



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter April 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

This month 52 members and visitors attended the club meeting to hear Joy Craig give a talk on "Fuchsias My Way". Joy Craig shows her plants and is a judge at several major shows. Fuchsias are a popular subject and we had a large turnout of members.

Joy told us how she got involved in fuchsias and let us in on her methods of growing. Joy recommended feeding once a week, but if you intend showing your plants, feed daily. Joy explained the benefits of pinching out the growing tips to encourage bushing and hence more flower production. She also talked about the best way to keep plants over winter (do not cut out dead wood until the new shoots appear, from the base, in spring).

Joy demonstrated her way of taking cuttings and then treated us to slides of gorgeous faultless show-winning plants (and her elegant Burmese cats!); I think it would be very difficult to replicate such perfectly shaped plants, absolutely covered with flowers! Mine certainly fall very short!

We have our Spring Show on the 8th of this month. We will see how well everyone else's daffodils and tulips have done!

We also had a demonstration of how to use a defibrillator by local paramedics; it is easier than you think as the machine talks you clearly through the steps for use.

Lynn Potts
0118 977 1852

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on May 7th and will be on "Twelve Months of Colour", by John Negus.
2. Trading hut – Now open Sunday mornings 10 to 12
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.
4. **Membership subs are now due.** Once again, we have held the cost at £5.
5. **Sunday 8th is our Spring Show. It's YOUR club and the show is YOUR show so please come and bring friends and family. (see below for details)**

'Our speaker mentioned that the product Provado would help to control vine weevil. This is no longer the case. Although the makers have maintained the same name for the product, the active ingredient that the product contains is different from the original. Provado originally contained the systemic insecticide clorpyalid. Owing to the fact that this was a neonicotinoid insecticide and its possible effect on bees, it was withdrawn.

The current formulation of Provado contains deltamethrin, a pyrethroid insecticide which is NOT systemic. It will NOT control vine weevil. However, it will control caterpillars and aphids.' - Ian Gillot

Membership

Over the past six months our membership has steadily grown.
Why not tell your neighbours and friends about us and invite them to a meeting?
Keeping annual membership at £5 makes us a great club to be a member of.
So, don't keep it a secret.

Club Outing

The destination has now been decided. See the end of this newsletter for details or go to our club's website www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk/outings.html

Book / Magazine Table

Those of you who attend the monthly meetings will be aware of the free to take gardening related magazine table. Many of these magazines are quite old and so we are asking members, if they have any more recent editions (late 2017 onwards) that they no longer need, to bring them along for the table.

We have also started a garden book table. If you have any gardening books you no longer use, then please bring them along to any of the meetings so other members can make use of them. The books will be priced and all funds will go towards club activities.

Chairman's Challenge

Looking good. If you have worked your magic, you should have five lovely blooms to bring to the show. My blooms are opening now. I have brought them in to the warm to encourage the flowers to fully open. I am keeping them well watered to avoid the stems collapsing. Good luck everyone.

Bring & Buy Tools

11 members have already committed to decorating a garden tool, either from our stock or one of their own which they are willing to donate to the club. The decorated tools will be judged at the June meeting so there is still lots of time. The winner will receive a £10 trading hut voucher. The decorated tools will be used to enhance our stall at Finchampstead Fete.

Wisley Ticket

The Wisley ticket is still available from Valerie Pickersgill. It allows two people a 30% discount. If you want the ticket for the day, then give Valerie a ring on 0118-9783647 to let her know when you will need them. Valerie will then let you know how to pick them up.

Trading Hut

The hut is now open 10 to 12 on Sundays. **However**, please note that this Sunday 8th (Spring Show Sunday) the hut will not be open in the morning. Stuart, will be in the hall with hut products from 2:30 to 4. He will open the hut for anything he does not have in the hall.

Monthly Table Competition

1st Sylvia Hawes with 28 points. Joint 2nd with 27 points Jayne Male & Robert Vacher.
Joint 3rd with 26 points Peter Radband, Kerry Eaton, Ann Blakeman, Ian Gilliot and Jean Potter
4th with 25 points Hermione Lewis. 5th with 24 points Betty Mold

The subject for May is: Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit.

Would all entrants endeavour to get their exhibits on the table 10 mins prior to the start of the meeting to facilitate judging.

All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least one month.

This year we will continue to offer a cash prize for first & second

Monthly talks

This is a call to 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).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Committee Member Kerry Eaton 07736 022361	Membership: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Committee Member Peter Radband 01344 774310
Deputy Chairman Ian Gillott 0118 9892649	Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Co-opted Member Marise Radband 01344 774310
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Hon. Treasurer: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571

Outing to Award-Winning Sir Harold Hillier Gardens on Tuesday July 10th 2018



Join us for a coach trip to the world-renowned Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. Famous for its 14 National Collections, the site has over 400 Champion Trees in its arboretum, more than 42,000 plants and excellent visitor facilities in 180 acres. Admire the splendour of the seasonal planting displays.

An outstanding feature at its peak in July is the iconic Centenary Border with 250 metres of colour and drama in the longest double mixed herbaceous border in the country.

Explore the National Collection Glade containing rare plants, trees and shrubs. Other highlights include:

the Summer Meadow, the atmospheric Acer Valley, the Pond, the Pinetum, the Himalayan Garden, the Heather Garden, the Gurkha Memorial Garden, the Woods of the World Valley and bamboos and gunnera in the Bog Garden.

With a visitor pavilion, exhibition gallery, sculptures, restaurant, tea room, picnic areas, gift shop and plant sales, this venue offers an enjoyable day out.

The price of £25 includes a luxury coach, group entry fee and driver's tip. On Tuesday July 10th the coach leaves California Ratepayers' Hall by 9.15am, Rose Street by 9.25am and London Road, Three Frogs by 9.30am. Friends and family welcome. To secure places book at the CGC Club meetings, at the 8th Apr. Spring Show or contact Chris Spinks by email: cspinks41@gmail.com or phone 01189781432. Cash accepted at meetings and the Show or cheque made to 'California Gardeners' Club' (payment by the June 7th meeting). Enjoy!