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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
Founded 1950

[www.cabahs.wordpress.com](http://www.cabahs.wordpress.com)



## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023

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

Our next meeting will be on Monday 16 October at Charlton House when the blogger, Alexandra Cambell will be sharing her thoughts and ideas on The Middle Sized Garden. (Her blog can be found here <https://www.themiddlesizedgarden.co.uk/>) The meeting will begin at 7.30pm in the Old Library. There will be the usual raffle and show table but no Plant Sales table. Refreshments will be provided by Frilly's Café.

### SILVER GILT FOR THE OLD POND GARDEN FROM LONDON IN BLOOM!!

Our big news this month is that the Old Pond Garden was awarded 164/200 points (82%) putting it in the Silver Gilt Category. The judges felt that the transformation that the volunteers had achieved was just incredible. They praised the beautiful designs of Jason Sylvan as "radical planting changes" rather than a simple "tidy up". A lovely acknowledgement of inspiration matched by hard work! Read more here: <https://cabahs.com/2023/09/25/london-in-bloom-silver-gilt-award-for-the-old-pond-garden-charlton-house/>



### More CABAHS Dates for Your Diary

Monday 20 November Timothy Walker, horticultural expert and tv presenter, will talk about 'Sex, Lies and Putrefaction' at Charlton House, 7.30pm

There is no meeting in December. We will post the calendar for 2024 on the CABAHS website shortly.

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

## Anna enjoyed the CABAHS outing to RHS Wisley, 29 September...

One of the greatest pleasures in life is to sit with friends around a table having refreshments in a beautiful garden on a gloriously warm and sunny day - and this is what happened on our recent, fabulous day out to RHS Wisley Gardens!

There isn't time to see all the gardens during a visit which is why CABAHS visit once every two years. We usually visit in May to see the spring flowers in Oakwood, the Magnolias, Azaleas and Rhododendrons that lead up and into Battleston Hill (a mini Himalayan paradise), and the large swathes of Camassias naturalised and spreading happily through the upper lawns. Visiting the gardens in September allowed us to see Autumn's bounty and we were in for a treat. From the terrace, our group made our way around the jewel-like Aster borders, through to the formal pond garden, known as the Jellico Canal, where there is an exceptional array of very choice planting in this sheltered enclave. We then stood beneath the Water Lily Pavillon in admiration of the water lilies sparkling in the sunshine, and followed the pathway into the Walled Garden, to admire exceptional planting amongst the palms.

We visited the world-class Glasshouse collection; the lush Exotic Garden; the formal but very romantic, Cottage Garden with central pond and fountain, originally designed by Penelope Hobhouse in the 1990's; the Long Border, looking it's absolute best; admired the serenity of the ponds in the Wildlife Gardens; and, the pièce de résistance, our little party enjoying afternoon tea in the hot sunshine, amongst the vegetable beds of the fabulous World Food Garden designed by Ann-Marie Powell.

A day to remember!





## October Plant of the Month: Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis' from Anna...

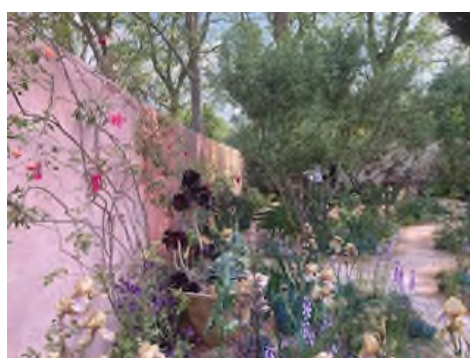
The very first photo I took of Sarah Price's gold-medal 2023 Chelsea Garden, 'The Nurture Landscapes Garden', showcasing transformed waste materials into new garden resources, was of Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis', grown as a climber against a hessian painted section of a boundary wall. The various hues of the flowers were highlighted by the shade of old-rose-mulberry-pink paint work. I was captivated by the imagery, as this design feature was something I had never seen before.

The name Mutabilis comes from the Latin, Mutabile, meaning changeable or to alter. And this is what this rose does: in a single day, the yellow-apricot buds change to coral, then pink, then finally to crimson-red.

Often referred to as the Butterfly Rose, this repeat-flowering, China shrub rose with its cupped, single flowers emitting a lightly, spicy scent, is at its best from May through to November. It is known to flower every month of the year and mine has flowered during the cold months of last winter.

I was delighted to see a group of several Rosa x odorata 'Mutabilis' during our recent outing to RHS Wisley Gardens, looking splendid in the lower section of the Long Border that faces south. I noticed that each rose bush had been cleverly pruned so that they were at different heights, to ensure that the flowers themselves were lower nearer the front of the border, making a rounded, cohesive display.

