



Newsletter June 2022

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk



June meeting

Last Monday, Stuart Slocombe gave a fascinating talk and slide show on 'The Gardens of Singapore' that he had visited in 2004 and 2016 on his way to Australia.

The gardens of Singapore consist of the Botanic Garden, Orchid Garden, The Gardens by the Bay and the Mandan Orchid Garden. The Singapore Botanic Garden is the most visited garden in the world, with 4-5 million visitors a year & is open from 5am to Midnight. It was established in 1859, - 163 years ago and is a key establishment in training horticulturists and gardeners and is a leading Institution of Tropical Botany and Horticulture. It was also Instrumental in GREENING of the Singapore programme in the 1960's.

These gardens were also given World Heritage Status in 2015 and remains the only Tropical Botanical Garden to hold this accolade & only the 3rd Botanical Garden in the world to be awarded this status. Kew received it in 2012.

This large garden is divided loosely into four sections:- Rain Forest, Healing Garden, Ginger Garden, Palm Valley, Swan Lake, and other areas. However, it is challenging to see all of it in a day due to the Singapore heat and humidity.

Stuart showed many magnificent slides, showing general views of the garden in its Tropical setting, particularly of Swan Lake with its Flying Swan Statuary. There were slides of specimen plants such as the Sealing Wax Palm, which is the National Botanic Emblem of Singapore.

Within the Botanic Garden is a typical Orchidarium with a Crane Fountain surrounded by a huge number of Orchids of every colour and variety. Here Celebrities and VIP 's have the opportunity to have a new variety of Orchid named for them.

In 2010, The 'Gardens by The Bay' were established, and are now a Singapore 'must see' tourist attraction. Slides giving a general view of this magnificent garden were taken from the top of the Singapore Flyer, a bit like views of London from the London Eye.

In these gardens are the worlds largest greenhouses; The Cloud Forest & The Flower Garden. In the Cloud Forest is a man- made Mountain with a 120

Things to note

1. **Our next meeting** is on the 4th July when Ray Broughton will give us a presentation on 'Lawns'.
2. **Rose & Sweet Pea:** Competition to run alongside the usual Table Competition. See article in newsletter below for more information.
3. **Trading Hut:** now open every Sunday 10:00 to 12:00
4. **Member's articles.** See newsletter for more details. If you have an interesting story, send it in.
5. **Remember to:** call Hermione if there is a particular subject you would like a speaker for. Hermione's number is at the end of this newsletter

foot Waterfall surrounded by metal 'Super Trees' that support climbing plants and tree ferns with ascending walkways and viewing platforms to the top of the waterfall. The foliage of many different shades of green from plants and tree ferns, with the occasional burst of colour from hanging flowers, look truly amazing from the slides. These splashes of colour are provided by exquisite Begonia Escarqot and other types of begonia not found in the UK. Approaching the summit of the mountain the walkways and viewing platforms are shrouded in mist. Also in this garden is an incredible carved Structure of 'Man with the World in the Palm of his hand'.

The Flower Dome is divided into nine different areas or zones. These are:- Californian, Olive Grove Mediterranean S America, S Africa, Australia, a flower field, Baobab, and Succulants. These gardens also have beautiful carved animals carved from driftwood that are native to that particular country. Views of these gardens can be seen at different levels.

The Mandai Orchid Garden is situated away from the coast and Tourist area and was established in 1950. This garden is much smaller and not as spectacular than the other gardens and is sited on the side of a gentle sloping hill. Here, the slides show a number of beautiful and interesting orchids with some wildlife amongst them, such as invertebrates, lizards and birds. The slide show finished back in the Ginger Garden of the Botanical Garden. Everyone enjoyed presentation.
Thank You Stuart.

Maureen Boyington

Table Competition

Spectacular table of members exhibits. Really well supported this month with 12 members entering.



Joint 1st Gill Gillott with 10. Joint 2nd Lesley Hicks, Sylvia Hawes, Clare Temperey and May Withers with 9 points. Joint 3rd Margaret Wade, Hermione Lewis and John Kerr.
Joint 4th Peter Radband, Linda Garrett and Susan Darlow. 5th Ann Blakeman.

