



Newsletter June 2021

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk



Zoom Talk Monday 7th June 'The Light-hearted Garden' by Mel Trouserpress

Mel Trouserpress is a pseudonym of the writer Mel Rees. 35 members joined the zoom meeting to hear his musings on life and many light-hearted stories about his experiences. Including: the changes to our lives brought about by Covid, glue, pork pies, moles, old cars, older drivers, missed opportunities and dogs, among others. It was nothing if not eclectic!

He started off by telling us about and showing us some photos of the old railway carriage that he bought and beautifully renovated, even building a little station platform and garden for it!

This talk appears to have divided opinion amongst our members. It seems to have been most appreciated by our gentlemen members of a certain vintage!

(Hopefully no gentlemen members of a certain vintage have been harmed in the reading of this article!).

Farewell Kerry

Kerry Eaton has been managing our membership database for a number of years now. She also ran the monthly raffle for a while just before Covid.

Kerry has been a great supporter of the club and even opened her garden when we ran the 'Up the Garden Path' charity day.

Kerry and her partner have decided now is the time to move to the coast and we all wish them the best in the new area she is moving to.



On Sunday 16th May we presented her with a little gift to help her with her new garden.

Thanks for all you have done for the club. It's greatly appreciated.

Things to note

1. Our next meeting is on the 5th July. A talk **about "Crop Circles"** by **Andy Thomas**. This will be held over Zoom.
2. **Trading Hut** – Now open Sundays from 11-12 noon. However watch out for the weekly emails confirming times.
3. **Member's articles**. See in newsletter for more details.
4. July photo competition will **A Single Rose (not shown before)** I will remind you all a week before.
5. June photo competition results are on the web and enclosed in this newsletter.

Topical Tip –June 2021

The month of June is the traditional time for planting runner beans. Once voted the nation's favourite vegetable, they make a useful addition to even the smallest garden.



Runner beans suffer from very few pests and diseases. A few aphids might appear, but these are easily dealt by a treatment with SB Invigorator.

By far the most unwelcome pest is that of red spider mite. There are two types of spider mites – the glasshouse red spider mite and the fruit tree red spider mite. The one which affects runner beans is the glasshouse red spider mite. Strangely enough, the pest is misnamed, as it is neither red nor is it a spider; it is a true mite. In hot, dry summers the pest can do serious damage to the foliage and consequently reduce yields. The best treatment is to ensure that the canes which support the crop are used in alternate years. If even a small quantity of mites have infected the crop, these will overwinter in the canes that you have been using to support the beans. The following year, use a different set of canes to the ones you used in the previous year. This way you will deprive last year's mites from

entering this year's crop. A tip which is simple, effective and truly organic!

Ian Gillott

June Photo Competition



First
Inge Salter with a tremendous 40 points



2nd Pauline MacBrayne with 17 points



Joint 3rd
Kriss Turner with 10 points



Joint 3rd
Sylvia Hawes with 10 points

Club Facebook Group

Don't forget our Facebook group! It is a private group which means that only club members can join and post. You can join it at: www.facebook.com/groups/207934410581605/

You will need to first read and agree to the group guidelines. We really would like more members in this group to make it a lively forum. We are looking for gardening related posts and club news.

Julia Goodall Publicity Officer

RHS card

Our club has a RHS Card.

It enables two people to gain entry to all RHS gardens throughout the country (this includes RHS Bridgewater from Sept).

Presentation of this card will give you and your friend a 30% discount on the entry fee.

From March, as a member of our club, you will be able to borrow it by contacting Chris Spinks (number at the end of newsletter) and arranging to pick it up.

Free membership this year

Big thank you to all those members who decided to pay their £5 membership fee this year even though it is a free year. We, the committee, appreciate this demonstration of your support. I must also go further and say thank you to a few who have made voluntary donations on top of their subs. Very kind of you. If you would like to pay your voluntary subs at the Trading Hut then Stuart will be willing to take your details etc.

The clubs bank details are: Sort Code: 40-47-09, Account number: 71301608 (don't forget to give your name as the reference).

Member's email



Stuart and Dick having pressure washed the roof on Wednesday 12th May, decided to return the following day and wash down the sides. Of course, Mother Nature decided to help with lots of rain but they soldiered on. They had to get it ready for painting.

They managed to get the sides cleaned and had time to spare so they attacked the cement ribbon around the hut. Wow, what a difference that made. You can see from the picture the clean strip behind Stuart as he worked his way along.

Now they needed a week of dry weather so they could paint.

9th June the sunny weater finally arrived and Stuart and Dick climbed on the roof and painted.

They did not know if the two 5 litre tins they had bought, would be enough. By the time they finished the roof they realised they were ok for paint. They had enough left in the first tin to paint the end of the hut and the door.

That was enough for that day.

They agreed that Sunday 13th, during hut opening time, they would finish the rest.

So, visit the hut this Sunday and let them know what you think of the new colour.



Member's email

Congratulations to one of our members Priya Selvarat. What a beautiful wheelbarrow. Lots of hard work but great result.



Member's email



A recent visit to Wisley



A thatched fox going towards a live gull on its nest

Sent in by Peter North

Member's email

Our members are clever crafters!

The May photo competition 'Something I have made' gave our members the chance to showcase their crafting and practical skills. For my following article for the local press, I contacted some of the winners to ask them for some background to what they had made. I thought it would be good to share with you what they said about their project. You can find the photos of their work in the May newsletter.

1st was Roland Cundy for his lovely watercolour of a robin. Roland said that his inspiration came from Anna Mason. A fellow watercolour enthusiast recommended her online school. It took him about 10 hours to complete during the pandemic, using one of her online tutorials.

Joint 2nd were Sylvia Hawes and Julia Little, both with embroidery.

Sylvia wrote: This type of embroidery became popular in the mid 19th century and was always worked in red thread as it was the first coloured thread which was colourfast. Hence its name redwork. My embroidery is therefore blue redwork. It is almost always worked on calico and the outline is worked in backstitch. Other stitches used are stem stitch, satin stitch and French knots. The early settlers to America popularised redwork working it on pillowcases and quilts from patterns costing a penny. It is still widely used in America today and my pattern came from there.

I find embroidery very relaxing and enjoy seeing the pattern emerging. It is a very portable craft particularly when only one colour is used. A piece of calico, a pair of scissors, a needle, an embroidery hoop and, of course, red thread is all that is needed to complete a redwork panel.

Julia wrote: The embroidery is taken from the Inspirations magazine that came in December 2020. It is a design by Trish Burr. She is an absolute expert on silk shading and does the most wonderful work.

I started it soon after Christmas with the intention of making it as a gift for my goddaughter for next Christmas. Thought I would start early and avoid the Christmas rush!! There is however a problem: my husband has decided he likes the colour shading and does not want me to give it away.

It has taken on and off from January and I completed it Friday the day before the competition!! It's hard to say exactly how many hours it has taken but it has been a very good antidote to lock down. So now it is back to the drawing board to work something else for my goddaughter. This time in pink and purple with gold thread I know Ray will not like that so it will go to her!!

Julia Goodall Publicity Secretary

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).

Member's email



Lynn Potts

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