



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter March 2017

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

Finchampstead born, Brian Fisher regaled us with a tour-de-force guide to bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes. They have in common the fact that they're all storage organs and all have a period of rest. After a quiz and discussion, he displayed over 50 slides of varieties available, several of which were in his own Maidenhead garden. Some, like iris, can be bulbs, stem tubers and rhizomes. Handy tips ensued e.g. anemone root tubers should be soaked for 24 hours if shrivelled but discarded if they don't increase in size. All bulbs are swollen leaf bases, the bigger their leaves and the longer they stay on, the better. They all need good drainage, faring well in our sandy soil. Corms, like those of gladioli, are condensed stems. Climbing nasturtiums are stem tubers, like potatoes. Watsonia and crocosmia are from corms, the latter very resistant to decay so can be difficult to dig up. Check root tubers of begonia for vine weevils in tiny holes before storage. Root tubers of Arum can spread so suit woodland. Thus, councils now use camassia for naturalising in grass quickly. Couch grass, ground elder and bindweed are, of course, very aggressive, less welcome, rhizomes. You may need a step ladder to tend the lily cardiocrinium giganteum but you can replant their little bulb offsets. New varieties of dahlia, which have tuberous roots but grow from a crown, can be seen at Wisley and galtonia bulbs thrive at Savill Gardens, whilst in Autumn Cliveden has fine Nerines. But beware the foul smell of Dranunculus which grows wild in Crete!

Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on 3rd April when David Fletcher will be talking about 'Glorious Arctic Tundra'.
2. Trading hut now open Sundays 10:00 to 12:00
3. Subs are now due for 2017
4. Tool sharpening at the hut 10:00 to 12:00 on Sunday March 26th
5. Read the newsletter for information on this year's outing.

Daffodil Growing Competition

Only 24 days to go. My daffodils are now ready to open. I still think they are on schedule for the Spring Show and the April club meeting but it is touch and go. I have still got them in the ground and am starting to think 'how can I slow them down'. All the rain we have had, has been good for them but the warm weather has bought them on about a week. I may have to put the pot in the fridge for a week!!

Remember, once the flowers have opened, they will be good for 10 plus days. Good luck everyone.

Tool Sharpening

26th March is our tool sharpening morning. It has been very popular over the past couple of years. I wonder however, is it the tool sharpening or the good chat enjoyed by the large number of people waiting in the queue, that makes the event attractive.

Membership

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.

Show Schedule for 2017

As you know, the Spring Show is on Sunday 2nd April. We do hope you will be able to enter a few classes. If you are entering, please bear in mind the following:

The preferred way of registering your entries (and the most secure) is in person at the Hall between 7 and 8.30pm on the Wednesday evening before the show.

If however, you wish to make any email entries, you will need to provide the following in your email: Your Name, Address if not a member, Class numbers of the classes you wish to enter and age (if entering the Young Exhibitors section).

Entries are charged at the standard rate of 20p per class and will be accepted any time up to 10pm. on the Friday before the Show. These entries will be acknowledged with a simple "Entry Received" message. If you do not get this reply, you must assume your e-mail has joined the billions of others in the black beyond.

After 10pm on Friday any entries received will be classified as Late entries. These will be charged at the Late entry rate of 25p per class. These emails may not be acknowledged. All email entries must be paid for on arrival at the hall on Sunday morning at the 'entry table' and before staging.

PLEASE NOTE THERE CAN BE NO LATE ENTRIES IN THE FLORAL ART CLASSES.

Please see below for the 2017 Spring Show Schedule. You will also be able to see the schedule on the club's website www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Outing Tuesday 20th June

Advance notice. Our coach trip will be to one of the greatest restored gardens open to the public. West Dean Gardens has an impressive collection of 13 working Victorian glasshouses, 300 ft. pergola, inspiring walled kitchen garden, award-winning sunken garden, 49-acre arboretum with breath-taking views and specimen trees e.g. redwoods and tulip trees, ponds, extensive heritage fruit collections, roses, plant sales, restaurant and photographic exhibition.

Initially open for club members, family and friends. No need to pay now but email Chris Spinks – cspinks41@gmail.com or phone 01189781432 to secure places or at the club meeting or Show. £21 for a superb horticultural experience. (See their website too.)

Bike Appeal

As a result of my request, at the February AGM, 8 previously owned bikes have been donated. Maidenhead Cycle Hub greatly appreciate your support in furthering their charitable work. For more information about what this charity does for the community why not visit their web site? Thanks again. Peter Radband

Trading Hut

Thanks for all the support we've had from members already this season – trading has got off to a good start at the Hut. Do come along and have a look at our new products – as well as all the old favourites. Please remember that this year the Hut won't be open on the morning of Sunday 2nd April - the day of our Spring Show. For this Show day the Hut will be open from 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. instead and we'll also have a 'favourite products' table in the Hall. So come along, enjoy the Show and shop for all your gardening products at the same time. There will also be a sale of plants.