Remember that the table competition is your opportunity to show something that you are really proud of. The only rule is that it must have been in your possession for at least three months or grown by you.

Rose & Sweet Pea competition

Don't forget that at the next meeting we will hold the annual Rose & Sweet Pea competition. Bring in either a rose or a sweet peas (or both is you want to enter in each section). You can display your entry in your own vase. There will be a table set out for this competition.

Help with the teas and biscuits

Each club night we have a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. We need someone to manage this. All that is needed is to bring milk and make sure we have enough teabags, coffee and biscuits. You will not need to serve in the kitchen if you do not want to but just make sure there are enough tea bags, milk and coffee. All expenses, of course, will be reimbursed. We will create a rota for the coming months and ask for volunteers to help in the kitchen.

Please let me know if you can help by replying to this email.

Top tips for growing dahlias

The first rule of dahlias to be aware of is that they don't like competition around them. They detest being overshadowed, and having to fight for water and nourishment. Dahlias need space, especially when young.

If you grow them in a border allow approx 40cm all around young plants to give them the space they need to get established. Plant them in well rotted compost if possible.

Be aware that dahlias act like a magnet for slugs and snails which hide in borders and then come out to feast at night. Our Trading Hut can supply slug pellets and slug gel if you don't want to go out with a torch slug hunting in the dark!

Once planted, sprinkle a handful of fish, blood and bone around the base of plants.

Repeat this application every month and from June add a handful of sulphate of potash to help with flowering performance. Be generous when watering dahlias, they need plenty of water particularly during the height of summer and during dry periods.

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.

You can borrow the card by contacting Chris Spinks (number at the end of newsletter) and arranging to pick it up.

Tesco Grant

We are really pleased to report that Tesco have donated £500 to the club which will go towards the cost of the monthly speakers. Louise from Tesco came to the June meeting to present the grant. What was also really nice was she brought biscuits for the tea break. Dick was really cheeky and asked how often we could apply for a grant. Louise said once a year. Many thanks Tesco.



Big Thanks

Big thank you to Ann Blakeman who has managed the tea and biscuit break at the club's monthly meetings. Ann has covered this role for several years and in recognition of this, we presented her with a little gift.



Topical Tip – June 2022

Still lots to get on with in the garden. These are a few things that need your attention.

- Start to pick sweet peas as soon as they flower to encourage more blooms.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of flower bulbs and tubers.
- Dead-head your roses if they're repeat-flowering types. Otherwise, leave the seed heads on for

decoration.

- Prune out overcrowded or dead stems of evergreen clematis once they have finished flowering, to maintain a good shape.
- Towards the end of June, if your hardy geraniums have finished flowering, cut them back to encourage new foliage and flowers.
- If there hasn't been much rain, raise your lawn mower blades to reduce stress on the grass.
- Water your lawn during hot weather, particularly newly seeded or turfed lawns. Keep new lawns well-watered.
- Warm weather encourages rapid weed growth — apply specific lawn weed killer to tackle them.
- Feed your lawn with a special lawn fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.
- Recut lawn edges, or install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.

Don't forget to put on the sun lotion on those hot days.

New Bank Account

Please note that we have a new bank account. For those who have a standing order set up for their membership, the details are as follows:

Sort Code: 60-24-21
Account Number 10290311
Account Name California Gardeners' Club

Members email

Persistent, difficult weeds

Do you ever get those weeds that just won't go away? We have all learnt over the years that if you do not get the whole root of the weed out, it will grow back.

I now use a herbicide. Not one of those that claims to kill the weed quickly but one that takes about a week or two. Why, you may ask. Well the herbicide that takes a while is the one that is killing the root. Yes, you must be careful when applying it so I tend to use a little brush and paint a few of the leaves of the weed. The big test was a vine that was creeping up a neighbours tree and coming under the fence. Paint brush, herbicide and two weeks later – job done.

