



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter March 2020

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Things to remember

On Monday there was a large turnout for Dave Williams, who gave us a talk on badgers. Dave is a member of the West Surrey Badger group and the Surrey Wildlife Trust and was Chairman of the Badger Trust, so he certainly knows his subject! He had many interesting anecdotes, and slides of various animals.

Badgers (*meles meles*) are widespread in Europe and are of the same family as stoats, weasels, otters and pine martens, but much larger at 12 to 14 kilos. They are omnivores, but rate as Britain's heaviest carnivore. They have a sense of smell 500 times better than humans. Their main food is earthworms but will take anything edible they come across. The males are called boars and the females sows. They have a white face with black stripes. It is hard to tell which sex they are by watching them, but boars have a wider head and less fluffy tail than the sows.

Badgers mate at any time of the year, but have delayed implantation, so the young are born in February after an 8-week gestation. The cubs are weaned at 12 weeks and begin to come above ground then. They have a life expectancy of 3 to 14 years.

Badgers can travel over quite wide areas and in order to track them they are given food with coloured pellets in it, which are then deposited in their "latrines" so the animals from different setts can be identified.

Their biggest enemy is the car, many being killed on the road, though some still get killed by badger baiters, despite the "sport" being illegal for many years. Some are also "culled" as vectors for bovine TB, though this is debatable, and many scientists disagree.

If you find a sick or injured badger, or an orphan, call expert help. A local wildlife hospital or rescue are the best options.

1. Our next meeting is on 6th April when our own Stuart Slocombe will give us a talk entitled 3 Floral Extravaganzas Kew, Keukenhof & Hampton Court'
2. Trading Hut is now open on Sundays between 10:00 and 12:00.
3. A note for your diary: March 28th will be our club's **tool sharpening** day. **Please note it will be a Saturday.**
4. Did you know you can renew your subscription electronically now? See newsletter for details.

Topical Tip – March 2020

For those of you who didn't establish your sweet peas in the autumn, now is a good time to sow. Root trainers are ideal for sowing single seeds and are available in most garden centres. However, three or four seeds in a 3½" (9cm) pot filled with seed compost will fill the bill. There is no need to chit the seed. Place in a warm environment, ie. a kitchen windowsill, and the seeds will germinate in about 7-10 days. When the shoots are about an inch high, remove to a cold frame or cold greenhouse. Sweet peas are very hardy.

Finally, as a result of experiencing the wettest February in living memory, we have seen moss on lawns become rampant. Now is the time to start tackling the problem.

We have supplies of good, soluble ferrous sulphate for sale in the Trading Hut. Each container of ferrous sulphate contains instructions as to how it should be used.

THE SPRING SHOW IS ONLY WEEKS AWAY

Please look around your garden to see what flowers are likely to be ready for the 5th April. Some of my daffodils are looking promising among the floods.

As usual I will be, with others, at the hall on the Wednesday evening before the Show from 19:00 till 20:30 to collect your entries. This is the most reliable way to make sure your entries are safely received, and, of course, there are usually others with me who can answer any queries you may have regarding suitable classes etc.

Our usual pleas to our members for cakes for the tea counter.

Help, to set up the hall, is required on the Saturday evening before the show at 19:30. It's great fun even if you have never done it before. It takes us less than an hour and it also gives you the opportunity to stage your pot plants if you wish.

Please remember, if you enter by email and if you do not receive a simple reply confirming receipt, then your entry has not reached us.

I look forward to seeing you all on Saturday evening and Sunday at the Show.

From your acting Show Secretary.

At the end of this newsletter is this year's Show schedule. It is also on our web site:

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Badger watch

Wednesday 8th April. Frimley Green.at 6.30pm. Register your interest at April's club night or if not able to attend email me your phone number to peter@radband.co.uk

The club has a new Facebook group.

If you would like to join, log in to your Facebook account, search for California Gardeners' Club and send a Friend request.
It is a private group.

Outings

We continue to look for suggestions for this year's outings. If there are any places you have visited and think would be worth a club visit, please let us know. On the other hand, if there is anywhere you have not visited and would like to go; once again, let us know. Just click reply to this email and give us the information.

