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Charlton & Blackheath
Amateur Horticultural Society
Founded 1950

www.cabahs.wordpress.com



Halstead Road in Snow (1938)
<https://www.wikiart.org/>
Eric Ravilious (1903 - 1942)

Dear Member,

Having begun a new 'tradition' of sending out a Christmas email in 2020 we continue in 2022! Sincere thanks to all the team and member helpers who have provided such great support throughout the year.

2020 was a difficult year, as was 2021. 2022 has been a difficult year for different reasons. Let's hope that 2023 will be more settled and bring more joy! As last year, I have invited some of our regular contributors to the monthly Newsletter to offer an additional item.

Pat has written to tell us about the Ivy Bee.

The Ivy Bee (*Colletes hederæ*) is our newest bee first arriving in 2001 in Dorset and is definitely on the increase and has now spread as far as Yorkshire and Lancashire. In fact we saw them this year in Shropshire at Stokesay Castle garden. I first really noticed it a couple of years ago in the village of Loders in Dorset and there were hundreds buzzing around a huge clump of mature ivy and the noise they made was almost deafening so you couldn't fail to notice them. They are a solitary species and the females are slightly smaller than honey bees and the males are smaller again. The female makes her nest by burrowing into sandy soil, making cells then laying an egg in each. In the right conditions thousands may make their homes in the same place sometimes in grass or banks of sand.

They feed mainly on ivy and will emerge in time for flowering from September to November and, as such, are the last bee to appear. When cutting back my Rambling Rector rose in October in the

alleyway at the back of my house there were thousands feeding on the flowers of the mature ivy which colonises the area at the rear of my garden and has now become a haven for wildlife. If you have the space in a wild corner of your garden for ivy do allow it to flower and hopefully you will be rewarded with the sound and sight of the ivy bee.

You can find out more and see a picture at: <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/invertebrates/bees-and-wasps/ivy-bee>

From Anna:

On December 1st-4th, Greenwich Council (including sponsors) treated residents to a magical light show/trail in Well Hall Pleasaunce.

The evenings were mild, queues were forming and thousands of excited children (and the adults) were chatting away in eager anticipation of this magical wonderland light trail. And it really was magical. The trees were lit up to create the setting for different themes: lights emanating from water-lily flowers in the formal pond, a cave of lights along the wisteria pergola; a pond highlighting a large green toad (or was it a frog?); a crimson-lit tree with pearl-drop lights appearing to fall; a Snow Queen in her snowy, winter wonderland; and amongst the shrubbery toadstools, rabbits and deer and butterflies in the trees peek out in all their brilliance, creating a magical fantasy land with the WOW factor. A memorable experience.

If you missed out this year, look out for the posters/notifications in Oct/Nov next year (hopefully). Online booking is necessary, but tickets are free.



And a selection of jokes put together by Kathy, just for you...remember it's Christmas, the jokes are supposed to be bad!

What do you call a girl with prickly hair?

Holly

What's small, red and whispers?

A hoarse radish

Why doesn't Elton John like lettuce?

He's more of a Rocket Man

What do you get when you cross a Christmas Tree with an I-Pad?

A Pineapple

What Roman Numeral can climb a fence?

IV

A friend dug a hole in the garden and filled it with water.

I think he meant well.

And finally, a huge thank you to all of you, our members, who have supported us through this year.

Happy Christmas

Vija