If you are keen to add this rose to your garden, choose a sheltered spot in full sun, where the soil is moist but well-drained - difficult to achieve in our dry gardens! So, plenty of mulch is necessary. And before you plant it, consider getting out the paintbrush for that rendered wall!!



## Out and About...

- Visit Ham House, Ham Street, Ham, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7RS to enjoy the colourful kitchen garden bursting with pumpkins, rainbow chard and much more. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/london/ham-house-and-garden/the-garden-at-ham-house>
- The Royal Horticultural Society have a new shop at Bluewater, The Plant Space, selling mostly houseplants, more information here <https://bluewater.co.uk/articles/visit-new-rhs-plant-space> .
- The Rookery, Streatham is a formal garden almost enveloped by Streatham common, one of Lambeth's largest open spaces. It is a Grade II listed Historic Garden. For more information <https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/parks/rookery-streatham> .

### Pat's 10 jobs for October...

1. Plant your narcissi in pots and in the ground this month.
2. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security by the current warm weather and think about protecting tender plants either indoors or by bringing to the shelter of a house wall.
3. Prune hardier type salvias lightly now to tidy but protect the more tender ones under glass if possible and for insurance take cuttings.
4. Start collecting leaves for leaf mould and place in wire bins for air. Makes a really good soil conditioner.
5. If summer bedding is past its best remove to compost and replant pots with bulbs or violas and primulas.
6. Prune tall shrubs lightly now such as buddleias to prevent windrock.
7. Although it's late try some cuttings to help with winter losses but grow on a sunny windowsill.
8. Make sure you've ordered your winter veg seeds such as broad beans and your garlic and onions too.
9. Take hardwood cuttings of bush fruit a foot long and push into the ground or in pots making sure they're the right way up. I've only ever grown blackcurrants this way though it takes a few years to get a decent crop.
10. Net ponds to prevent leaves clogging and putrefying.

### NEW! The Garden Doctor

What course of treatment would you recommend for two of my climbing roses which have lost all of their leaves. I have been feeding and watering them throughout the season. Earlier in the year I noticed that black spot had started to infect the plants and so I sprayed them, sparingly but to no avail. My roses look very sad indeed. I have religiously been collecting the affected leaves and putting them in the green waste collection bin. Have you any suggestions please? Viv P

*Sarah Raven suggests under-planting roses with microphylla salvias for example 'Jezebel' or 'Cerro Potosi'. She speculates that the scent produced by the salvias is slightly sulphurous providing a natural fungicide which keeps both mildew and blackspot at bay. She explains more here <https://www.sarahraven.com/articles/gardening-at-home-with-sarah-the-rose-garden-in-june>. Kathy.*

I have a question about using cardboard as a mulch. When should it be applied?...how thickly? and when should it be removed? I used cardboard from delivery boxes to cover moist ground in spring. I then covered in lawn clippings to make the area less unsightly. After summer rain, the ground under the cardboard was dry whereas the rest of the garden was moist..... not the result I was hoping for. Ann H

*Mulch is used as a weed-suppressant, and to retain both moisture and warmth in the soil below it. Use plain brown cardboard where possible and get rid of any plastic such as parcel tape. Lay one layer only, with pieces overlapped to prevent light getting through, otherwise weeds will find the cracks. It is essential then to soak the cardboard to enable rainwater to get through to the roots. In case slugs use it as sheltered accommodation, I wouldn't use cardboard on beds of brassicas or lettuce and the like. Holders of one allotment use cardboard on paths: weeds and other plant material are strewn on top and at the end of the season this ready-made mulch is rolled up together and put on the dormant beds or into the compost bin. Joe F*

### **On the CABAHS website....**

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

Scroll down at <https://cabahs.com/> to read about:

- The Horn Fair at Charlton House on October 15,
- How our Autumn Show potato competition inspired Pat T's family to get growing and sparked some gentle rivalry
- Carolyn's account of a CABHAS visit to Clive's Jungle Garden in Peckham
- And if you have fig trees in your garden, here's some advice on pests to look out for at the moment <https://cabahs.com/2023/09/19/have-you-checked-your-fig-tree-recently/#more-9467>

And Finally:

CABAHS needs you! Committee members are feeling the pressure: what with outings, plant sales, speaker programmes, flower shows, volunteering, blogposts and events! We would welcome help! I will be making a pitch at our meeting next Monday, inviting anyone interested to join us for a chat before the meeting on Monday, November 20. Ask us anything and find out what's involved. Don't be shy!

**Happy gardening all!**  
**Contact us on: [garden@cabahs.com](mailto:garden@cabahs.com)**