



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter December 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

On December 3rd we had our Christmas Party when, around 50 members enjoyed an evening of quizzes, party games, music, wine and food.

The party games consisted of a 'Beetle Drive' and 'Shove Ha'penny', all directed by our Chairman Dick in his inimitable way, and soon everyone was in a party mood.

The first entertainment was the "Beetle Drive" which entailed a great deal of frantic dice tossing and drawing and moving from table to table.



Well done the winner of the Beetle Drive Keith Roberts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on January 7th when Jacqueline Aviolet we will be giving us a talk on NUTS.
2. Table competition for January 'A Photograph of Autumn Colours' Remember; 7 x 5 with no border, frames or mounts

Of course, the players of the shove-halfpenny did not sit around a small board, the game and all its parts were magnified so, that in the end, the halfpennies were nine inches in diameter and one inch thick. The board became the floor of the hall and a special 'shover' was made to push the discs across the floor. There was some skilful play with a few managing to shove their discs into the ten score. Techniques such as positioning disc and then giving them a small nudge into a scoring section were successfully used. When the winners were declared, a shout of FIX went up. Dick, our Chairman, had won by one point over the deputy chairman.

Two quizzes were run. The first was black and white pictures of various bridges hung around the hall for members to identify, and the other was logic puzzles. Respectable scores were achieved in both quizzes.

The food and drink were, as always, excellent and very much enjoyed, and a good time was had by all! The fact that the evening was so successful and enjoyable is a tribute to all the planning and hard work put in behind the scenes by a lot of people; Thank you all!

Message from your Committee

It's been a wonderful year for the club and we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves organising the various elements to make it a warm and friendly organisation. We were particularly heartened when hearing one speaker say "It's a shame to start the meeting. Your members are so friendly and sociable, it's hard to interrupt them with the talk".

From all the committee: we wish you all a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

Unwanted Christmas presents

These are the lifeblood of the tombola at the shows so please bring any gifts that are not really your thing to the January meeting and we'll keep them safe until the Spring Show. Thank you in advance.

Trading Hut

The hut is now closed for the winter. If you have an urgent need for something or want something ordered for next year, get in touch with Stuart (phone number below).

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***

Topical tip

Now that the leaves have fallen from soft fruit bushes, now is the time to do some pruning. It is also time to think about applying sulphate of potash around the base of both soft fruit and apple trees to help with fruit bud development. Apply 15 gram/square metre round the base of bushes and fruit trees any time from the beginning of January until the end of February.

Monthly Table Competition

January competition is:
'A Photograph of Autumn Colours'
Remember; 7 x 5 with no borders, frames or mounts.

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).

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| Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730 | Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 07976 640989 | Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671 | Committee Member Judy Thomas |
| 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 |