



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter December 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Things to remember

At our first meeting of the year, 62 members came to hear Tom Way give us a talk about 'photography on safari'. He is a professional wildlife photographer who only gave up "the day job" in 2012 and is now full time behind the camera, (a Canon). His work has been in the BBC Wildlife magazine; he also shows large framed prints at exhibitions and galleries and leads photographic safaris.

He aims for "Character" in his subjects, trekking for up to 12 hours a day and sometimes waiting for up to 3 weeks to get the best picture, but says that it is always a matter of luck to get it exactly right. He has worked on British wildlife but spends most of his time in Africa.

He regularly goes to Uganda to photograph the gorillas but also to Namibia, Kenya and Tanzania. He particularly likes the big cats and elephants, and tries to show their majesty, but there were plenty of pictures of other creatures. He said that zebras are particularly difficult, as they are very skittish, and whip round at the wrong moment, so that he has a large number of pictures of zebra rear ends! His photographs are excellent, great detail taken in close-up (he once got chased by a lioness!) and some fantastic silhouettes of animals taken against sunsets.

A truly wonderful evening.



1. Our next meeting is on 3rd February. This will be the AGM. We will also finish the evening with Cheese & Wine.
2. Don't forget to give the Chairman a heart attack at the AGM by volunteering to join the committee.
3. Trading Hut will open again on 1st March.
4. A note for your diary: March 28th will be our club's tool sharpening day.
5. Did you know you can renew electronically now? See newsletter for details.



Help Required

We are **still** looking for someone who is prepared to work with the Show Secretary and learn the ropes.

It's not a difficult job but certainly a very interesting one. It does not require a great deal of horticultural knowledge but more administrative and is only a twice a year commitment.

PLEASE give it your consideration. If you fancy having a go, then please email Dick on sandr@morseconsultants.com

Many thanks

Topical Tip – January 2020

January is the ideal time to prune soft fruit. With blackcurrants, this year's fruit is produced on the previous year's growth. If you see any buds which are especially swollen, this may well be the sign that the Big Bud Mite has infected the plant. These buds should be removed from the plant and burnt as there is no chemical cure.

With gooseberries, try to keep the 'wine glass' shape. This will ensure more air gets to the plant and, as well as making picking easier, will also help to prevent gooseberry powdery mildew.

Outings

We continue to look for suggestions for this year's outings. If there are any places you have visited and think would be worth a club visit, please let us know. On the other hand, if there is anywhere you have not visited and would like to go; once again, let us know.

Monthly Table Competition

First with 30 points was Ian Gillott, 2nd Stuart Slocombe with 29 points, 3rd Gerald Cooper with 28 points, joint fourth were Ros Slocombe, Margaret Wade and Sylvia Hawes, fifth was Ann Blakeman with 19 points and joint sixth Peter Radband, Pauline MacBrayne and Dick Hawes

There is no table competition in February

Membership

Did you know you can renew electronically?

Just transfer your £5 (£10 for a couple) to the clubs account giving your surname and initials as the reference. Your membership card will then be waiting for you at the next meeting.

Clubs account number is – 71301608 & sort code – 404709

Now it's the start of a new year, why not have a chat with your neighbours and tell them about our gardening club. Gardening clubs, all over the country, are folding due to lack of members. Is it because new houses are being built with smaller gardens or is it that younger people aren't interested or are too busy to garden? Who knows the real answer? Our club is no different. Thirty years ago, our membership was around 450 (no, that was not a typing error – 450). Last year we lost a few members due to relocation and health reasons but thankfully gained a few new members. This kept our membership at 111. Our ideal number would be 150 but we know we can't get there without your help. Pass the word around. Tell people you will bring them to their first meeting. Don't keep it a secret.

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).

Spring Show

Just a reminder that this year's Spring Show is set for 5th April. The Show Schedule is currently being finalised and I will let you all know when it will be available for viewing on our web site.

We are always looking for tombola prizes, so if you have anything suitable, please bring it to the AGM (or any meeting).

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