



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter May 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

At our May meeting Mark Dodd came to tell us about Wellington College. The grounds are very large, covering 404 acres or 163 hectares. Apart from the gardens and quads, there is a golf course, sports grounds, a lake, bog areas, heathland, and many trees. 600 trees have been surveyed, including 95 oak trees and £35,000 per annum is spent on tree management.

The 6 gardeners must keep the gardens looking good all the year round as there are various open days which many visitors attend. Where marquees are erected the grass gets damaged and must be repaired, also 9,000 new plants are needed every year. They calculated that each gardener walks over 14 miles a day!

They have an ex Chelsea Garden themed on Waterloo which was sponsored by an old pupil, and which cost around £750,000 to make and move. It has some old trees from Belgium and 52,000 plants. To get it all done many parents, pupils and other volunteers helped.

There are 10 or 12 acres of heathland, where there are Dartford warblers, nightjars, woodcock and hobby. Muntjac and Roe deer roam the grounds, though the latter can cause trouble, once eating £4,000 worth of plants in one night. All 3 species of snake are found, and many slowworms have been relocated to the heathland. Recently 140 birdboxes, hedgehog houses and many insect houses have been added.

The lake is very healthy with many species of birds and fish, including large pike and carp. Both common and American Signal crayfish occur, though the Signal ones are trapped regularly.

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on June 3rd when John Negus will be helping us with fruit growing.
2. Trading Hut now open every Sunday 10:00 to 12:00
3. Annual membership is now due (£5).
4. A date for your diary:
Finchampstead fete, 29th June

Spring Show

A big thank you to all those who either entered or visited our Spring Show a few weeks ago. During the run up to the show, we did think we would be too late for daffodils and that they would be all over. How wrong we were. Not only did we have a large entry of daffodils but also a super number of tulips. Our Chairman's entry in the Chairman's challenge was beaten by his wife's entry which came first. All classes were well supported with lots of domestic entries, photographs and handicrafts. Well done everyone. We hope you had lots of fun entering. A special thanks to Keith Andrews for his help in pulling together the judges results and preparing the prize money

Outing to Kew

The Outing to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, including glass sculpture exhibition and renewed Temperate House. Places are still available for members and others, Please contact Chris Spinks by email cspinks41@gmail.com or leave a phone message and number [01189781432](tel:01189781432) asap (and by the end of May). All those who have paid should be at the alighting points well before the coach leaves, by 9.15am at the Hall or 9.25 am at Rose St. (Wade), or 9.30am Three Frogs, London Rd. on Tuesday 11th June.
Thanks, Chris

WELLINGTON COLLEGE VISITS

Both visits are fully subscribed so if you were lucky enough to secure a place and find you can't attend please let me know so a reserve can take your place. Tel [07976640989](tel:07976640989)

To find the meeting point, enter the college by the main entrance at the railway station end of Dukes Ride in Crowthorne, travel up the main drive and take the 3rd turning on the right and park either side of the main drive. We will set off PROMPTLY at 7.00! Please wear stout shoes.

As Mark does not charge a fee he has suggested a donation to Help for Heroes so should you wish to do so I will accept donations on the evening of the visit.

FINCHAMPSTEAD FETE 29th June

Thank you for donations for the children's tombola - further donations would be appreciated. We will also be selling plants and any unwanted garden items so please bring them along to our June meeting and I will look after them until the fete, alternatively bring them along on the day and stay to enjoy the fun.

Peter Radband

Topical tip

Following the recent rain, the sun has started to shine and plants are growing rapidly. Keep a watch out for pests. Aphids – greenfly and blackfly – have arrived early this year. Roses are particularly vulnerable right now.

Virburnum beetle and gooseberry sawfly will be making an appearance soon: the latter can strip a gooseberry bush in days!

Just a reminder that the last day in June is when metaldehyde based slug pellets can legally be sold. We have supplies in the hut. Make sure you get some while stocks last.

Ian Gillott

Membership

***Over the past six months our membership continues to steadily grow.
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

First with 27 points was Betty Mold, 2nd Ann Blakeman with 25 points,
3rd Jean Potter 24 points, 4th Peter Radband 23 points,
5th Jayne Male 21 points.

The subject for June 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.

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 01344 774310	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	Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Committee Member: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571