



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter June 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

At our June meeting John Negus came to give us one of his entertaining talks, this time on fruit growing.

He likes to divide the room into two groups and then pit one against the other to answer his questions. He has delightful slides of plants, and gets people to try and identify them, with a great deal of clues, hints and jokes, and much mirth. There are small prizes of seeds and fertiliser for those getting the right answers. It is surprising how much one can learn, whilst having a good laugh!

We certainly got a lot of information; best varieties, suitable positions, planting, methods of training, pruning, pollination, diseases and fertilisers were all covered at high speed! I hope we can remember it!

John is very knowledgeable on his subject, which he obviously enjoys, and his great enthusiasm was soon bringing shouts and merriment from both sides of the room. He was very much in demand for questions after the tea break, too.

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on July 1st when Geoff Peach will be telling us about the Basingstoke Canal.
2. Trading Hut now open every Sunday 10:00 to 12:00
3. Annual membership is now due (£5).
4. Don't forget that July 1st is also the date for the Sweet Pea and Rose Competition.

Finchampstead Fete

Finchampstead Fete is on Saturday 29th June from 1.00 till 4.00 pm. Peter Radband will be on site from 11.30 to receive any contributions of plants and gardenalia to sell. If you would like to help please contact Peter (you know the number [07976640989](tel:07976640989)). I hope to see you there.

Farley Hill Gardens visit



Visit to Farley Hill Gardens. As members requested at last Monday's club night, I have organised a visit to this fabulous garden on the 18th July at 14:00. It will include an interesting chat about the history of the garden, tea/coffee and cake and the chance to ask questions. All for a £9 contribution.

Outing to Kew

The Outing to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, including glass sculpture exhibition and renewed Temperate House. Places are still available for members and others, Please contact Chris Spinks by email cspinks41@gmail.com or leave a phone message and number [01189781432](tel:01189781432) asap.

All those who have paid should be at the alighting points, on Tuesday 11th June, well before the coach leaves, by 9.15am at the Hall or 9.25 am at Rose St. (Wade), or 9.30am Three Frogs, London Rd.

WELLINGTON COLLEGE VISITS

Wellington College visit contributions added a further £100 for 'Help for Heroes' and the club has sent a total of £200 to the charity on behalf of Mark Dodds for his huge contribution to our club.

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

Topical tip

The Trading Hut has now sold out of the old, metaldehyde-based slug pellets. These have been replaced with pellets based on ferric phosphate. Whereas metaldehyde-based pellets affect the slug's mouthparts and stops them feeding immediately, resulting in rapid paralysis and death, ferric phosphate-based pellets work more slowly but will also cause the affected slug to stop eating.

Research has shown that slugs eating the ferric phosphate-based pellet will head for darkness, often returning to the soil to die. Hence, with the new slug pellets, you are not as likely to see the evidence of dead slugs. However, the new ferric phosphate pellets are almost as effective as the ones based on metaldehyde and much more environmentally friendly.

Monthly Table Competition

First with 25 points was Hermione Lewis, 2nd Jean Potter with 24 points,
Joint 3rd Betty Mould and Anne Blakeman with 23 points, 4th Jayne Male with 22 points,
5th Stuart Slocombe with 21 points, 6th Peter Radband with 20 points

The subject for July is:
Any plants, flowers, vegetables or fruit.
All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months
and you must be present on the night for your points to be counted towards the annual prize.

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).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 01344 774310	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