



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter February 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

The February Meeting was the A.G.M. for which there was a good turnout (51 members). Our Chairman, Dick Hawes, presided which made for a lively meeting as usual.

The club is still thriving, and we had two very successful shows in 2017, with an increase in entries. We do have open and novice classes, we welcome new entries, and the old hands are always happy to give help and advice. Special thanks went to all the show helpers. The 2018 Schedule is now on the website.

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In November we had the sad loss of our Treasurer and stalwart of the club for many years, Peter Jourdan, who was well known in the area and to our members. Judy Thomas has courageously agreed to take over the reins as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Our Trading Officer has made great strides with the Trading Hut, sorting out the old product lines and arranging for new ones. The Hut will be open from the end of February.

We are very fortunate to have such loyal and helpful members. We have a strong Committee and were lucky enough to have a volunteer to join the committee resulting in a full complement of committee members.

Thanks, were given to the Committee, and all the helpers who give their time so generously to the club.

Membership numbers are rising steadily with visitors deciding they like our club and signing up.

The meeting was followed by cheese and wine and other tasty nibbles, which were very much enjoyed. We all had time for a good get-together before heading home.

Lynn Potts (0118 977 1852)

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on March 5th, Heather Skinner will talk about the "National Garden Scheme".
2. Trading hut – Still closed for the winter. Will open again 4th March
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.
4. Make a special note that on Sunday, March 25th, we have another Tool Sharpening! From 10 am to 12 noon at the Trading Hut.)
5. **Membership subs are now due.** Once again, we have held the cost at £5.
6. Tool sharpening this year will be on Sunday 25th March

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

This year we are asking members for suggestions as to where they would like to go for the club outing and in which month. Once the location and month has been agreed, we will publicise it and organise the coach.

Up the Garden Path

We now have two members who have volunteered their gardens for the 'Up the Garden Path' charity event. Both members have said they have ordinary gardens (nothing special) and are just volunteering for the social and charity side of the day. This, of course, is exactly how people should think of the day. It is not to show off a perfect garden or to have every plant with a name tag in English and Latin. It's just a fun day out visiting other members gardens.

We still need three more gardens so please give it some thought. If you would like more information, contact either Chris Spinks (0118 9781432) cspinks41@gmail.com or Peter Radband (01344 774310) peterkradband@outlook.com

Unwanted presents

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

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 would also like to start up 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 any all funds will go towards club activities.

Chairman's Challenge

It looks as if this year the Chairman's challenge daffodil bulbs are on schedule for the April show and meeting. I can now disclose the type of bulb we are all growing; it is called Tahiti. See picture on the front of this newsletter. Tahiti has round golden yellow petals intermingled with orange-red. It is an eye-catching narcissus, large flowered and weather resistant. It received a RHS Award of Garden Merit.

Bring & Buy Tools

We are pleased to report that the Bring & Buy held at the AGM raised £31.50
Thank you to all those who brought tools for sale. We will continue to run this event for the next few meetings so if you forgot to bring them in at the last meeting, we will remind you for the next.

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 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).

Monthly Table Competition

The results for the 2017 table competition were announced at the AGM.

The First prize of £50 went to Hermione Lewis with 242 points.

Second prize of £25 went to Ann Blakeman with 223 points

The prize of £10 for the highest average points went to Ian Gillott

See below for pictures.

The subject for March is:

Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit.

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



The Table competition first prize of £50 went to Hermione Lewis with 242 points.



The Table competition second prize of £25 went to Ann Blakeman with 223 points



The Table competition prize of £10 for the highest average points went to Ian Gillott (left).