Nupur, fundraising for World Scout Jamboree 2023



Nupur is currently focussed on her exams (6th to 17th June) but she has taken time out to send a thank you to all those who brought jumble to the last club meeting. She says:

'A big thank you to the club members helping out with Jamboree fundraising, I received just over £100 from Bag-2-School. I will plan another collection in autumn. Also a thank you to the member who gave me an envelope with a donation.'

Member's email

On the 24th of May we visited The Manor House, Upton Grey near Hook. Over the past 37 years the almost derelict house and garden have been restored by the present owners, Rosamund and John Wallinger. Originally the property had been a 16th century Manor House but in 1908, the new owner, Charles Holmes, a leading member of the Arts and Crafts movement commissioned Gertrude Jekyll and the architect Ernest Newton to create a monument to that movement. The result was a stunning house and garden but sadly, over the years, both house and garden had fallen into a state of disrepair.



Rosamund Wallinger whose childhood home was Barkham Manor, set about restoring the garden and was lucky enough to obtain a set of Miss Jekyll's original plans. The result is a stunning 5 acre garden. To the West of the house lies Gertrude Jekyll's only surviving and faithfully copied Wild Garden. Paths lead towards a pond which is surrounded by rocks and planted with indigenous and water loving plants.

Nearer the house the garden is more formally laid out but is planted with the soft pinks and greys of the cottage garden style which is typical of Jekyll. Many varieties of poppy, iris and peony create drifts of colour to delight the eye.

We were lucky enough to meet Mrs Wallinger who cheerfully admits she was an absolute gardening beginner in 1985. However through trial and error and a great deal of hard work she has created an historic garden, a homage to Gertrude Jekyll.

Sylvia Hawes.

The Manor House: Open weekdays only. Entrance £8 which includes a guide and list of plants. W.C but no coffee shop.



Facebook Group News

You are most welcome to join the club 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.

Member's email

A visit to the Sir Harold Hillier Garden near Romsey.

This stunning site is famous for its arboretum and gardens set in 180 acres of beautiful Hampshire countryside.



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Well worth a visit.

From our fast becoming roving reporter.
Wendy Whitmarsh

Create a bee friendly garden:

This spring and summer we could make some simple but crucial changes in our gardens that will help our native bee population.

As well as the honeybee we have 275 other species of native bees in the UK. Some of them are on the brink of extinction, and while most things gardeners do to “save the honeybee” will help other bees, we need to understand the bigger picture.

Solitary bees are far more effective pollinators than honeybees from a hive. One mason bee does the pollination work of 120 honeybees, so if you have fruit trees and want to improve your harvest it is far more effective to install a solitary bee house. Mason bees nest in hollow cavities and love insect boxes.

A garden full of flowering shrubs is more pollinator-friendly than one packed with annuals and perennials. Shrubs offer more nectar because of the arrangement of their flowers – hundreds packed close together support efficient feeding.

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Bees exhibit floral constancy (i.e. they feed from one type of flower and work one patch before moving on to the next). This makes them better pollinators because they move pollen from one flower to another of the same type, which is what causes pollination.

Choose shrubs with masses of nectar-rich flowers, such as mahonia, berberis, ceanothus and pyracantha. Each pieris flower has seven times more nectar than a primrose, and one small flowering currant (*Ribes sanguineum*), with 3,000 flowers, provides as much nectar as 16,000 primroses

Many bees prefer to feed low down. Some of the best lawn flowers for pollinators are bird's foot trefoil, white clover, dandelion and daisy.

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: Yvonne Hedley 0118 973 3852	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Committee Member: Peter Radband 07976 640989
Deputy Chairman: Ian Gillott 0118 989 2649	Trading Officer: Stuart Slocombe 0118 973 4531	Membership: Jayne Male 07967 639808	Co-opted Member: Marise Radband 01344 774310
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Officers: Daryl & Katie Phillips 07980 160169	Publicity: Maureen Boyington 07919 522379	Table Competition Linda Garrett