



# **California Gardeners' Club**

## **Newsletter May 2017**

[www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk](http://www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk)

### **Last Club Meeting**

We had a large turnout on the May Bank Holiday when Ray Broughton came to talk to us about Dianthus and Herbaceous Plants. As it was his two thousandth talk he started off with a few interesting odd facts.

- Milk, vinegar and salt are illegal for use in the garden.
- Groundsel and nasturtiums host up to 12 pests and diseases.
- Tomato sauce cleans secateurs and hedge trimmers; just leave on for 2 days, then rinse.
- Wipe pots with malt vinegar to keep vine weevils off.

The main difference between dianthus (carnations) and pinks is that pinks are hardy and dianthus are not. He showed us how to take cuttings and repot, and told us to remove any side flower buds, which will not open and take strength from the main bud.

We then saw pictures of good examples of herbaceous flowers, aster, scabious, astringia, oriental poppies, lupins and achillea, with anecdotes to go with them.

Lynn Potts

### **Things to remember**

1. Next meeting is on 5<sup>th</sup> June when Paolo Arrigo will talk about Franchi Seeds.
2. Trading hut now open Sundays 10:00 to 12:00
3. Subs are now due for 2017

### **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.

### **Monthly Table Competition**

As announced at the AGM, there will be a £50 prize for the winner of the 2017 table competition, £25 for 2<sup>nd</sup> place and £10 for the highest number of average points (minimum 5 entries).

This month's winner was Peter Radband with 26 points, second Jean Potter with 25 points and joint third were Mary Clegg and Joe Strange with 24 points

The subject for May 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.

## 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.

## Comment

An interesting communication from a member who was at the last club night:

*“The speaker on Monday was very good and as a result of his advice on burning off weeds either electrically or by flame. As a result I bought a "weed burner" from Tool Station and I can thoroughly recommend it at £19.95 plus a can of gas it is a very handy piece of kit.”*

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 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	Committee Member: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571