



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter November 2017

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

Over 60 members came to the November meeting to hear Sylvia Hawes give a talk on Chateaux of the Loire Valley (with some assistance from Dick!) In the 15th and 16th centuries it was fashionable for the French aristocrats to own a place in the country to get away from the danger of plague in town, or to house their mistresses. There were at least 73 chateaux between Orleans and Angers. Sylvia gave us a brief interesting history of the four, before showing the details of the gardens.

Chenonceau is the most visited place in France after Versailles and its gardens are said to be the most beautiful in the country. The garden layout is geometric and the beds are replanted twice a year with 130,000 flowering plants. The vegetable and flower gardens provide cut flowers and food for the house.

The gardens at Villandry are on three levels; the top level has 1,015 lime trees which take 3 months to prune in winter. Below is the ornamental garden where box hedges form symbols which are allegories for love, infilled with tulips and forget me nots in spring. Even the vegetable garden is planted in nine squares of box hedging. On the third level is the lake surrounded by lawn.

Chateau D'Azay Le Rideau is a World Heritage Site and is now being renovated. At the time of Napoleon, the English Romantic style became popular and the formal gardens and parterres were ripped out and lakes and canals created. Trees planted then were newly introduced rarities from the Americas.

Chateau du Rivau is very different. Nowadays it is marketed as the chateau with Fairy Tale Gardens and appeals to children with its enchanted wood. There is also a lot of wacky "modern art" in the grounds. Not to mention a collection of over 300 perfumed roses if you prefer!

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on 4th December when it will be our XMAS party. **As mentioned before, you can bring friends and family with you.**
2. Trading hut – Now closed for the winter.
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.

Christmas Party

A great start to the Christmas party ticket sale. 56 people have already bought tickets. It looks as if it is going to be a great evening. As I have said before, you can bring friends and family with you. If you wish to come, it's not too late, you can reserve a ticket by replying to this email or calling Dick (number below – leave a message if he is not in).

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.

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 closed for the winter. If you have an urgent need for something or want something ordered for next year, get in touch with Stuart (phone number below).

Monthly Table Competition

Joint 1st with 30 points was Anne Blakeman & Sylvia Hawes.
3rd with 29 points Mary Ede. Joint 4th Ian Gillott & Kerry Eaton with 28 points.
6th Jean Potter 27 points.
Joint 7th Hermione Lewis - Jayne Male - Peter North and Peter Radband all with 26 points.
See below for pictures of the entries.

No monthly table competition in December!

*Please note January's Table Competition is "Photo of Summer Flowers".
The committee has decided that in order to ensure compatibility, all photos must be of 7x5 inches and should not have a border, mount or frame.*

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 a ring (number below).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Committee Member 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	Hon. Treasurer: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571

