

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

California Gardeners' Club Newsletter February 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

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

The club is still thriving, with well over 100 members (even two new members at the AGM), and we had two very successful shows in 2018, with lots of entries, despite the heat. We do have open and novice classes, and we welcome new entries. Special thanks went to all the show helpers. The Show Schedule is now on the website.

Our Treasurer Judy Thomas unfortunately had to step down due to illness, but Peter Radband has taken over the post.

Our Trading Officer has done a great job with the Trading Hut, sorting out the old lines and arranging for new ones. The Hut will be open from the beginning of March.

We are fortunate to have such loyal and helpful members, and such a strong Committee. Even though we had one new volunteer to join the committee, we could always do with a few more. – so, if you would like to join us, you will be made very welcome! Thanks, were given to the Committee, and all the helpers who give their time so generously to the club.

Ian Gillott won the prize of £50 for the Table Competition with Kerry Eaton winning the highest average points prize of £10

Subs are now due for 2019.

The meeting was followed by cheese and wine and other tasty nibbles, supplied by Sylvia Hawes, 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 4th when we will be having a talk on 'Genetic engineering/science/hydroponics'
2. **Please note the Spring Show photography subjects, classes 52 & 53, are 'A Village Pub' and 'Animal(s)'**
3. Tools sharpening date for your diary is 31st March
4. Wyevale at Binfield closes on the 16th Feb. everything is reduced by 50%
5. **Note the Spring Show is on the 14th April**
6. Trading Hut opens 3rd March

Waitrose

Good News/Bad News

I am delighted that our participation in Waitrose Sandhurst's green token scheme has raised £247 for our club! That's the good news, the not so good news is the tokens collected at club night missed the boat by 1 day but don't fret, we should get another chance later in the year at either Yately or Wokingham so keep saving those tokens please. If you are a regular at either of those stores please let me know if our name appears so I can dash in with the tokens collected.

Spring Show Tombola prizes

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

Trading Hut

Hi Everyone – although it doesn't feel like it at the moment the new gardening season will soon be upon us! After our weather this last 10 days or so I'm sure we are all looking forward to some Spring sunshine and a little warmth in the coming weeks. At the moment our snowdrops are finally getting into full flower and our pots of dwarf irises and early crocuses are brightening our front doorstep.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that the car park at the front of the Ratepayers Hall is about to be redesigned and re tarmacked. These works are scheduled for w/c Mon 18 February and will take about a week to complete. I was thinking about opening the Hut for the 2019 season on Sunday 24th February, but if the above car park works over run it could be difficult to access our Hut on the 24th. So, at our meeting last night the Club's Committee made the very sensible decision to defer the 2019 Hut opening until 10.00 a.m. on Sunday 3rd March.

All our new stock is now in and the Hut will be looking at its best for our opening day on the 3rd March. I am stocking four new products for 2019 – a RTU (ready to use) lawn spot weed killer, a concentrated vine weevil killer (we get a lot of vine weevil damage on our lillies), sequestered iron sachets and some bags of perlite. Of course, there are also all your other favourite gardening products, plenty of compost, etc.

So, the Hut opens for 2019 on the 3rd March and I will be bringing some seasonal products into the hall for our next meeting on Monday 4th March.

Best regards

Stuart

For new members; the Trading Hut is in the car park behind the hall. Lots of garden products available at prices a lot lower than garden centres. Advice is always available at no extra cost. Product lists are also on our website.

Spring Show

Yes, it appears to be a long way off, but it is not really. Now is the time to be seriously thinking of what you can grow to exhibit. Yes, it is too late to plant bulbs for the Spring Show, but now is the time to start raising seeds for summer annuals etc., which will give a grand display come September. Have a look through the Show schedule (see below). It is on our website also.

No flowering bulbs then how about making some handicraft or baking something. Why not buy some flowers from Tesco and enter one of the Floral Art classes. Try and think positive as what you can do rather than what you can't. Last year's Show was well entered, let's make this one even bigger!

Peter Turner, Show Secretary.

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

Most lawns took a battering during last year's hot weather. Soon will be the time for applying a nitrogen-based fertilizer. Farmers who rely on their grassland to provide an 'early bite' for their cattle use something called a 'T sum' to help them time the first application of fertilizer. A 'T sum' is arrived at by adding up the daily mean temperatures from the first of January: when the sum reaches 200, it is time to apply fertilizer.

This year, the sum should be achieved by about mid-February. Early application of fertilizer will also help the establishment of any grass seed you sow in March. Don't forget, both fertilizer and grass seed are available at competitive prices from the hut.

