



# California Gardeners' Club

## Newsletter November 2019

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

### Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on 2<sup>nd</sup> December when we will be having our XMAS party.
2. Trading Hut is now closed for the winter.
3. Reply to this email to reserve a XMAS party ticket for you and a friend OR phone Dick (the number is at the end of the newsletter).

At the November meeting, 57 members and visitors came to hear David Fletcher talk about Antarctica. David has spent 50 years working in the polar regions mostly with the British Antarctic Survey and occasionally on cruise ships. Over the years his work saw him as a dog handler, Base Commander and Field Operations Manager.

It is a remarkable place, a continent, the coldest on Earth with temperatures down to minus 90C and only 1.8% is rock, the rest is snow and ice. It contains 70% of the world's fresh water and the ice is, in places, 7,000 feet thick. It is huge, the size of the U.S.A and Mexico together; even the icebergs can be over 100 miles long. Winds can reach 200mph.

Lichens grow there, but there are only 2 true plants, a grass and a flowering cushion plant (which only manages to flower about every 7 years). The only land animals are tiny and live in the moss. They actually freeze dry every winter and then reanimate in spring.

The seas are extremely fertile with vast amounts of krill which bring the whales to feed. A blue whale can eat 4 tons of krill a day! There are 34 million penguins in 17 species, the biggest of which is the Emperor; and 37 million seals in 7 species. The enormous elephant seal is 18 feet long and can dive to 3,000 feet to hunt squid! The predatory leopard seal can eat 18 penguins a day!

People have only visited the continent for just over 100 years and no country claims it. Under the Antarctic Treaty signed in 1959 by 54 parties, scientists of many nations work together there to gain new knowledge. More and more tourists are visiting in cruise ships, up to 37,000 arriving this year to learn about this beautiful but dangerous land.

Lynn Potts



## **XMAS Party**

55 tickets have already sold so it looks like it's going to be a great evening. If you have ever been involved with catering for a large number, you will realise the need to know numbers as early as possible. If you intend coming (and remember, you can bring a friend), reply to this email to reserve your ticket. You can pay for it on the night. You can, if you want, just phone Dick (number at end of Newsletter).

## **Topical tip**

It's not too late to lift those geraniums and store them in a frost-free place. In the old days, all you did was lift the geranium from the soil, shake off some of the earth, remove any dead material, wrap the root in newspaper and store out of the frost but where there is light. Personally, I lift, shake, remove dead material and put them in a pot with a bit of compost. I then put them in my unheated greenhouse and give a little water every three to four weeks.



## **Help Required**

We are **still** looking for someone who is prepared to work with the Show Secretary and learn the ropes.

It's not a difficult job but certainly a very interesting one. It does not require a great deal of horticultural knowledge but more administrative and is only a twice a year commitment.

PLEASE give it your consideration. If you fancy having a go then please email Dick on [sandr@morseconsultants.com](mailto:sandr@morseconsultants.com)

Many thanks

## **Outings**

We are looking for suggestions for next 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.

## **Men's Sheds**

A Men's Shed has been set up in the former pavilion on the field next to Latimer Road, near the allotments in both Latimer and Ormonde Roads. Men's Sheds are charities providing communal places for [mostly] men who no longer have their own space to pursue practical skills, learn new skills, enjoy making and mending.

Donations of machine- and hand- tools and materials will be most welcome.

Contact:

[tony@wokinghammensshed.org.uk](mailto:tony@wokinghammensshed.org.uk) (01189 790673)

or [ron@wokinghammensshed.org.uk](mailto:ron@wokinghammensshed.org.uk) (01183 914331)

## Monthly Table Competition

First with 25 points was Peter Radband, 2nd Hermione Lewis with 21 points,  
3rd Anne Blakeman with 20 points  
and fourth were Jane Male, Sylvia Hawes and Ian Gillott with 19 points.

There is no table competition in December  
BUT

**Please remember** that the January competition is 'A Photograph of a Winter Scene' and it should be  
7" x 5" (no borders or frame).

## 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 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