



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter November 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

What an interesting evening this one turned out to be.

We were due to have David Fletcher give us a talk on 'Falklands and South Georgia'. However, he did not turn up. We had confirmed with him a month ago that he was still ok for the meeting.

Our committee member, responsible for organising the speakers, was on a cruise so could not be contacted. A murder had taken place in the Nine Mile Ride area, so we did not know if the speaker was caught up in the diversions etc. We did not have a number for the speaker so could not contact him.

So, what to do. Panic was not an option; certainly not with 62 people in the hall.

Behind the scenes lots of suggestions were being made but the hero of the evening came in the form of the Deputy Chairman Ian Gillott. Ian offered to pop home and bring his equipment to give a talk. All that remained was for Dick to hold the fort.

Dick informed the audience of the 'Wooden Hill School Gardening Project' and reminded everyone about the Christmas Party. He also talked a little about his recent trip to Japan. Whilst he was talking, Ian returned and set up his talk.

Ian gave us a thought-provoking talk on "How Are We to Feed the World".

The World population will probably reach 9 billion by 2050 and already many have very poor diets compared to the wide variety of food we have. Climate change will also affect land use with areas becoming wetter or drier than they are now..

Things to be considered are:

5% of crops are grown for biofuel. Is this viable? 1/3 of food grown feeds animals, and land is used for grazing that could grow food. Can this continue? Or should we cut down on meat? Will we be able to use so much water for irrigation?

Pests and diseases are another problem causing food waste. Should we continue spraying possibly noxious chemicals or are Genetically Modified plants grown for increased resistance the answer?

Undoubtedly there are many people working to solve these problems and we can only hope solutions can be found.

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on December 3rd when we will be enjoying our XMAS party.
2. **XMAS party tickets are now available.** £5 per person which includes the usual games, quizzes and all you can eat and drink.
3. **Membership subs are now due.**
4. No Table competition for December **BUT** it is time to start thinking about January when it will be '**A Photograph of Autumn Colours**' Remember; 7 x 5 with no border, frames or mounts

December XMAS Meeting

Tickets are now available. All you need to do is reply to this email stating how many you would like (Remember, you can bring a friends or family). We will put your name on a ticket to be collected at the door on the night.

Wooden Hill School Gardening Project

Dick informed the audience, at the last meeting, of the 'Wooden Hill School Gardening Project', a very worthy project which aims to help children increase their confidence and develop a stronger sense of empowerment.

Dick outlined how people could support the project through a) Sowing seeds and/or growing seedlings, b) Donating spare plants from your garden and c) Donating fresh produce from your garden for fund raising.

(Anyone wishing further information should email the club and their email will be forwarded to one of the project team.)

Trading Hut

For 2019 please let me know if there are any other items you would like me to stock in the Hut. Over the last three years I have gradually added to the stock we carry and most of the additions have been quite successful. So, if you have any thoughts about other products you would like me to stock please let me know by replying to this newsletter email and Chairman Dick will forward your ideas to me. I must reserve the right to make a final decision about whether to stock any items requested – there could be limitations on space and any stock additions are dependent on me being able to buy relatively small quantities at a price where we can sell to members competitively and still make a small profit for Club funds.

I hope to see lots of you at the Christmas party. Regards to all
Stuart

Up the Garden Path

Well done to all those who opened their gardens for the charity event 'Up the Garden Path'.

Also, a big thank you to all those who visited the gardens.

The total raised was £145 which went to 'Breast Cancer UK'



CERTIFICATE OF THANKS

This certificate is awarded to

California Gardeners Club

For raising

£145.00

Breast Cancer UK works to save lives and reduce breast cancer rates by tackling the environmental and chemical causes of the disease.

www.breastcanceruk.org.uk

0845 680 1322 • info@breastcanceruk.org.uk
Reg. Charity No: 1138866 in England & Wales Reg. Company No: 7348408

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

Topical tip

Now is the time to look after your dahlia tubers before we get a really hard frost. After cutting down the blackened foliage, you can either leave them in the ground and cover with a 15 cm (6 inch) layer of compost or lift the tuber, remove the soil by washing and when dry, store in a frost-proof place in peat or compost until they start to sprout in the spring.

Monthly Table Competition

Joint 1st was Ian Gillott with 27 points, 2nd Anne Blakeman with 26, Joint 3rd Jayne Male, Sylvia Hawes and Peter Radband with 25 points, Joint 4th Kerry Eaton, Hermione Lewis and Hazel Pickard with 24 points, 5th Margaret Wade with 23 points.

There is no table competition in December but start thinking about January which is

'A Photograph of Autumn Colours'

Remember; 7 x 5 with no borders, frames or mounts.

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	Membership: Kerry Eaton 07736 022361	Committee Member: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Committee Member Judy Thomas
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: Peter Radband 07976 640989	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571