Monthly Table Competition

First with 25 points was Sylvia Hawes, 2nd Jayne Male with 24 points,
3rd Peter Radband with 21 points, 4th Kriss Turner with 20 points,
Joint fifth was Hermione Lewis and John Kerr with 18 points and
6th Kerry Eaton with 17 points, joint 7th was Anne Blakeman and Ian Gillott

The subject for next month 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.

Renewing Membership

Did you know you can renew electronically?

Just transfer your £5 (£10 for a couple) to the clubs account giving your surname and initials as the reference. Your membership card will then be waiting for you at the next meeting.

Clubs account number is 71301608 & sort code 40 47 09

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 07976 640989	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	Acting Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Committee Member:	Publicity: Julia Goodall

CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



SHOW SCHEDULE 2020

Spring Show – Sunday 5th April 2020

Summer Show – Sunday 13th September 2020

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**

Spring Show - Section A - Flowers, etc.

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

Daffodil divisions are shown on the club's web site under 'Programme / Daffodil Divisions'.

Class	Title	Variety
1	2 Vases of 3 Daffodils (Division 2)	One per vase
2	3 Daffodils (Any Division)	One
3	5 Daffodils (Any Division)	One
4	5 Daffodils (Any Division)	Mixed
5	1 Specimen Daffodil (Division 1)	
6	3 Daffodils (bunch flowered) (Division 5, 7 or 8)	One
7	3 Daffodils (double) (Division 4)	One
8	3 Daffodils (novice) (Any Division)	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 (Division 5, 7 or 8)	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 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 (No entry fee)	One
20	1 Cut spike of Hyacinth	
21	Flowering Orchid	
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	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)	
30	Foliage pot plant (pot not to exceed 25cm)	
31	1 cactus or Succulent pot plant	
32	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (natural)	One
33	3 Sticks of Rhubarb – (forced)	One

Spring Show – Section B – Floral Arrangements

NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED

See class for space allowed

Novice Classes

Class Title

- 34 'Divers Discovery' An exhibit
Space allowed w 40cm x d 30cm x h 40cm
- 35 'Hot and Spicy' An exhibit.
Space allowed: w 76cm x d 76cm, height optional.

Open Classes

Class Title

- 36 'Turkish Delight' An exhibit. To be staged on a table covered in a black cloth. Space allowed: w 50cm x d 50cm x h 20cm.
- 37 'In a nutshell' A miniature exhibit.
Space allowed w 10cm x d 10cm x h 15cm.
- 38 'There is Something in the Air'
Space allowed w 40cm x d 40cm, height unlimited.

Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the back of the schedule

Spring Show – Section C – Young Exhibitors' Section

Class Title

Aged 7 and Under.

- 39 An Octopus on a paper plate using any art and craft materials.
- 40 Make a Fish from a paper plate using any craft items eg. Pipe-cleaners, foam, paper, string, wool, pompoms, modelling clay, etc.

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

- 41 Make a beach hut from cardboard.

42 3 jam tarts

Spring Show – Section D – Domestic Class Title

43 A Swiss Roll

To your own recipe with raspberry jam filling, caster sugar topping.

44 Golden Oat Cookies

Ingredients.

150ml sunflower oil	200g golden caster sugar
1 large egg	30ml milk
1 tsp ground ginger	1 tsp vanilla extract
140g plain flour	½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
300g porage oats	90g sultanas

Method

Line 2 large baking sheets with baking parchment and pre-heat oven to 180°C, gas mark 4. In a large bowl, mix together the oil and sugar then gradually beat in the egg, milk, ginger and vanilla extract until smooth. Stir in the flour, bicarbonate of soda, oats and sultanas. Drop heaped tablespoons of the mixture onto a large baking tray and bake for 15 mins or until golden. Leave to cool on a tray for 5 minutes then transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool.

45 5 macaroons

46 A chocolate mousse for one

47 A savoury quiche

48 A jar of fruit curd - your favourite flavour.

Spring Show – Section E – Handicrafts

Class Title

49 A garden ornament (Not shown @ CGC before)

50 An article of tapestry or embroidery. (Not shown @ CGC before)

51 An article of general handicraft (Not shown @ CGC before)

Spring Show – Section F – Photography

Class Title

52 Reflection (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)

53 Thing that floats (5" x 7" No borders, frames or mounts)

Spring Show – Section G – Poetry

54 Compose a poem of not more than 12 lines referring to 'Childhood'.