



# California Gardeners' Club

## Newsletter January 2017

### Last Club Meeting

44 people braved the cold weather to hear Graham Talbot of the Berkshire College of Agriculture give us a talk on growing cut flowers. There were so many tips given we could not possibly list them all. Here are a few:

- Bulbs planted in pots should always have a little gravel under the bulb. This will help stop bulb rot.
- Daffodils and tulips, if planted in pots, should be kept outside until March but beware of squirrels; they love tulip bulbs.
- Hyacinths are best one bulb to a pot as they grow at different rates. If you want three in a pot, then wait till the flower has formed on individually planted bulbs and then move them to a larger pot which will hold three bulbs.
- All bulbs will benefit from a high potash feed once they start growing. If you are going to want the bulbs to flower next year, keep feeding till leaves have died down.
- All bulbs need plenty of water.
- Sweet peas should be sown in January or February, 10 or 12 seeds to a pot; then pot on when first leaves appear, and pinch out the tops. Keep well-watered and beware of mice and slugs!
- Small or miniature dahlias are best for cutting. Grow from tubers or cuttings taken in April. Plant out in May or June and keep well-watered.

His main advice was to always get the best seeds and plants. Good compost from our Trading Hut will then assure you of great results.

Lynn Potts

### Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on 6<sup>th</sup> February when we will be having our AGM followed by Cheese & Wine
2. Nice to hear a member used the Wisley ticket over Christmas and got 50% off the entry fee. It's supposed to be 30%



### Daffodil Growing Competition

As mentioned at the meeting on Monday, the competition daffodils have now poked their heads through the soil. Many of those who were at the meeting said they were about an inch out of the soil. Graham Talbot, our speaker last Monday, was questioned about what to do to get really good results. He covered a few things with the whole audience BUT I did hear a few one to one conversations during the tea break. Well it is a fun competition (did I say fun?).

## **Membership**

***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.

## **Show Schedule for 2017**

Please see below for the 2017 Show Schedule.

## **Trading Hut**

Although the Trading Hut is still closed for winter, Stuart is still working on getting the stock ready for opening day. If you require anything special or perhaps something that we do not normally stock, NOW is the time to let Stuart know what you need.

## **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.

## **Monthly Table Competition**

1st Jean Potter with 27 points and 2nd Pauline McBrayne with 23 points

No competition in February as it is our AGM

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Jourdan 01344 304571	Membership: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Committee Member  Position vacant
Deputy Chairman Ian Gillott	Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Committee Member  Position vacant
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Committee Member: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Committee Member  Position vacant

# CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



## SHOW SCHEDULE 2017

**Spring Show – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017**

**Summer Show – Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

Each Class entry 20p

**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

Tel: 0118 9730424

# RULES

1. The Show is open to any amateur.
2. Club vases **must** be used 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 11.00 hours and the hall vacated prior to commencement of judging.
6. Exhibitors not wishing their entries to be sold should apply to a Steward for a 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 20p for each class entered emails entries to be paid for on the day of show. Children's Classes are FREE.
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.
  - 8.2 At the Club's monthly meeting preceding the Show.
  - 8.3 By email to: [turner1235@btinternet.com](mailto: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 25p. 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 2 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 END OF SCHEDULE

# Spring Show

## Spring Show - Section A - Flowers, etc.

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

<b>Class</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Variety</b>
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	1 Vase of any other Primulas/Auriculas	One
20	1 Cut spike of Hyacinth	
21	Flowering Orchid – Pot size over 13cm (5.1/2")	
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	Any other vegetable as per RHS Rules	One

## Spring Show – Section B – Floral Arrangements

**NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED**

**See class for space allowed**

### Novice Classes

Class	Title
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34	'Easter Celebration'. A triangular arrangement of Spring flowers. Niche size 18" x 18" (46cm x 46cm)
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35	'Springtime' – An exhibit. A Springtime landscape. Space up to 2' square.
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### Open Classes

Class	Title
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36	'A Midas Touch' An exhibit. Niche size 2'6" x 2'6".
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37	'The Quiet Water' - An exhibit to include water as part of the design. Space allowed 2'
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38	'Delights of Spring' – An arrangement. Space allowed 2'6" Open staging. <u>Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the bottom of the schedule</u>
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## Spring Show – Section C – Young Exhibitors' Section

Class	Title
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### Aged 7 and Under.

