a secluded oasis, a triangular-shaped formal garden with four identical, raised grass areas, separated by pathways and benches in which to relax. The London Planes and Irish Yews surround the space, with new planting incorporated in 2011, as part of the 2012 Olympic legacy and it is a deserved recipient of a Green Flag Award. I was particularly impressed with the two generously designed, U-shaped yew hedges with seating incorporated for larger groups to congregate - a clever feature. Do visit on your next visit to Piccadilly, as you will be charmed, like I was!



August Plants of the Month: Clematis 'Princess Diana' and Clematis 'Queen Mother' ('Zoqum') from Anna.....

On my south-facing trellis I grow these two clematis as they like the same conditions and look extremely well together. I simply adore Clematis 'Princess Diana' as the flowers are so striking in colour and shape, being a rich, vibrant pink and trumpet-shaped. Clematis 'Queen Mother' is a nice contrast, with attractive dark-mauve, bell-shaped flowers and both have paler edges to their sepals.

They both generally start flowering in June but this year it was July, due to the cold spring and slug damage. Both like full sun or partial shade and grown in moist but well drained soil so occasionally I need to put the hose on them. I do deadhead for aesthetic reasons and in the hope that the flowering continues throughout August for C 'Princess Diana'. Once or twice in previous years this clematis has developed Clematis Wilt (leaves turning black and plant dying back) but has been relatively healthy for the last three years or so. The fantastically vigorous C 'Queen 'Mother' will flower almost continuously through to the end of October, perhaps resting for 2-3 weeks in September before flowering once again. I cannot praise this clematis enough. Both clematis are, unfortunately, only suitable for gardens without pets for obvious reasons.



Pat's 10 jobs for August

1. Give dahlias plenty of water and a feed and make sure to keep picking and deadheading regularly to keep the blooms coming.
2. Camellias and rhododendrons make next year's buds now but need plenty of water for this so don't forget to water at the roots.
3. Take pelargonium cuttings now by cutting below a leaf node and inserting in free draining compost and keep in a shady place until they root. Please bring any spare rooted cuttings to our monthly plant sale.

4. Trim lavender back now trying not to cut into the old wood but leave a few stems to seed for the birds.
5. Rambling roses are making rampant growth now so thin out some of the old stems by cutting at the base and tie in the new growth.
6. Save seeds by deadheading stems and leaving upturned in a paper bag until completely dried out.
7. Watch out for late blight on tomatoes in the form of black blotches on the stems and remove plants immediately making sure not to add to the compost bin. Feed plants weekly with a tomato feed or make your own comfrey feed and when you water do it at the roots trying not to wet the foliage.
8. Make the best of gluts of crops by making pasta sauces for the freezer or chutneys and jams or sharing with family and friends. My neighbours are always pleased to get any spare veg.
9. Keep picking runner beans and French beans but look out for snails climbing and hiding on their supports and munching your crop.
10. Pick chillies as soon as they are ripe as leaving them on the plants inhibits more flowers forming.

On the CABAHS website....

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

- Read Angela's account of Philip Oostenbrink's talk about jungle gardening
<https://cabahs.com/2023/07/20/july-2023-talk-the-jungle-garden/>
- Read about Vija's and Pat's visit to the beautiful gardens of Great Dixter
<https://cabahs.com/2023/08/11/great-dixter/>
- Why you should never give up even when all looks lost!: "Never say 'Never'"
<https://cabahs.com/2023/06/02/never-say-never/>

NEW! The Garden Doctor

Did the panel run out of time for your question at our August GQT? Got a plant that just won't flower? Need suggestions for what to plant in a tricky area of your garden? Email your gardening problem to garden@cabahs.com and we will ask members to send in their suggestions and include the responses in the following newsletter.

'The Garden Doctor' section of the newsletter will enable us all to benefit from the experience and expertise of Cabahs members and help us all create even better gardens!

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