



Newsletter April 2022

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk



April meeting

53 members attended the talk by Bernard Baverstock at our April meeting which was about 'The Blackwater Valley Trust'. He is one of the Trustees and gave a most interesting talk about all that is involved in the maintenance and protection of the Woodland, Green spaces, lakes, footpaths and wildlife in the Country Park, of which he cares greatly about.

He believes, it is one of our hidden environmental treasures in the South, a green corridor stretching twenty three miles from Farnham to Swallowfield with the Blackwater, Whitewater and Lodden Rivers at its Centre. The Park was formed in 2006 by local people wishing to protect their environment because of the effect of Gravel workings destroying the area; and with the addition of major road building, BVCT had a huge task on their hands.

However, the Trusts Charitable status enabled it to access funding for vital environmental and conservation projects. These projects, with the help of many enthusiastic volunteers, have been undertaken: Coppicing trees in the Woodland, planting hedges of native shrubs to encourage wildlife, propagating as many native wild flowers as possible to encourage moths, butterflies and other insects.

It was important too, to increase the numbers of owls, bats, and sand-martins by putting up boxes for Owls and sand-martins, and housing for bats. It was important too, to do surveys and tracking of small mammals such as the wood mouse, harvest mouse, the yellow necked mouse and shrews.

The Trust was sad to discover that the water vole had disappeared due to the numbers of mink in the area, but are hopeful, that in time, they will reappear. They were delighted to see rising numbers of Red Kites, Buzzards and Ravens in the area and the slow increasing numbers of Otters in the lakes and rivers due to the monitoring of the water quality.

Finally, the Trust felt it was also important to teach the value of conservation and biodiversity to people of all ages by encouraging an active involvement of the local residents in all that they are doing; improving the quality of the paths, and also by arranging talks, Bird Watching, Bat Walks in September, and organising leisure activities such organised Walks.

Maureen Boyington

Things to note

1. **Our next meeting** is on the 2nd May. **Awesome Oak Trees** by Ailsa Claybourn
2. **Time to renew your membership.** You can find details on how to do this in this newsletter.
3. **Trading Hut:** now open every Sunday 10:00 to 12:00
4. **Member's articles.** See newsletter for more details. If you have an interesting story, send it in.
5. **Remember to:** call Hermione if there is a particular subject you would like a speaker for. Hermione's number is at the end of this newsletter

Table Competition

Spectacular table of members exhibits. Really well supported this month.

1st Place 10 points Sylvia Hawes

Joint 2nd place with 8 points Sue Darlow and Jill Gillott

Joint 3rd place with 7 points Linda Garrett, Claire Temperley, Hermione Lewis and Margaret Wade

4th Place with 6 points Ian Gillott

5th Place with 4 points Katy Bailey

Help with the teas and biscuits

Each club night we have a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. We need someone to manage this. All that is needed is to bring milk and make sure we have enough teabags and coffee. All expenses, of course, will be reimbursed. We will create a rota for the coming months and ask for volunteers to serve in the kitchen.

Please let me know if you can help by replying to this email.

Spring Show

Well, we were worried that the show would be a flop. On Friday we only had 90 entries and we needed to be around the 150 mark for a good show. Friday night, one member reported they had to withdraw their 10 entries as they had tested positive for Covid. We were down to 80 and seriously considering cancelling the show. However, by Saturday afternoon the numbers had picked up and we were back and thinking positive. With late entries on Sunday morning we were at 150 entries. Whew.

A big thank you to all those who responded to the cake appeal. Many members donated a variety of cakes which were enjoyed by the visitors to the show. I must admit, several of the cakes would have done well had they been entered as exhibits in the show.

Thanks to all those (committee and non-committee) who helped set up the hall on the Saturday evening and all those who helped put everything away afterwards.

It was good to see a few new faces at the show, some of whom sought out the membership table and joined the club.

Of course the show is not just a chance to show off your exhibits and seeing if you can win a first prize; it is also about having an afternoon out and enjoying the flowers, domestic and handicraft work of other members. Having a sit down with a drink and cake and discussing whether the judges got it right in your opinion. Unfortunately, the afternoon was not very well attended which was disappointing for all those who had put in a great deal of work organising the event.

Just some photos below of the winners at the Spring Show receiving their certificates.



Help in the Trading Hut

Many of you who use the Trading Hut will know that on occasions we ask members to man it. All you have to do is arrive at 09:55 at the hut and serve other members for a couple of hours. It's great fun and you get to meet other members of the club.

