



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter March 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

On Monday there was a big turnout to hear Heather Skinner tell us about the National Garden Scheme. She is the County Organiser for Berkshire and has been a volunteer for over 10 years. It is a charity founded in 1927, run by volunteers and is the most significant charitable funder of nursing, which it has raised £53,000,000 to support. Gardens are opened in 50 counties in England and Wales.

Its beginnings were in Liverpool when the wife of William Rathbone fell ill in 1859 and a nurse was employed to look after her. After Mrs Rathbone died, William Rathbone saw that there was a need for nurses and continued to employ her as the first District Nurse. Florence Nightingale helped to open the first nursing college, and Queen Victoria gave her name to what would become the Queen's Nursing Institute.

In the 1920s Elsie Wagg had the idea of opening gardens for charity. In 1927, six hundred gardens opened for an entry fee of one shilling, and £8,000 was raised, a lot of money in those days. We were shown many gorgeous pictures of gardens that are open in Berkshire, of which 45 are open this coming summer; and of course, of the famous cakes! It is not surprising that the cakes are so good, as Mary Berry is the President of the Charity! (Mary's garden is not open now as too many people descended on the village!)

Among the charities supported as well as the Queen's Nursing Institute are Macmillan, Marie Curie, the National Autistic Society, the Carer Trust, Parkinson's, and many others.

Their website is: ngs.org.uk which gives details of their open gardens.
Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on April 2nd Joy Craig will talk about Fuchsias.
2. Trading hut – Now open Sunday mornings 10 to 12
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.
4. Make a special note that on Sunday, March 25th, we have another Tool Sharpening! From 10 am to 12 noon at the Trading Hut.)
5. **Membership subs are now due.** Once again, we have held the cost at £5.

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.

SHOW TIME

Well almost, it is only just over 4 weeks away. So time to think about your entries that are going to win for you. As usual we will be collecting your entry forms at the Ratepayers hall on the Wednesday evening before the Show. You can also of course bring them to the next meeting on the Monday Night. So whether exhibiting Flowers or plants, baking a shortbread (very easy recipe) or just coming along in the afternoon, I hope to see you all on Sunday 8th April. Do you know/have any children? Please encourage them to enter the children's classes

We will be setting up as always on the Saturday evening before the show (7:30pm). If we finish early, we do allow those of you exhibiting large pot plants to stage them then. You do so at your own risk as we are not there overnight.

The fine band of helpers who set up and serve teas on Sunday would like your help in providing cakes to go with the teas. Please have a word with them at the meeting on Easter Monday as to how you can help.

The Show Schedule is at the end of this newsletter

I look forward to your support. Peter Turner Show Sec.

P.S. Men, you are not excluded from the Floral Art Section.

Jealott's Hill Community Landshare, Wellers Lane, Warfield, RG42 6BQ

Two years ago we heard a talk by David Putt about this project based on a six acre site owned by Syngenta. It is a partnership between private, voluntary and public sectors. Their mission is to encourage and nurture individuals and groups to learn and develop skills in a horticultural setting whilst maintaining a sustainable environment. They are grateful for support and would welcome volunteers, sponsorship or donations.

For further information look at www.jealottshilllandshare.org.uk or contact: David Putt, Project Manager; 07867 695931 jealottshilllandshare@gmail.com

Club Outing

This year we are asking members for suggestions as to where they would like to go for the club outing and in which month. Once the location and month has been agreed, we will publicise it and organise the coach.

Up the Garden Path

We now have four members who have volunteered their gardens for the 'Up the Garden Path' charity event. All of them have said they have ordinary gardens and are volunteering for the social and charity side of the day. This, of course, is exactly how people should think of the day. It is not to show off a perfect garden or to have every plant with a name tag in English and Latin. It's just a fun day out visiting other members' gardens.

We still need a couple more gardens so please give it some thought. If you would like more information, contact either Chris Spinks (0118 9781432) cspinks41@gmail.com or Peter Radband (01344 774310) peterkradband@outlook.com

Unwanted presents

These are the lifeblood of the tombola at the shows so please bring any gifts that are not really your thing to the April meeting and we'll keep them safe until the Spring Show. Thank you in advance and to those who have already donated items.

Book / Magazine Table

Those of you who attend the monthly meetings will be aware of the free-to-take gardening magazine table. Many of these magazines are quite old and so we are asking members, if they have any more recent editions (late 2017 onwards) that they no longer need, to bring them along for the table.

