



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter August 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Things to remember

On Monday 5th of August, 45 people came to hear Mark Saunders give us a talk on Wildlife in the Garden. Mark is head gardener at Fittleworth House in West Sussex and has been a professional for 37 years.

The garden is not organic but has a system of "natural gardening" to include as much wildlife as possible. The only place where pest killers, chemicals and slug pellets are used is in the greenhouse.

Great use is made of compost; they make 30 tons of it a year! That way beneficial bacteria and fungi, as well as nutrients and soil improvers are spread throughout the garden.

New habitat is created for wildlife, native hedges are planted, the grass is left long in places, with flowering meadows, and climbing plants are grown. A pond was made, and nest boxes installed, along with various feeders. This encourages predators; from blackbirds and blue tits to dragonflies, hoverflies, lacewings and ladybirds; which all help to remove pests.

As much as possible, plants are grown in suitable situations, and succession is ensured by only using ones that flower in different seasons, and things are kept as natural as possible with no decorative lights in the garden.

Mark tries to always have a camera with him and showed us some quite spectacular photos of the creatures he came across during his day's work.

We should all take a little time to look more closely, when in our own gardens, and we might be surprised how many creatures make a living there.

Lynn Potts.

1. Our next meeting is on 2nd September when Jan Lowe will be talking about the 'Send-a-Cow Charity'.
2. Don't forget the Summer Show on the 8th September.
3. Trading Hut now open closed for August.
4. Don't forget the Summer Show on the 8th September.
5. Annual membership is now due (£5).
6. Don't forget the Summer Show on the 8th September.
7. D. Salter to collect prize money (see newsletter).

Thank you

Big thank you to all those people who brought Tombola items in anticipation of the Summer Show. They are greatly appreciated.

Topical tip

As autumn approaches, plants of the cucurbit family often suffer from powdery mildew. These plants include courgettes, marrows and squashes. To extend the life of these plants it is worthwhile removing any infected outer leaves which may have mildew and spraying once a week with SB Invigorator. This is a very cost-effective and worthwhile treatment and will extend the life of the plant.



Farley Hill Place



Peter Radband organised a thoroughly enjoyable and relaxed afternoon trip to this inspiring local beauty spot. Without the crowds, we had the place to ourselves. After a welcoming cool drink and introductory talk from Margaret Finch, we were at liberty to roam the vast and glorious flower, vegetable and cutting garden areas. We took opportunities to chat with her and with her husband who was tending the impressive vegetable beds. They love supporting charities and all our members attending agreed that the plentiful tea and cakes rounded off a wonderful visit. Thanks to Peter and those who came along.



Winner of the Rose Competition

We noticed that the winner of the recent Rose competition, D. Salter, did not collect his prize money. Could you email Peter Radband on peterkradband@outlook.com to arrange collection. Thanks

Help Required

We are looking for someone who is prepared to work with the Show Secretary and learn the ropes. It's not a difficult job but certainly a very interesting one. It does not require a great deal of horticultural knowledge but more administrative and is only a twice a year commitment. PLEASE give it your consideration. If you fancy having a go then please email Dick on sandr@morseconsultants.com Many thanks.

Membership

***Over the past six months our membership continues to steadily grow.
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

Monthly Table Competition

Joint first with 26 points were Peter Radband and Ian Gillott,
2nd Hermione Lewis with 25 points, 3rd Sylvia Hawes with 24 points,
4th Betty Mold with 23 points, joint 5th Kriss Turner and Kerry Eaton with 22 points,
6th Jean Potter with 20 points.

The subject for September is:
Any plants, flowers, vegetables or fruit.
All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months
and you must be present on the night for your points to be counted towards the annual prize.

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).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 01344 774310	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: Shirley Brown 0118 9734571