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.

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).

This month's winner was Sylvia Hawes with 25 points and joint second were Hermione Lewis and Ann Blakeman with 24 points

The subject for April 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.

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	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

CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



SHOW SCHEDULE 2017

Spring Show – Sunday 2nd April 2017

Each Class entry 20p

Held at California Ratepayers' Hall

Finchampstead

Doors open: 2.30 p.m.

Admission to Show: 50p

Under 16 free

Prize Giving and Auction commence at 4pm

Show Secretary: Peter Turner

Tel: 0118 9730424

RULES

1. The Show is open to any amateur.
2. Club vases **must** be used and sundry items needed to stage the exhibit must be provided by the exhibitor. Every care will be taken of the sundries, but the Committee cannot accept any responsibility for breakages or losses.
3. A Novice is an exhibitor who has not won more than two first prizes in the same Novice section in the previous 3 years.
4. Packing is allowed for cut flowers, but no artificial supports are permissible.
5. Exhibits must be staged between 08.00 and 11.00 hours and the hall vacated prior to commencement of judging.
6. Exhibitors not wishing their entries to be sold should apply to a Steward for a label to affix to the entry card. Exhibits may be removed between 15.45 and 16.00 hours, but all entries on show after that time will be sold in aid of Club funds.
7. Either Official entry forms to be used or email entries, stating the exhibitor's name, address and class numbers entered. Forms to be accompanied by the entrance fee of 20p for each class entered emails entries to be paid for on the day of show. Children's Classes are FREE.
8. All entry forms will be accepted by the Show Secretary: -
 - 8.1 Between 19.00 and 20.30 hours on the Wednesday before the Show at California Hall.
 - 8.2 At the Club's monthly meeting preceding the Show.
 - 8.3 By email to: turner1235@btinternet.com
 - 8.4 Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the Show Secretary up to 10.30 on the day of the Show, accompanied by an entry fee of 25p. No late entries are allowed for Flower Arranging classes.
9. No person may enter more than one exhibit in any one class.
10. Prizes will be: **1st** - 70p; **2nd** – 50p; **3rd** – 30p.
11. The Judges' decisions will be final.
12. Any complaint must be made to the Show Secretary before 3:45pm on the day of the show.
13. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry not according to Schedule.
14. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Show Secretary at his or her discretion and whose decision shall be binding.
15. All entries in the Children's, Domestic, Floral Art and Handicraft sections **must be the sole work of the exhibitor**.
16. All pot plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for a minimum of 2 months.

17. Money prizes may be collected from the Club Treasurer between 15.00 and 16.00 hours on the day of the Show. Any prizes not claimed by the end of the Show will be returned to Club funds.

18. Points for calculation of awards:
1st – 3 points; 2nd – 2 points; 3rd – 1 point.

FOR SHOW NOTES AND ADVICE PLEASE SEE END OF SCHEDULE

Spring Show

Spring Show - Section A - Flowers, etc.

Classes 1 to 11 – One bloom per stem excluding classes 6 and 11

Class	Title	Variety
1	2 Vases of 3 Daffodils and/or Narcissi	One per vase
2	3 Daffodils or Narcissi	One
3	5 Daffodils or Narcissi	One
4	5 Daffodils or Narcissi	Mixed
5	1 Specimen Daffodil or Narcissi	
6	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (bunch flowered)	One
7	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (double)	One
8	3 Daffodils or Narcissi (novice)	One
9	5 Tulips (One bloom per stem) (novice)	One or more
10	5 Stems Miniature Daffodils (single headed)	One or more
11	5 Stems Miniature Daffodils (multi headed)	One or more
12	3 Stems miniature tulips	One or more
13	5 Tulips (one bloom per stem)	One or more
14	3 Tulips (one bloom per stem)	One
15	1 Camellia bloom	
16	Bowl/pot not to exceed 23cm (9") growing any one species of Bulb/Corm /Tuber	One or more
17	3 Sprays of Polyanthus (same colour)	One
18	5 Sprays of Polyanthus	Mixed
19	1 Vase of any other Primulas/Auriculas	One
20	1 Cut spike of Hyacinth	
21	Flowering Orchid – Pot size over 13cm (5.1/2")	
22	An exotic plant (excluding orchids)	
23	3 Specimen blooms in a decorative vase (both bloom and vase to be judged)	One cultivar
24	1 Vase of ornamental foliage	Min. 5 kinds
25	1 Vase of flowering shrubs/trees	Mixed
26	1 Vase of Spring flowers (No shrubs)	Mixed
27	1 Vase of any other flowers not included in schedule	Mixed
28	Pot plant in flower (excluding cacti & orchids)	
29	Foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))	
30	Foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 25cm (10"))	

