



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter January 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

On Monday evening 56 members attended Jacqueline Aviolet's entertaining talk about Nuts.

Hazelnut trees should ideally be 8 to 10 feet tall and, as they are vigorous growers, need regular pruning. They like cool, moist soil and thrive in our climate although 75% of the Worlds hazelnuts are grown in Turkey. The Celts believed that hazelnuts, which are sometimes called cob nuts, bring wisdom and used the wood to build their coracles. Today it is used in basket weaving and fencing.

The largest producer of Brazil nuts is not Brazil but Bolivia, closely followed by Brazil and Peru. The trees like a hot, moist atmosphere and form part of the rain forest canopy. They grow to 160 feet and it is now illegal to cut them down. They are self-pollinating and are 12 years old when they produce flowers. From flower to the nut crop takes a further 15 months. The nuts contain 66% fat but have many health benefits and are very high in protein.

Walnuts were brought to this country by the Crusaders and a walnut tree can live to be 200 years old. The nut was thought to be brain food as it resembles the structure of the brain. Nothing grows under the tree as it makes the soil toxic and the nuts can poison animals. Today China is the world's largest producer of walnuts.

Indonesia produces the most coconuts from trees which are about 98 feet high. The tree provides everything needed to sustain life, food, milk, house building materials and weaving material. It usually produces about 75 coconuts each weighing between 2 to 3 pounds which start off with a green outer covering surrounding them. When the outer covering is hacked off the coconut is revealed. Did you know that statistically, more people are killed by coconuts than sharks?

Macadamia trees are evergreen and indigenous to Australia and can't be grown in our climate. The nuts are only eaten by macaws and humans. When the flowers drop from the tree, they push themselves into the soil and produce new trees. South Africa is now the biggest producer of macadamia nuts.
Sylvia Hawes

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on February 4th when we will be having our AGM followed by Cheese & Wine.
2. Remember, there is no table competition at the AGM. However, the results of the closely fought year will be announced.
3. Make note of the 'WALK & WASSAIL' overleaf.
4. Do you want 30% off your next visit to Wisley? Contact Chris Spinks who holds our Wisley discount card giving you and a guest 30% off the entry cost. Chris' number is below.
5. Tools sharpening date for your diary is 31st March
- 6.

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 AGM and we'll keep them safe until the Spring Show. Thank you in advance.

Waitrose

Waitrose in Sandhurst are now collecting **Green Discs** for our club. So, if you shop there, please remember to ask for a green disc and drop it into our slot.

If you shop in Waitrose in Wokingham, please ask for the green disc AND KEEP IT. Bring it to the next club meeting and we will ensure it makes it way to the Sandhurst slot.

The more green discs, the more our club will get in cash from Waitrose. The more cash we get, the better the speakers we can attract.

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

Do you remember

Do you remember the talk we had from Jealotts Hill Community Landshare?

They are having a 'Walk & Wassail' on the 27th Jan. I am told it's a really good event finishing a hot apple drink around a bonfire listening to Morris Dancers.

And it's FREE

WALK 'N' WASSAIL
AT
Jealotts Hill
Community Landshare

Wellers Lane at jnct of Penfurzen Lane, Warfield, RG42 6BQ
Off the A330 (Maidenhead/Ascot)

Sunday 27th January 2018
12.30pm ~ Guided walk through the local Warfield countryside. Start and return to site - approx. 1.5 hours
1.30pm ~ Shorter accessible led walk - approx. 1 hr
Free bookings for walk please:
www.jhcl.eventbrite.co.uk
2.30pm ~ Wassail Orchard Ceremon

Ellington Morris Dancers
Traditional Orchard Wassail
Hot Apple Cup
Bonfire
Refreshments
Tombola & Bric a Brac stalls

FREE Entry & Parking on site
No Dogs except Guide Dogs on site

Jealotts Hill Community Landshare

Topical tip

The authorization for the use of metaldehyde in slug pellets has been withdrawn. It will be legal to sell and distribute slug pellets containing metaldehyde for the next six months and it will be legal to use these products for a further twelve months.

Garden centres and retailers selling metaldehyde based slug pellets will naturally be winding their stocks down as they do not want to be left with products they cannot sell. It might be wise to obtain some while they are still available! Check the Trading Hut first though.

Monthly Table Competition

Six photographic entries this month with some glorious autumn colours. Joint first were Ian Gillott and Stuart Slocombe with 28 points followed by Ros Slocombe and Anne Blakeman with 25 points. Hermione Lewis received 23 points and Peter Radband 20 points

There is no February competition as it is the AGM.

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 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