We are currently looking for people to cover any of the following dates:

May 1st May 8th May 29th

If you can help and fancy doing a bit of shop keeping for a morning, just email us letting us know which date you can cover and we will talk you through the rest.

Thanks in anticipation.

Topical Tip – April 2022

- Now is the time to spray your roses against blackspot, mildew and rust.
- Prune hydrangeas, cutting back the old stems to a healthy shoot lower down.
- Start checking all your plants for greenfly. Now is when they are becoming active and before long your plants are covered in them.
- Pinch out the tips of fuchsia plants and sweet pea plant shoots, to encourage bushy growth this summer.
- We are still having frosty nights so keep the fleece handy to protect those delicate plants.
- Start working on your lawns. Kill off the moss and after a week to ten days rake it out. Sow seed in any bare patches and apply a lawn feed over the whole lawn. Stuart in the hut has all you need to achieve a great lawn this year.

For the ladies who asked for the names of some particular daffodils

You know who you are and I said I would get the names for you.

It's called 'My Story'. It was a cracker and deserved a first.



The daffodils in the black pot are called 'Rip Van Winkle'



Member's email

Did anyone read that article in the Telegraph about a council removing 1000 "poisonous" daffodils from a recreation park; after an inspection had raised fears that children might eat them and suffer harm. In a move branded "vandalism and totally bonkers" by local residents who called for those responsible to be sacked. Whatever next?

Facebook Group News

You are most welcome to join the club Facebook group. It is a private group which means that only club members can join and post. You can join it at: www.facebook.com/groups/207934410581605/

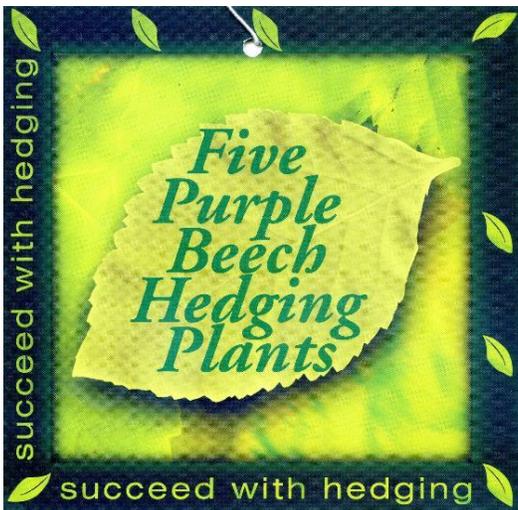
You will need to first read and agree to the group guidelines. We really would like more members in this group to make it a lively forum. We are looking for gardening related posts and club news.

Member's email

One of our members, having bought some plants at a garden centre, arrived home to realise that one of the items he had bought, he did not want.

At the last meeting he brought it in and donated it to club funds. The original cost in the garden Centre was a penny short of £20. We are offering it at half price (£10).

See below and give us a call on 0118 9793730 or 07780 513081
or reply to this email if you would like them.



PURPLE BEECH (Fagus sylvatica Purpurca)

Glossy purple foliage, turns to rich golden brown in autumn, remaining on the branches well into winter. Vigorous once established this plant likes either full sun or partial shade and will grow in most soils will stand frequent trimming

Benefit of a hedge

Walls and fences do the job but living plants [hedges] offer the garden so much more in terms of beauty, attracting wildlife, giving wind protection and improving security.

Membership this year

2022 subs are now due. They remain at £5 per person per year. You can either pay at the May club meeting or at the hut on a Sunday mornings.

If you would like to pay now, you can do so through BACS. Sort Code: 40-47-09,
Account Number 71301608.

Please use your full name as the reference.

Once you have paid by BACS, please go to the membership page on our web site and record that you have paid (you will find the form at the bottom of the membership page).

RHS card

Our club has a RHS Card. It enables two people to gain entry to all RHS gardens throughout the country (this includes RHS Bridgewater from Sept).

Presentation of this card will give you and your friend a 30% discount on the entry fee.

You can borrow the card by contacting Chris Spinks (number at the end of newsletter) and arranging to pick it up.

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).

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| Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730 | Hon. Treasurer: Yvonne Hedley 0118 973 3852 | Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671 | Committee Member: Peter Radband 07976 640989 |
| Deputy Chairman: Ian Gillott 0118 989 2649 | Trading Officer: Stuart Slocombe 0118 973 4531 | Membership: Jayne Male 07967 639808 | Co-opted Member: Marise Radband 01344 774310 |
| Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432 | Show Officers: Daryl & Katie Phillips 07980 160169 | Publicity: Maureen Boyington 07919 522379 | Table Competition Linda Garrett |