



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter July 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

On a very hot evening there was a large turnout to hear Ray Broughton talk to us. He gave us so many useful hints and tips that it is impossible to remember them all!

If there is no ban, you can keep your lawn green by using a sprayer for just 10 minutes every four days, but grass will recover, the roots are still alive no matter how dry the leaves are.

If your plants in the greenhouse are "drawn" and straggly, it is not because they are looking for light, it is lack of carbon dioxide. If you put fresh manure in a plastic box, cover with clingfilm and make 6 holes in the top, that will provide CO₂ with no smell.

When planting a tree or shrub make 3 vertical cuts down the rootball with a spade and cut off the bottom inch of roots. This helps new roots to form. Mycorrhizal fungi help growth too.

If you use marigolds to keep off whitefly, do not deadhead. It is the dead flowers that do the job! Alyssum will protect from onion rot. Nasturtiums are NOT good! They do not deflect pests, they attract pests to your plants!

A good method of growing potatoes is to put them one inch down in the soil and then cover them with a thick heap of straw. Water this once a week with tomato fertiliser and leave them to it. They will grow through the straw, no earthing up and you will get good clean potatoes with no digging.

White flowered runner beans are best in high temperatures as they are more tolerant, and are wind, not insect, pollinated so crop better. Other tips: Cuttings taken from half way down a plant are stronger and bushier. Drill holes in the sides of the compost bin for quicker compost. Shade the outside, not the inside, of greenhouses. Only prune hedges in Autumn. Put Sulphate of Potash around plants just before Christmas for better flowers.

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on September 3rd when Richard Gillings will be talking about daffodils.
2. Make a note that our Summer Show is on Sunday September 9th
3. Trading hut – Now open Sunday mornings 10 to 12
4. **Membership subs are now due.** Once again, we have held the cost at £5.
5. Table competition for September is "Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit".

Outing.

Reminder for Tuesday 10th July's trip – Pick up points are:--
9.15am Hall (with parking at the back only), 9.25 Rose St., 9.30 Three Frogs London Road.

Urgent.

We are in need of a deputy treasurer whilst our treasurer is recovering from an illness. We need someone to step in for 2 to 3 months. Help.

Topical tip



Runner beans are now growing rapidly, but during the very hot weather we have been experiencing, there is all too frequently a poor setting of the flowers, resulting in fewer pods. This is because runner beans are a native of the mountains of South America where the days are warm, but the nights are very cool. Spraying with water in the late evening can help cool the plants down to assist setting.

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

Report on Finchampstead Fete

Finchampstead Fete was a great success for our club. It attracted and revived interest throughout the community and we met many potential new members as well as some lapsed members who we hope will return to the fold. It certainly raised our profile within the area.

The children's tombola proved very popular and the money raised covered our entry fee. Stuart did a roaring trade selling stock from the hut and the plants and tool sales raised over £90 in profit.



Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way - bringing and decorating tools, contributing to the tombola and plants. Thank you to the committee members who came to help and also to Ann and Kriss who's support was much appreciated.

It was a great day which did a lot to cement our club's place in the community as well as providing a pleasant day out for all involved, I believe we all made new friends even if Ian's new bird was a barn owl.

Rose & Sweet Pea competition

The Rose and Sweet Pea Show was held as usual at the July monthly meeting. Entry numbers were rather disappointing there being only 3 roses and 4 vases of sweet peas. Presumably the dry hot weather affected the roses as I have no HT roses in bloom, however my sweet peas were only 5 days too late having been planted over a month too late, so those of you who planted at the right time, where were you? The winners were as usual a good standard, Peter Radband winning the Sweet peas with a large bunch of identical blooms and Jane Male won the rose class with a delightful red rose.

Summer Show

As the September meeting will be close to the show it will be appreciated if any donations for the tombola could be brought to the August club night.

Up the Garden Path

What a great afternoon. Three totally different gardens. All a pleasure to visit, have a drink and chat with the owners and visitors. I am sure many visitors went away with ideas for their own gardens. I certainly did. £145 was raised for Breast Cancer UK. Thank you to all those who attended and especially to the three members who opened their gardens.

Deputy Chairman's Challenge.

The chillies should now be in their final 16 cm (6 inch) pots. Setting of the flowers can be helped by daily spraying with water, especially in this hot weather. Feed every 10-14 days with a high potash product such as Tomorite – available from the trading hut.

Monthly Table Competition

1st was Ian Gillott with 27points, 2nd Hermione Lewis & Robert Vacher with 25points,
3rd Ann Blakeman with 24points, 4th Peter Radband 22points and
5th Jean Potter, Kerry Eaton, Jayne Male & Sylvia Hawes all with 20Points.

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.

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	Committee Member Kerry Eaton 07736 022361	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	Hon. Treasurer: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571