39	A Potato Print pattern. A4 size
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40	A Colourful picture of a snail. Paint or Crayon – Size A4
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### Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

41	An insect made from natural materials. Space 1'6" max.
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42	A Drawing of a named common Garden Bird. Size A4
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## Spring Show – Section D – Domestic

Class	Title
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43	<u>Chocolate Sponge Sandwich</u>
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6 oz butter	6 oz Caster Sugar
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5 oz Self Raising Flour	3 Eggs, beaten
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1 oz Cocoa	
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### For the filling:

4 oz Plain Chocolate	2 tps Clear Honey
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2 oz Butter	
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Butter and flour two 7" (18C<) appx. Sandwich tins. Cream butter and sugar together until pale and creamy. Add eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in half the flour and cocoa (which have been sieved together) then fold in the remainder. Place half the mixture in each tin and level, bake in the oven at 190C, 375F, or gas mark 5 for about 20 minutes until well risen, firm to the touch and beginning to shrink from the sides. Turn out and cool on a wire rack. When cold, sandwich together with half the chocolate filling and coat the top with the remainder.

### Chocolate Filling:

Place the broken chocolate, honey and butter into a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water until melted and smooth. Leave to cool and thicken slightly.

44	A Jar of your own Marmalade.
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45	A round of shortbread.
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46	6 Sausage Rolls.
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47	A Savoury Quiche
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48 A Jar of your own Chutney.

**Spring Show – Section E – Handicrafts**

**Class Title**

49 An item of knitwear (Not shown before)

50 An article of Tapestry or Embroidery. (Not shown before)

51 An article of general handicraft (Not shown before)

**Spring Show – Section F – Photography**

**Class Title**

52 Three linked pictures

53 A photograph of a Garden to include a garden ornament.

**Spring Show – Section G – Poetry**

54 Compose a poem of not more than 12 lines referring to 'A Puppy'.



# Summer Show

## 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 * ( <b>Not</b> 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	5 Shallots	One
15	Any vegetable not included in Classes 1 – 14 (quantity optional)	One
16	Collection of 4 vegetables. Quantities and kinds to be chosen from 1 to 14. Space 60 x 60cm (2'x2')	
17	3 different vegetables (One of each) (Novice)	
18	A Corn on the cob	
19	Longest Runner Bean	
20	Oddest Shaped vegetable	
*	<i>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).</i>	
#	<i>Cherry Tomatoes must not exceed 38mm (1 ½") diameter.</i>	

## 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 or Biennials grown as Annuals (mixed colours allowed)	One
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 variety	
42	Club competition Begonia	

### 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 (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
49	1 Pelargonium in a pot (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
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. Pot size over 13cm (5 ½")
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	"Wedding Buffet" – An exhibit to stand on a buffet table. Candles may be used. Space allowed 2'. Open staging
58	'Treasure Trove'-An exhibit in a chest or box. Open staging 2' x 2'
59	'Harvest Festival' An exhibit of flowers and natural plants suitable for a mantelpiece. 2'6" length max.
60	'Summer sunshine'. An exhibit of flowers and natural foliage. Niche size 2'6" x 2'6"
61	A petit arrangement in a teacup. i.e. between 4" and 9" in height, depth & width

### Summer Show – Section F – Young Exhibitors

#### Class Title Aged 7 and under

62	A Garden on a Dinner Plate
63	A painting of a flower in summer. Size A4

#### Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

64	An article of your own handiwork.
65	A vase made from a decorated jam jar.

- 66 3 Brownies
- 67 **tba**

**Summer Show – Section G – Domestic**

**Class Title**

- 68 Cherry cake
  - 3 oz self-raising flour. 8 oz Glace Cherries
  - 6 oz butter 3 oz Plain Flour
  - 4oz caster sugar 3 oz Ground Almonds
  - 3 egg - beaten Pinch of Salt
  - Finely grated rind of 1 lemon

Grease and line a 7" (18cm) appx. Cake tin with greased greaseproof paper. Cut each cherry in half, sieve the flours together and toss the cherries in a little of the flour. Cream butter, sugar and lemon rind together until mixture is pale and creamy, add a little beaten egg at a time and beat well after each addition. Fold in flour, ground almonds and cherries, adding a little milk to make a fairly stiff dropping consistency. Turn mixture into tin and bake in a moderate oven at 350F, 180C, gas mark 4, for about 1 hour 20 minutes, or until skewer comes out clean.

TIP: To remove excess syrup from cherries, rinse thoroughly in water, drain well and dry thoroughly on absorbent kitchen paper.

- 69 Home-made ginger biscuits
- 70 A jar of Lemon Curd
- 71 5 Macaroons
- 72 A jar of your favourite Jam

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

- 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).  
Plants usually grown for their ornamental foliage are not debarred from Foliage Classes simply because they happen to be in flower at the time of the competition. However, when judging a 'Foliage Class' judges must take no account of any flowers on a plant.