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Charlton & Blackheath  
Amateur Horticultural Society  
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## NEWSLETTER June 2022

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

This evening we welcome Steve Edney, who will be talking to us about the Salutation Garden, Tenders and Tropicals. Steve is also bringing some plants to sell.

It has been a busy, busy time for CABAHS. May 22 was the date of our annual plant sale event. Aside from sowing, growing, potting on and splitting plants CABAHS members were labelling and sorting donated plants for a week before the sale. Many of us had every available space in our gardens covered in pots ready to sell. But it was all worth it! On the day, plants were sold out by about 1.00 pm and we made a terrific sum of money, £2,600, thanks to the generosity of buyers and those donating.

### Garden thoughts

Every year a large pot in my garden hosts a display of Eucomis and Gaura lindheimeri, with very little help from me. The pot sits in a gravel path and both the Eucomis and the Gaura self-seed into this prolifically. For several years I have tried and failed to transplant the self-seeded Gaura into other places in my garden. Consultation with local experts provided no results and nor did a visit from one of Argentina's most foremost horticulturalists (she was visiting a neighbour, not me!). Chatting to Jillian Smith (for those who are new members - Jillian is our ex Chair and now one of our Vice Presidents - and extremely knowledgeable) she pointed out that the best time to transplant is when the plants are very small and have not yet had time to develop their characteristic tap root. I have followed this advice and now have 6 small Gaura currently doing well in nursery pots!

### June Plant of the Month chosen by Anna:

Trachelospermum jasminoides, the Star Jasmine, has white flowers and is used in the perfumery trade, and is the most commonly-grown of the species/varieties on the market and I have just recently purchased this species for the very first time. Actually, I regret not obtaining one years ago as I notice it has the longest flowering period within this family. And, justifiably, two Trachelospermum jasminoides have been planted behind a bench in the Old Pond Garden against the wall of the Old Stables, so that visitors may take in their perfume next year when they flower.

However, I have been growing, for many years, three other Trachelospermums that are just as fabulous, which I thought I would mention: Trachelospermum 'Variegatum', with handsome creamy-white edged leaves, and creamy-white perfumed flowers with a yellow centre, ideal for placing on a very sheltered wall at the end of a garden to give the allusion of distance; Trachelospermum asiaticum (Chinese Jasmine), a vigorous vine, with smaller leaves and denser growth, producing highly perfumed creamy-white-fading-to-yellow flowers. I have another Trachelospermum (I have lost the label), with narrow, elongated leaves that has produced pure white flowers for the very first time and I suspect this is because I have been watering it quite frequently with the hose during this very dry spring (it's growing under a mature mimosa). When not in flower, these shrubby, woody, evergreen climbers are still exceedingly attractive, (the foliage often turning reddish in the winter months) and enhance any garden. Originating from Asia, they are reasonably hardy in the south during mild winters and are hugely popular with landscapers but must be grown in warm, sheltered locations with well-drained soil.

If you do decide to plant one, add John Innes no 3 compost to a large planting hole and plant in dappled shade or full sun. Trachelospermums are considered disease resistant and drought tolerant, so they are ideal for London's gardens. If you dream of stepping into a perfumed garden go and check them out now. You will be dazzled!



From Caroline H's garden



Trachelospermum 'Variagatum'



Trachelospermum asiaticum

### Gardening notes

- **Borde Hill Garden** has its Rose Celebration Weeks from 13 - 24 June, 10am - 5pm.
- From 6 July to 4 September **The Garden Museum** is hosting an exhibition based around Frances Hodgson Burnett's book *The Secret Garden* looking at how different artists have brought the book to life.
- Continuing at the **V&A**, *Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature* includes some lovely images of gardens.
- **Open Garden Festival** - the second group of gardens to be open in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice will be on the weekend of 25 and 26 June. Several of our members are taking part. Look out for: The Gatehouse in Eltham, Prior Street Allotments, several gardens in Kinveachy Gardens among many others. Check the website for information as more details are released: <https://www.communityhospice.org.uk/support-us/events/open-gardens-festival/>
- As part of the NGS the garden at **Ulting Wick** is open to the public on 8 July. And there are always interesting plants for sale.

### Out and about.

#### Locally:

The gardens open in aid of Greenwich and Bexley Hospice over the weekend of 11 and 12 June have been a pleasure. From the smaller gardens in Charlton to the large and stately at The Manor House on Croom's Hill, to the beautifully creative garden of Joanna Herald in Granville Park, there must have been inspiration for everyone. In Charlton there was the garden created by parents of young children who wanted them to grow up knowing that fruit and vegetables are grown and don't just come cellophane-wrapped! The garden at The Manor House is traditionally laid out and wonderfully tranquil, while Joanna Herald's includes the use of large mirrors, pots and iron garden furniture to provide a frame for planting.

#### Internationally:

Chelsea Flower Show 2022 from Anna.

The Gold Medal garden that also won Best Construction Award was Sarah Eberle's absolutely stunning Medite Smartply Building the Future showpiece. This 'edge of forest' garden using 'sustainable and innovative products' really had the wow factor: a beautifully built structure from which a green roof waterfall cascaded down into a shady pool, set amongst 'wild, native and naturalised' planting.