Monthly Table Competition

The winner of the 2018 Table competition was Ian Gillott with 261 points. Ian was very pleased to receive £50 prize money.

Runners up were Anne Blakeman with 247 points and Peter Radband with 231 points.

Kerry Eaton (who was not present to receive her prize) won the highest 'average' points prize of £10 with 26 points. Second came Anne Blakeman with 25, third Robert Vacher with 24, fourth Jayne Male & Peter Radband with 23 points, fifth Hermione Lewis & Jean Potter with 22 points. Well done everyone.



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.

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	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 07976 640989	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

CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



SHOW SCHEDULE 2019

Spring Show – Sunday 14th April 2019

Summer Show – Sunday 8th September 2019

Each Class entry 25p

**Held at California Ratepayers' Hall
Finchampstead**

Doors open: 2.30 p.m.

Admission to Show: 50p

Under 16 free

Prize Giving and Auction commence at 4pm

Show Secretary: Peter Turner

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Tel: 0118 9730424

RULES

1. The Show is open to any amateur.
2. Club vases **must** be used except where stated and sundry items needed to stage the exhibit must be provided by the exhibitor. Every care will be taken of the sundries, but the Committee cannot accept any responsibility for breakages or losses.
3. A Novice is an exhibitor who has not won more than two first prizes in the same Novice section in the previous 3 years.
4. Packing is allowed for cut flowers, but no artificial supports are permissible.
5. Exhibits must be staged between 08.00 and 10:55 hours and the hall vacated prior to commencement of judging at 11:00.
6. Exhibitors not wishing their entries to be sold should ask for a 'Not For Sale' label to affix to the entry card. Exhibits may be removed between 15.45 and 16.00 hours, but all entries on show after that time will be sold in aid of Club funds.
7. Either Official entry forms to be used or email entries, stating the exhibitor's name, address and class numbers entered. Forms to be accompanied by the entrance fee of 25p for each class entered emails entries to be paid for on the day of show. Children's Classes are FREE. Email entries should be sent by 3pm Saturday before the show.
8. All entry forms will be accepted by the Show Secretary: -
 - 8.1 Between 19.00 and 20.30 hours on the Wednesday before the Show at California Hall.
 - 8.3 At the Club's monthly meeting preceding the Show.
 - 8.4 By email to: **turner1235@btinternet.com**
 - 8.4 Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the Show Secretary up to 10.30 on the day of the Show, accompanied by an entry fee of 30p.
No late entries are allowed for Flower Arranging classes.
9. No person may enter more than one exhibit in any one class.
10. Prizes will be: **1st** - 70p; **2nd** – 50p; **3rd** – 30p.
11. The Judges' decisions will be final.

12. Any complaint must be made to the Show Secretary before 3:45pm on the day of the show.
13. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry not according to Schedule.
14. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Show Secretary at his or her discretion and whose decision shall be binding.
15. All entries in the Children's, Domestic, Floral Art and Handicraft sections **must be the sole work of the exhibitor.**
16. All pot plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for a minimum of 3 months.
17. Money prizes may be collected from the Club Treasurer between 15.00 and 16.00 hours on the day of the Show. Any prizes not claimed by the end of the Show will be returned to Club funds.
18. Points for calculation of awards:
1st – 3 points; 2nd – 2 points; 3rd – 1 point.

FOR SHOW NOTES AND ADVICE PLEASE SEE
INSIDE FRONT COVER AND PAGES 11 TO 13

Spring Show - Section A - Flowers, etc.

Classes 1 to 11 – One bloom per stem excluding classes 6 and 11

Class	Title	Variety
1	2 Vases of 3 Daffodils and/or Narcissi	One per vase
2	3 Daffodils or Narcissi	One
3	5 Daffodils or Narcissi	One
4	5 Daffodils or Narcissi	Mixed
5	1 Specimen Daffodil or Narcissi	
6	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (bunch flowered)	One
7	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (double)	One
8	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (novice)	One
9	5 Tulips (One bloom per stem) (novice)	One or more
10	5 Stems Miniature Daffodils (single headed)	One or more
11	5 Stems Miniature Daffodils (multi headed)	One or more
12	3 Stems miniature tulips	One or more
13	5 Tulips (one bloom per stem)	One or more
14	3 Tulips (one bloom per stem)	One
15	1 Camellia bloom	
16	Bowl/pot not to exceed 23cm (9") growing any one species of Bulb/Corm /Tuber	One or more
17	3 Sprays of Polyanthus (same colour)	One
18	5 Sprays of Polyanthus	Mixed
19	Chairman's Challenge (No entry fee)	One
20	1 Cut spike of Hyacinth	
21	Flowering Orchid	
22	An exotic plant (excluding orchids)	
23	3 Specimen blooms in a decorative vase (both bloom and vase to be judged)	One cultivar
24	1 Vase of ornamental foliage	Min. 5 kinds
25	1 Vase of flowering shrubs/trees	Mixed
26	1 Vase of Spring flowers (No shrubs)	Mixed
27	1 Vase of any other flowers not included in schedule	Mixed
28	Pot plant in flower (excluding cacti & orchids)	
29	Foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))	
30	Foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 25cm (10"))	
31	1 cactus or Succulent pot plant	
32	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (natural)	One
33	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (forced)	One