We have recently started a garden book table. If you have any gardening books you no longer use, please bring them along to any of the meetings so other members can make use of them. The books will be priced and the funds will go towards club activities.

Chairman's Challenge

Keep a close eye on the daffodils as this is the month we need to manage them carefully to get best result. Many are still only 5 or 6 inches tall and may need bringing in doors to encourage them along. The very cold weather recently certainly did not help them.

Bring & Buy Tools

Keep bringing in the tools that you no longer need or want please.

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.

Trading Hut

The hut is now open every Sunday morning 10:00 to 12:00

Monthly Table Competition

There were a record 11 entries for the table competition this month - well done!
1st Ann Blakeman with 27 points. 2nd with 26 points Peter Radband, Kerry Eaton, Pauline Mac Brayne, Ian Gillott and Robert Vacher. 3rd with 25 points Hermione Lewis and Sylvia Hawes
4th with 24 points Jean Potter and Pat Turner. 5th with 23 points Betty Mold

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.

This year we will continue to offer a cash prize for first & second

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 Lewis 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

CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



SHOW SCHEDULE 2018

Spring Show – Sunday 8th April 2018

Each Class entry 25p

**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

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Tel: 0118 9730424

RULES

1. The Show is open to any amateur.
2. Club vases **must** be used except where stated 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 ask for a 'Not For Sale' 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 25p for each class entered emails entries to be paid for on the day of show. Children's Classes are FREE. Email entries should be sent by 3pm Saturday before the show.
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 30p. 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 INSIDE FRONT COVER AND PAGES 11 TO 13

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	Chairman's Challenge	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	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (Forced)	One

The pot sizes will be judged on the metric dimensions.

The imperial sizes are only for guidance.

Spring Show – Section B – Floral Arrangements

NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED

See class for space allowed

Novice Classes

Class	Title
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|----|--|
| 34 | 'A Host of Golden Daffodils'. w2'6" x d2' |
| 35 | 'Teatime' – An exhibit. An exhibit of fresh flowers and greenery in a container used at teatime. Space up to w2' x d2' x h18". |

Open Classes

Class	Title
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| 36 | An exhibit of flowers and Foliage in a stemmed wine glass.
w23" x d12" x h18" |
| 37 | 'April Showers' - An exhibit of trailing flowers and foliage.
Niche w18" x d18" |
| 38 | 'Book / Show Title' – An exhibit portraying the Book/Show, Theme or front cover. Book or cover to be displayed.
Niche w2'6" x d2' |

Spring Show – Section C – Young Exhibitors' Section

Class	Title
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Aged 7 and Under.

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| 39 | A button picture of a butterfly made on a paper plate |
| 40 | A playdough/salt dough monster |

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

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|----|-----------------------------------|
| 41 | A handmade crown or tiara. |
| 42 | Three decorated homemade cupcakes |

Spring Show – Section D – Domestic

Class	Title
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|----|--|--|
| 43 | <u>Millionaire shortbread</u>
250g shortbread biscuits, crushed
55g melted butter
150g dark brown soft sugar
200g dark chocolate | 150g butter
397g can of carnation condensed milk
55g white chocolate |
|----|--|--|
1. Mix the crushed biscuits with the melted butter, then press firmly into a 20cm square brownie tin lined with baking parchment. Place in fridge for 20 mins.
 2. Gently heat the sugar and remaining butter in a non-stick pan, stirring until melted. Add the carnation condensed milk and bring to a rapid boil, stirring continuously. Cook for a minute or so or until the filling has thickened. Now pour the caramel over the base. Cool then chill until set.
 3. Melt the chocolate in separate bowls. Pour the dark chocolate over the caramel then add spoonful of the melted white chocolate, swirl together with a spoon for a marbled effect.
 4. Chill until set. Remove from the tin and cut into squares

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|----|------------------------------|
| 44 | A Jar of your own Marmalade. |
| 45 | 5 Hot Cross buns. |
| 46 | 6 Sausage Rolls. |
| 47 | A Savoury Quiche |

48 A Jar of your own Chutney.

Spring Show – Section E – Handicrafts

Class	Title
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49	A Bug House
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50	An article of Tapestry or Embroidery. (Not shown before)
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51	An article of general handicraft (Not shown before)
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Spring Show – Section F – Photography

Class	Title
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52	A Bridge over water (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)
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53	Church Yard. (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)
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Spring Show – Section G – Poetry

54	Compose a poem of not more than 12 lines referring to 'A fox'.
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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).