



Newsletter February 2022

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk



AGM

30 members attended the AGM over Zoom. The chairman reported that last year was an interesting one as far as the club was concerned. Firstly, trading hut sales exceeded all expectations financially and secondly, our membership increased by 15% to 149 members.

Peter Radband, our treasurer, reported that the club's finances were in a healthy position. It was mentioned that we were awarded a grant, from the Berkshire Community Foundation, of £1,500 to run a publicity campaign in the Finchampstead, Barkham and Arborfield areas. This was to make residents in those areas aware of our club. Leaflets have been designed, printed and are due for distribution mid February. It was also mentioned that members who shop at Tesco, should look out for the club's name in the 'blue disc' collection containers.

Stuart Slocombe, our trading hut officer, reported a good year. He thought it may have been down to members during the pandemic having more confidence to shop at the hut and not wanting to tempt fate at garden centres etc. He reported that he had had difficulty in keeping the hut stocked during that time but it was now well stocked for opening on Sunday 6th March.

Katie Bailey, one half of our Show officers, thanked those members who entered the virtual shows held last year. She reported that she will be running a Spring Show on 3rd April and hoped members will feel comfortable in supporting what will be her and Daryl's first show.

In the Chairman's report, Dick thanked all the committee for their work over the last year. He also mentioned non-committee member Peter North who helped with the tool sharpening events which raised over £400 for club funds and Sylvia Hawes for the plant sales raising over £200. Hermione Lewis was thanked for managing the speakers throughout the year; balancing between Zoom presentations and hall presentations.

The Chairman thanked Peter Radband for his work as Treasurer. Peter has now retired from this role but stays on the committee. Yvonne Hedley will be taking over as Treasurer.

The Chairman also thanked Julia Goodall for doing sterling work as publicity secretary. Her role has now been taken over by Maureen Boyington.

Three new committee members were formally voted onto the committee which gives the club a full compliment of committee members. WOW

The Chairman finally thanked all members for continuing to support the club.

Things to note

1. **Our next meeting** is on the 7th March. John Trim will be talking about **'Show Craft' - How to get the best out of your exhibits for shows.**
2. **Trading Hut:** getting closer to the March 6th opening.
3. **Member's articles.** See in newsletter for more details. If you have an interesting story, then send it in for publication.
4. **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

TESCO TESCO TESCO TESCO TESCO

Please remember: if you shop at Tesco, take a few blue discs and pop them into the box with our clubs name on it. The checkout staff do not automatically offer the discs but they do have a container full of them at each till. You can help yourself. The more discs we get in our box the more money Tesco will grant us towards speakers in the coming year.

March Table Competition

Just a reminder that the table competition resumes at the March meeting. The March competition will be: Any Plant, Flower, Vegetable or Fruit you have grown. Just bring it along to the meeting and place it on the competition table. Your entry will not be judged against the other entries but simply on it's own merits.

For your entry to qualify for points in the annual competition, you must be at the meeting.

The winner at the end of the year will receive a £25 trading hut voucher and the person with the highest average score a £10 trading hut voucher.

Members emails

Peter Seabrook's, obituary was in The Times on the 18th January this year.

The last time I spoke to Peter was with my wife at one of the Wisley Flower Shows. He was as enthusiastic as ever and we were both in agreement that the total banning of peat was a nonsense.

He was 'The Gardeners Gardener' A man of very definite opinions, most of them eminently sensible. One of the best ever presenters of 'Gardener's World', he was always incredibly knowledgeable and never patronising.

He was a regular columnist on 'The Sun' where he had a huge following, largely because his advice was both practical and understandable to the man in the street.

He died of a heart attack aged 86. His wonderful horticultural expertise will be sadly missed.

Ian Gillott

Topical Tip – February 2022

- Keep brushing away worm casts on your lawns, as they can be troublesome at this time of year.
- Take fuchsia cuttings from the soft tips this month.
- Ventilating the glasshouse or conservatory on mild sunny days will help to reduce fungal infections.
- In the greenhouse or conservatory, regularly pick over plants and sweep up fallen debris, to prevent disease spreading.
- Have you started to think about germinating seeds for spring and summer planting?

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.

Membership this year

2022 subs are due from February. They remain at £5 per person per year. You can either pay at the March club meeting or at the hut on a Sunday morning.

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 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.

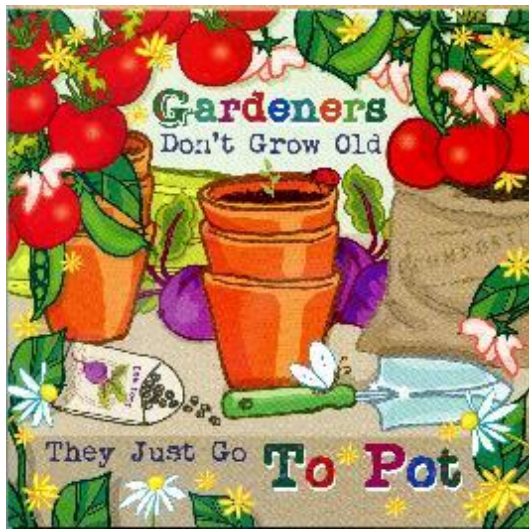
You can borrow the card by contacting Chris Spinks (number at the end of newsletter) and arranging to pick it up.

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).

Member's emails



The Poinsettia I bought at the Christmas party is still doing well. How's yours doing?

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