The pot sizes will be judged on the metric dimensions.

The imperial sizes are only for guidance.

Spring Show – Section B – Floral Arrangements

NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED

See class for space allowed

Novice Classes

Class	Title
34	'Spring Delights'. w2'6" x d2'
35	'Take Five' – An exhibit of five stems of plant material. Space up to w2' x d2' x h18".

Open Classes

Class	Title
36	'The third degree'. An arrangement using three flowers with any fresh plant material w12" x d12" x h-unlimited"
37	'The Minute Waltz' – Any natural plant material. Size under 4"
38	'Easter' – An exhibit to include spring flowers, a candle and natural foliage. Open staging w18" x d2' x h2'

Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the back of the schedule

Spring Show – Section C – Young Exhibitors' Section

Class Title

Aged 7 and Under.

39	A wooden spoon decorated as a flower
40	A robot made out of scrap materials

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

41	An arrangement of flowers in a teacup.
42	Three jam tarts

Spring Show – Section D – Domestic

Class Title

43	<u>Classic Victoria Sandwich</u> To your own recipe with raspberry jam filling, caster sugar topping. Tin size 18cm dia. (7")
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44 Banana Walnut loaf to recipe

Ingredients.

225g plain flour 2 level teaspoons baking powder
1 beaten Egg 100g softened butter
140g caster sugar 50ml milk
4 ripe bananas mashed to a pulp
85g walnuts roughly chopped
Zest of one orange and one lemon
1 rounded tablespoon demerara sugar

Method

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin. Pre heat oven to 180°, gas mark 4.
In a large bowl, mix together the butter, sugar and egg, then
Slowly mix in the flour and baking powder. Add mashed bananas
and mix everything together including nuts and zests.
Spoon into the tin, sprinkle with demerara sugar.
Bake in centre of oven for 1hr. or until a skewer comes out clean.

- 45 5 Cheese scones.
- 46 2 Cornish pasties to your own recipe.
- 47 A Savoury Quiche
- 48 A Jar of your own Chutney.

Spring Show – Section E – Handicrafts

Class Title

- 49 A Wind Chime (Not shown at CGC before)
- 50 An article of Tapestry or Embroidery. (Not shown at CGC before)
- 51 An article of general handicraft (Not shown at CGC before)

Spring Show – Section F – Photography

Class Title

- 52 A Village Pub (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)
- 53 Animal(s) (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)

Spring Show – Section G – Poetry

- 54 Compose a poem of not more than 12 lines referring to 'My Friend'.

Summer Show – Section A – Vegetables

Class	Title	Variety
1	6 Runner Beans	One
2	6 Runner Beans (Novice)	One
3	3 Onions (globe or flat)	One
4	3 Courgettes	One
5	4 Potatoes – white or coloured	One
6	5 Tomatoes – other than cherry	One
7	5 Tomatoes (Novice) – other than cherry	One
8	1 Truss of tomatoes * (cherry/small fruited)	#
9	1 Truss of tomatoes * (Not cherry/small fruited)	
10	1 Dish of 12 cherry/small fruited tomatoes #	One
11	3 Beetroots	One
12	2 Cucumbers	One
13	3 Carrots	One
14	6 French Beans	One
15	Any vegetable not included in Classes 1 – 14 (quantity optional)	One
16	From classes 1 to 15 and 21-24, a collection of 3 vegetables and 2 fruits.	
17	3 different vegetables (One of each) (Novice)	
18	A Corn on the cob	
19	Longest Runner Bean	
20	Oddest Shaped vegetable	

* A Truss consists of a Single or Forked Stem of flowers and fruits growing from one main stem of the plant (this can contain unripe fruit).

Cherry Tomatoes must not exceed 35mm diameter.