The Best in Show Garden - A Rewilding Britain Landscape was beautifully executed by newcomers

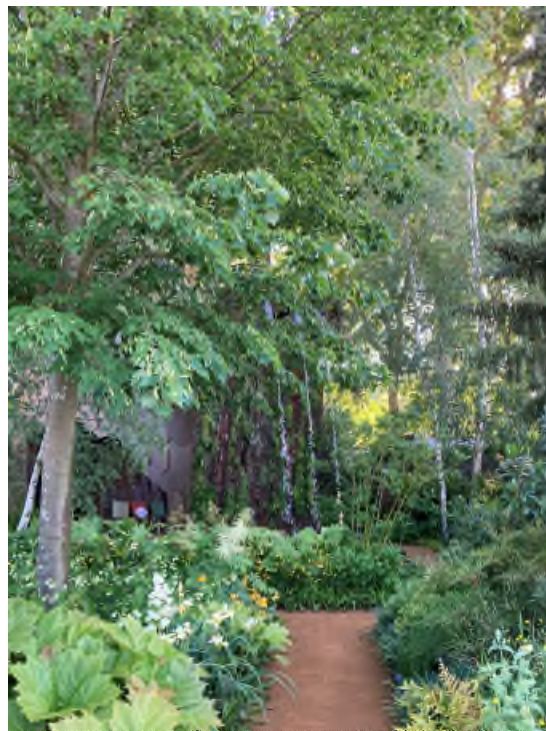


to Chelsea and the garden/landscape looked even better seeing it in person rather than on TV. The designers used pale pink native orchids by the stream, leading the eye up the bank to deeper pink foxgloves, backed by a natural stone wall. The whole garden - hut, native trees, wildflowers, stream, pond and beaver dam was charmingly executed with a landscape painter's eye and I could have spent hours gazing at all the detail.

Joe Swift's BBC Studio's Our Green Planet and RHS Bee Garden (not judged) bee-friendly planting was literally a-buzz with bees. Very impressive. Joe used plants on the RHS Plants for Pollinators list, rich in pollen and nectar, including alliums, catmint, foxgloves, knautia and verberna. I went home to my garden to find I could count the bees in my front garden on one hand. I must do better. I grow knapweed especially for insects and in other years the garden has enjoyed a huge amount of insects, including butterflies but not this year! I shall peruse the RHS list to try to do better.



Structure in the Medite Smartply 'Building the Future' garden





Planting detail



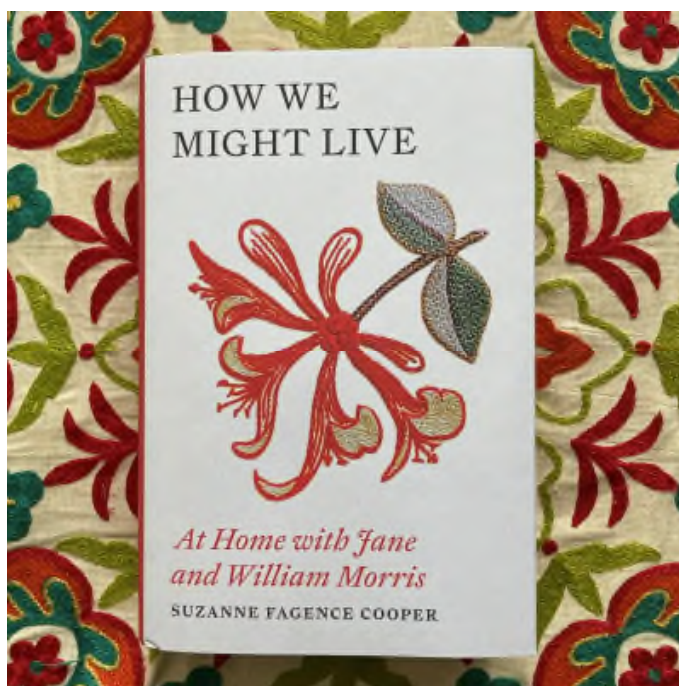
A 'Rewilding Britain' landscape



## Pat's 10 jobs for June:

1. I don't know about all of you but my garden is like a jungle and I have been trying to tie in clematis shoots which are making rampant growth, especially Betty Corning, but a heavy downfall will snap the shoots if they are not secured.
2. If you didn't stake earlier make sure to do it now as again those heavy showers will find everything flat on the ground. Pea sticks if you have any (old prunings from shrubs) are really good just placed amongst the lower growth and soon become invisible.
3. This is a really good time for taking cuttings of almost anything if you have the space and they should make good size plants for next year.
4. Feed clematis with a high potash food like tomato fertiliser but stop feeding once the flowers appear or you will hasten their demise.
5. Deadhead early annuals, perennials and repeat blooming roses regularly to encourage more flowers.
6. Remove spent flowers from rhododendrons and camellias and prune back camellias now before the buds start forming for next year.
7. In the kitchen garden pinch out side-shoots on tomatoes which can grow at a rate of knots if you're not vigilant.
8. Plant out sweetcorn in blocks not in rows so they can wind pollinate.
9. Birds need loads of water in hot dry weather for bathing and drinking so don't forget to clean and top up bird baths every day.
10. Remove duck weed regularly from ponds so the water does not become completely clogged and add to the compost bin.

## Object of the month



A new book by Suzanne Fagence Cooper focuses on Jane Morris and her importance to the work of William Morris and his group. Apparently the author found a huge amount of material in Jane's 'keepsake book', which demonstrated her contribution to the designs and creations attributed to Morris. These keepsake books or 'commonplaces' were a repository of thoughts and quotations which all kinds of people kept, from poets such as Thomas Hardy to Ronald Reagan. Who knew!

Happy gardening all!  
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