31	1 cactus or Succulent pot plant	
32	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (natural)	One
33	Any other vegetable as per RHS Rules	One

Spring Show – Section B – Floral Arrangements

NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED

See class for space allowed

Novice Classes

Class Title

- 34 'Easter Celebration'. A triangular arrangement of Spring flowers.
Niche size 18" x 18" (46cm x 46cm)
- 35 'Springtime' – An exhibit. A Springtime landscape. Space up to 2' square.

Open Classes

Class Title

- 36 'A Midas Touch' An exhibit. Niche size 2'6" x 2'6".
- 37 'The Quiet Water' - An exhibit to include water as part of the design.
Space allowed 2'
- 38 'Delights of Spring' – An arrangement. Space allowed 2'6" Open staging.
Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the bottom of the schedule

Spring Show – Section C – Young Exhibitors' Section

Class Title

Aged 7 and Under.

- 39 A Potato Print pattern. A4 size
- 40 A Colourful picture of a snail. Paint or Crayon – Size A4

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

- 41 An insect made from natural materials. Space 1'6" max.
- 42 A Drawing of a named common Garden Bird. Size A4

Spring Show – Section D – Domestic

Class Title

- 43 Chocolate Sponge Sandwich
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 6 oz butter | 6 oz Caster Sugar |
| 5 oz Self Raising Flour | 3 Eggs, beaten |
| 1 oz Cocoa | |

For the filling:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 4 oz Plain Chocolate | 2 tsps Clear Honey |
| 2 oz Butter | |

Butter and flour two 7" (18C<) appx. Sandwich tins. Cream butter and sugar together until pale and creamy. Add eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Fold in half the flour and cocoa (which have been sieved together) then fold in the remainder. Place half the mixture in each tin and level, bake in the oven at 190C, 375F, or gas mark 5 for about 20 minutes until well risen, firm to the touch and beginning to shrink from the sides. Turn out and cool on a wire rack. When cold, sandwich together with half the chocolate filling and coat the top with the remainder.

Chocolate Filling:

Place the broken chocolate, honey and butter into a heatproof bowl over a pan of simmering water until melted and smooth. Leave to cool and thicken slightly.

- 44 A Jar of your own Marmalade.
- 45 A round of shortbread.
- 46 6 Sausage Rolls.
- 47 A Savoury Quiche
- 48 A Jar of your own Chutney.

Spring Show – Section E – Handicrafts

- | Class | Title |
|--------------|--|
| 49 | An item of knitwear (Not shown before) |
| 50 | An article of Tapestry or Embroidery. (Not shown before) |
| 51 | An article of general handicraft (Not shown before) |

Spring Show – Section F – Photography

- | Class | Title |
|--------------|--|
| 52 | Three linked pictures |
| 53 | A photograph of a Garden to include a garden ornament. |

Spring Show – Section G – Poetry

- 54 Compose a poem of not more than 12 lines referring to 'A Puppy'.

SHOW NOTES - To aid and assist members who may not have shown before, the following notes may be helpful. If you are unsure how to stage or exhibit, or this is your first Show, then please ask a Committee member at a meeting or on the morning of the Show, to introduce you to an experienced member of the Club who can answer queries. Please remember that help and advice are always readily available.

Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables

- Read the schedule carefully and be sure that the number of specimens and groupings per variety are correct.
- It is recommended that you use the smallest Club vase that will comfortably hold the exhibit. Please ask for an alternative sized vase if required.
- Aim for uniformity of freshness, size, shape and colour.
- If you wish to read more about show techniques the Horticultural Show Handbook published by the Royal Horticultural Society is worth reading. A copy is available, for reference purposes only, at all meetings or in the Trading Hut. This book is widely accepted and forms a standard reference for all who take part in shows, judges, exhibitors and organisers alike.
- Please name your exhibit whenever possible as this adds the final touch for the benefit of the judge and public.

Domestic

- Key points are presentation, adherence to schedule, i.e. no original manufacturer's writing on jars or lids, correct number of items and size, etc.

- Entries should be appropriately covered, e.g. cling-film or a dome
- Finally – please ask if you are unsure, help and advice is readily available.

Plants

- All pot sizes are measured across the top edge (inside diameter).
- Plants usually grown for their ornamental foliage are not debarred from Foliage Classes simply because they happen to be in flower at the time of the competition. However, when judging a 'Foliage Class' judges must take no account of any flowers on a plant.