



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter July 2017

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

At our July Meeting Stuart Slocombe, ably assisted by Ros, talked about his trip to South Africa; seeing the flora and gardens along South Africa's Garden Route, taking in many famous areas, with lots of superb slides taken along the way.

From Cape Town, visiting The Company's Garden, with strelitzia, wisteria and Clivia, then on the cable car to the top of Table Mountain, with views to Robben Island; and on to the Kirstenbosch Gardens with naturalistic plantings and proteas in flower.

Then by Chapman's Peak Drive to the Cape of Good Hope and Boulder Beach where there is a penguin colony. At the Postberg Flower Reserve, which is only open during August and September large areas of native wild flowers can be seen.

On to Stellenbosch and Hermanus, where Right Whales can be spotted near the coast, and Cape L'Agulhas, the southernmost point of South Africa. Next to Mossel Bay and Wilderness walks and trails; to Chandelier ostrich farm; Knysna, which is much greener, and to the end of the Garden Route at Storms River mouth.

The Finale was a safari at Addo, with zebras, warthogs, lots of birds and the odd dung beetle. A fascinating trip and the slides gave those of us who have not been there good reason to think about booking up!

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on September 4th Ian Gillott will be telling us about "Friends and Foes in the Garden", something we all need help in identifying
2. Trading hut now open Sundays 10:00 to 12:00
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.
4. Subs are now due for 2017

Membership

***Over the past six months our membership has steadily grown.
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.

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.

Trading Hut

The Hut will be open every Sunday morning in July. It will also be open at the next meeting and then closed for August. Think about any supplies you may need during August .
Stuart, Trading Hut Manager

Monthly Table Competition

As announced at the AGM, there will be a £50 prize for the winner of the 2017 table competition, £25 for 2nd place and £10 for the highest number of average points (minimum 5 entries). There was a total of nine entries this month. Let us hope for more next month!

This month's winner was Hermione Lewis with 28 points, second Peter Jordan with 27 points, joint third Peter Radband -Anne Blakeman and Sylvia Hawes with 26 points, 6th was Ian Gillott - Jean Potter and Sheila Davenport with 25 points and 9th Ros Slocombe with 24 points.

The subject for August is:

Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit.

All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least one month.

As there is a cash prize, we will not be giving a free strip of raffle tickets each time you enter.

Rose and Sweet Pea Competition

Members had a selection of beautiful roses and fragrant sweet peas to choose from when they were called upon to vote in this year's competition. At the final count Ian Gillot and Peter Radband were declared the winners.



The winner of the Rose competition
Peter Radband



The winner of the Sweet Pea competition
Ian Gillott

Begonias

At the meeting, we were asked if the Deputy Chairman's challenge begonias could be re-potted as they were getting rather large. The Deputy Chairman replied by saying "By all means re-pot the begonia into a slightly bigger pot. Make sure that the pot colour is black. Do not use too big a pot as this will encourage leaf, rather than flower.

Summer Show

The Summer Show will soon be upon us. Now is the time to looking out for those flowers and vegetables. A little feed and pampering will bring them on for a tremendous display at the show.

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).

The West Dean trip

This had been enjoyed by all. A couple of comments had been made about travelling to bus stops in the morning rush-hour and the lack of a house to visit for a day trip. This was discussed at the committee meeting. One suggestion was that we could revert to a one-stop pick-up at the Hall a little later, though this may deter extra attendees (i.e. opening the trip to other gardening clubs to make the event viable).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Jourdan 01344 304571	Membership: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Committee Member Peter Radband 01344 774310
Deputy Chairman Ian Gillott 0118 9892649	Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Co-opted Member Marise Radband 01344 774310
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Committee Member: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571