



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter February 2020

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on 2nd March when David Williams will give us a talk about Badgers
2. Trading Hut will open again on 1st March.
3. A note for your diary: March 28th will be our club's **tool sharpening** day. **Please note it will be a Saturday.**
4. Did you know you can renew electronically now? See newsletter for details.

The February Meeting was the A.G.M. for which there was a good turnout. Our Chairman, Dick Hawes, presided which made for a lively meeting as usual.

The club is still thriving, with over 110 members, and our finances are steady.

It was reported that we had two very successful shows, with lots of entries, despite the weather. The Summer Show was the largest for many years. The shows were only let down by the low number of visitors in the afternoon. Special thanks went to all the show helpers. Unfortunately, our Show Secretary, after organising many successful shows over the years, is standing down. Consequently, we do need a volunteer to take his place if we are to continue running these events.

Our Trading Officer said he had a very good year. The tool sharpening events were very successful, as were plant sales at evening meetings. Thanks were given to hut volunteers.

More people were taking part in the Table Competition, the £50. prize was won by Peter Radband. Sylvia Hawes won £10 by achieving the highest average number of points.

We are fortunate to have such loyal and helpful members, and such a strong Committee. However, we are short of three committee members – so if you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome! The Committee, and all the helpers who give their time so generously, were warmly thanked. Lynn Potts has now retired from committee work and was presented with a gift voucher to thank her for all the years of work she has done for the club.

Subs of £5 per person are now due for 2020. See below if you wish to pay electronically.

The meeting was followed by cheese and wine and other tasty nibbles, supplied by Sylvia Hawes, which were very much enjoyed. (Thank you, Sylvia and team!) We all had time for a good get-together before heading home.

Topical Tip – February 2020

When considering your fertilizer requirements for the coming season, it is worth considering the forgotten element, i.e. Sulphur.

Sulphur is required by plants in the same quantity as phosphorous.

Two materials which supply sulphur are sulphate of ammonium and sulphate of potash. Sulphate of ammonia is ideal for top dressing brassicas as they have a high sulphur requirement.

Sulphate of potash is especially valuable for applying in early spring to cane and soft fruit and roses. Both materials will be available from the hut when it opens at the beginning of March.

Badger watch

After the March talk on Badgers, a badger watch will be organised for 8th April. If you are interested, make a note in your diary. More details will be announced at the March meeting.

Outings

We continue to look for suggestions for this year's outings. If there are any places you have visited and think would be worth a club visit, please let us know. On the other hand, if there is anywhere you have not visited and would like to go; once again, let us know.

Monthly Table Competition

The Table Competition results were announced for the year.

1st was Peter Radband with 238 points, 2nd with 174 points was Jayne Male and 3rd Hermione Lewis with 171 points.

The highest average = 1st Sylvia Hawes with 25 points, 2nd Peter Radband with 24 points and 3rd Kerry Eaton with 23 points.

Well done to all those who took part this year.

For this coming year, we will be offering a £25 prize for the winner plus £15 for second and £10 for third. There will still be a £10 prize for the highest average number of points (5 entries or more).

Membership

Did you know you can renew electronically?

Just transfer your £5 (£10 for a couple) to the clubs account giving your surname and initials as the reference. Your membership card will then be waiting for you at the next meeting.

Clubs account number is – 71301608 & sort code – 404709

Now it's the start of a new year, why not have a chat with your neighbours and tell them about our gardening club. Gardening clubs, all over the country, are folding due to lack of members. Is it because new houses are being built with smaller gardens or is it that younger people aren't interested or are too busy to garden? Who knows the real answer? Our club is no different. Thirty years ago, our membership was around 450 (no, that was not a typing error – 450). Last year we lost a few members due to relocation and health reasons but thankfully gained a few new members. This kept our membership at 111. Our ideal number would be 150 but we know we can't get there without your help. Pass the word around. Tell people you will bring them to their first meeting. Don't keep it a secret.

Monthly talks

This is a call to all members: if you have any ideas/requests for the subjects of the monthly talks, please let us know. Either reply to this email or give Hermione a ring (number below).

Spring Show

Just a reminder that this year's Spring Show is set for 5th April. The Show Schedule is now finalised and is on our web site www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

We are always looking for tombola prizes, so if you have anything suitable, please bring it to the AGM (or any meeting).

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| Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730 | Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 07976 640989 | Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671 | Committee Member: Jayne Male |
| Deputy Chairman: Ian Gillott 0118 9892649 | Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531 | Membership: Kerry Eaton 07736 022361 | Co-opted Member: Marise Radband 01344 774310 |
| Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432 | Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424 | Committee Member: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852 | Co-opted Member: |