Summer Show – Section B – Fruit

Class	Title	Variety
21	3 Apples – Dessert	One
22	3 Apples – Cooking	One
23	A Dish of Soft Fruit shown with stalks (quantity optional)	One
24	Any other Fruit – quantity optional	One

Summer Show – Section C – Flowers

25	3 Roses (one flower per stem)	One
26	2 Sprays of multi-headed roses	One
27	1 Specimen Rose bloom	
28	3 Hydrangea heads	One or more
29	3 Pelargonium heads	One or more
30	A vase of mixed grasses (no more than 5 stems)	One or more
31	1 Vase of Annual Flowers (mixed colours allowed)	One or more
32	1 Vase of Herbaceous Perennial Flowers	One or more
33	1 Vase of mixed flowers with no additional foliage in a decorative vase (both to be judged)	One or more
34	1 Vase of mixed flowers using the smallest club vase	One or more
35	1 Gladiolus spike	

36	1 Dahlia, Giant or Large	
37	3 Dahlias, decorative	One or more
38	3 Dahlias, cactus or semi-cactus	One or more
39	3 Dahlias, water lily, small	One or more
40	5 Dahlias, pompom or ball	One or more
41	1 Vase of 5 Dahlias, any flower type	Two or more
42	Deputy Chairman's challenge (No entry fee)	

Summer Show – Section D – Pot Plants

Class Title

43	1 Fuchsia in a pot (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
44	1 Fuchsia in a pot (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
45	1 Standard or Half Standard Fuchsia (minimum 45cm (18") length of clear stem from soil to lowest branches)
46	6 Fuchsia florets, one variety displayed on a board (board supplied)
47	6 Fuchsia florets, mixed variety displayed on a board (board supplied)
48	1 Pelargonium in a pot
49	Mixture of summer bedding in a 30cm (12") pot
50	1 Foliage pot plant (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
51	1 Foliage pot plant (pot size not to exceed 25cm (10"))
52	1 Cactus or Succulent pot plant (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
53	An Orchid or other exotic pot plant.
54	1 Flowering pot plant exclusive of Classes 43 to 53 (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5")).
55	1 Flowering pot plant exclusive of classes 43 to 53 (pot size not to exceed 25cm (10"))

Summer Show – Section E – Floral Arrangements (NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED)

See class for space allowed

Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the back of the schedule

Novice Classes

Class Title

57	"A Blaze of Colour" – An arrangement of brightly coloured flowers. Open staging w23" x d20" x h optional"
58	'Summer Time'- An exhibit of natural plant material in your favourite container Open staging w24" x d24" x h24"

Summer Show – Floral Arrangements (Contd.) Open Classes

Class Title

59	'Country Ramble' An arrangement of natural plant material from the hedgerow. w18"x d20" x h24".
60	'Harvest Festival'. An exhibit of flowers, fruit, vegetables and foliage. Open staging w24" x d24" x h30"
61	'Floral Toast' An arrangement of flowers and foliage in a wine glass.

Summer Show – Section F – Young Exhibitors

Class Title

Aged 7 and under

- 62 A fairy garden.
- 63 A thumb print tree picture

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

- 64 A birthday card.
- 65 A dreamcatcher.
- 66 5 Flapjacks.
- 67 A decorated stone.

Summer Show – Section G – Domestic

Class Title

- 68 Marmalade Cake
 - 225g plain flour. 110g dark brown soft sugar
 - 3 Level teaspoons of baking powder 110g softened butter
 - 1 level teaspoon mixed spice 110g mixed dried fruit
 - 150ml milk 1 teaspoon malt vinegar
 - Zest of small orange and small lemon
 - 1 heaped tablespoon of chunky orange marmalade

Line a 2lb loaf tin, pre heat oven to 180°, rub the butter into the flour then add baking powder and sugar. Stir in zests, mixed spice and dried fruit. Add the milk a little at a time, followed by the vinegar. Stir until the ingredients are evenly distributed then add the marmalade. The mixture should be of a dropping consistency. Place mixture in tin. Sprinkle with demerara sugar. Bake in centre of oven for appx 1¼ hrs.

- 69 5 Chocolate brownies
- 70 5 Almond biscuits
- 71 A Trifle for one
- 72 A Jar of strawberry jam
- 73 5 Cup Cakes

SHOW NOTES - To aid and assist members who may not have shown before, the following notes may be helpful. If you are unsure how to stage or exhibit, or this is your first Show, then please ask a Committee member at a meeting or on the morning of the Show, to introduce you to an experienced member of the Club who can answer queries. Please remember that help and advice are always readily available.

Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables

- Read the schedule carefully and be sure that the number of specimens and groupings per variety are correct.
- It is recommended that you use the smallest Club vase that will comfortably hold the exhibit. Please ask for an alternative sized vase if required.
- Aim for uniformity of freshness, size, shape and colour.
- If you wish to read more about show techniques the Horticultural Show Handbook published by the Royal Horticultural Society is worth reading. A copy is available, for reference purposes only, at all meetings or in the Trading Hut. This book is widely accepted and forms a standard reference for all who take part in shows, judges, exhibitors and organisers alike.
- Please name your exhibit whenever possible as this adds the final touch for the benefit of the judge and public.

Domestic

Flower arranging - an explanation of the terms used:

Open Staging - This means no backing or niche between exhibits. A space will be specified within which an entry is placed without touching the edge of the Space allowed. The height of the exhibit is left to the competitor's choice unless specified.

Niche - A white cardboard backing with shallow sides. An exhibit may come forward of the niche but must not touch or go higher than the niche. If wished, drapes may be attached to the niche.

An Exhibit - This is defined as an arrangement in which accessories, i.e. non-plant material such as figurines, china, glass, may be included.

An Arrangement – Conversely an arrangement does NOT include any accessories unless specifically stated in the Schedule.

Pot et Fleur - A Pot et Fleur is a collection of plants in a bowl with some cut fresh flowers. No added foliage.

Petit Arrangement - A Petit arrangement measures not less than 4" (10cm) and no more than 9" (23cm) in height, width and depth.

N.B. All tables used are 2' (60cm) in depth.

- Key points are presentation, adherence to schedule, i.e. no original manufacturer's writing on jars or lids, correct number of items and size, etc.
- Entries should be appropriately covered, e.g. cling-film or a dome
- Finally – please ask if you are unsure, help and advice is readily available.

Plants

- All pot sizes are measured across the top edge (inside diameter).

Category	Showing
Soft Fruit e.g. Raspberries, Blackberries, Loganberries, Strawberries	To be shown with stalks on
Top Fruits e.g. Apples, Plums, Pears etc.	To be shown with stalks on
Carrots	To be shown with leaves trimmed to 75mm and neatly tied. Can be washed.
Beetroot	To be shown with leaves trimmed to 75mm and neatly tied. Can be gently washed.
Onions, Shallots	To be shown with tops bent and tied and roots trimmed. Do not over peel.
Runner Beans, French Beans	To be shown with stalks on
Rhubarb	To be shown with leaves trimmed to 75mm and the bottom white heel left on.
Lettuce	To be shown with roots washed and left on. The roots can be wrapped in moist kitchen roll and put in a polythene bag.
Potatoes	To be gently washed and shown on plates with "rose" end outwards. Can be covered with damp kitchen roll.
Courgettes, Cucumbers	To be shown with or without flowers left on.

Squash	To be shown with the stalks attached.
Tomatoes	To be shown with stalks left on.

For any other information on vegetables or fruit not mentioned above, or quantities required, please consult the Show Secretary.

A guide to exhibitors. The following may be helpful to exhibitors:

Flowers

Good fresh condition with approximately 70% of flowers fully developed. The foliage should be clean, healthy and undamaged by weather or pests.

Daffodil (Narcissus)

Flower carried at nearly a right angle to the stem except in species and hybrids where a pendent flower is typical. Calyx & corolla (calyx & corolla combined are called the perianth) of smooth texture. Corona or crown of good colour, texture and in proportion to the perianth. Stem, straight and strong and in proportion. Perianth and corona symmetrical. In double cultivars, segments and colour symmetrically arranged.

Fuchsias

A vigorous, symmetrical, floriferous plant, well furnished with clean foliage and fresh blooms of good colour. Support and ties (if any) neat and unobtrusive.

Fuchsia Heads

Fresh, then perfection — every petal should show no signs of decay, damage or discolouration. Symmetry between each head and as a collection.

Roses

Specimen bloom: Fresh, no blemishes, full size for cultivar. Petals regularly arranged within circular outline, well-formed centre. Colour, bright and brilliant.

Other than specimen bloom: As for specimen, but additionally well-formed foliage of good size and texture. Strong stems.

Tulips

Flowers in good condition, unblemished, of good colour and smooth texture, Stems must be stiff and strong enough to carry the flowers.

Pot plants

Clean pots, neat staking. Preference given for decorative rather than botanical value.

Shapely plant with healthy unblemished foliage with flowers of good size and colour.

Plants that are usually grown for their ornamental foliage are not debarred from foliage plant classes if they are in flower at the time of the competition.

They can also be considered for entry into flowering plant classes. However, in judging a foliage class, no account will be taken of any flowers on the plant.