



Newsletter November 2021

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk



Club Meeting

45 members came to this month's talk at the hall. It was given by Tony Boffin on the history of Nuffield Place, a National Trust property near Henley-on-Thames. Tony is a long-term volunteer at the property, once the home of Lord and Lady Nuffield.

Tony explained that Lord Nuffield was born William Morris in 1877, one of seven children. He initially wanted to study medicine, but having to leave school at 15 put an end to that ambition.

He started his working life mending bicycles but after seeing Henry Ford's Model T Ford, he became fascinated with motor cars. He designed his first car, the Bullnosed Morris, in 1913. This was produced commercially and was extremely successful. There followed significant expansion after he acquired larger premises to enable him to mass-produce the cars he was designing. Lowering of prices as a result of greater efficiency of production, the motor car became available to a mass market. His last successful car was the Morris Minor.

In addition to building motor cars, the company produced over 700 iron lungs, which were used in the polio epidemic in the 40's and 50's. These were exported all over the world.

Shortly before he became ennobled in 1933, he purchased Nuffield Place. Tony explained that the house is much as Lord Nuffield left it after he died in 1963. Many of the family's possessions are still in place. It is, in fact, a time warp.



The four-acre gardens at the house were a particular favourite of Lady Nuffield who appointed herself 'gardener in chief'. Today, volunteers are restoring the gardens back to their original glory. They are helped in this task by referring to old photographs of the original garden accessed from the Morris family archive.

Things to note

1. Our next meeting is on the 6th December when we will be having our XMAS party. This year it will be a professional entertainer with a Fish & Chip supper. **This will be in the hall.**
2. **Trading Hut** – Now closed for the winter
3. **Member's articles.** See in newsletter for more details.
4. **Christmas Party** on Monday 6th December at the hall. £12.50 per ticket. See in newsletter for more details.

Lord Nuffield was probably the richest and most successful man of the twentieth century. He not only made a fortune, but gave a fortune away. He always retained an interest in medicine. The medical world was always on his mind. He endowed a scholarship to found the Oxford Medical School. He made substantial and frequent donations to Guy's Hospital.

In addition he provided funds for the establishment of Nuffield College, Oxford as well as establishing the Nuffield Foundation, which is still active today. A philanthropist in every sense of the word.

Ian Gillott (Deputy Chairman)

Table Competition

Whether you agreed with it or not, the judge's word is final. It was one of those evenings where opinions varied greatly as to who should have won the Table Competition. Every entry was excellent but only one came out on top. First was Sylvia Hawes with 10 points, second Jayne Male with 9 points, third – was both Margaret Wade and Hermione Lewis with 8 points, fourth was Peter Radband with 7 points and fifth Kriss Turner with 6 points. Well done to all.

Christmas Party

I am pleased to report, 46 members have booked to attend the Christmas party. A super start and promising to be a good evening. We are only allowed a maximum of 60 people **so email us to reserve a ticket if you have not done so already.**

If you wish to reserve a ticket, please email us on californiagardenersclub@gmail.com You can either pay by BACS or at the door on the evening. Please do not leave it to the last minute as we need to know numbers by Thursday 2nd Dec.

One couple have paid by BACS on the 4th November but did not put their name as the reference. Please let us know who you are.

Club's Facebook Group

If you are a member of our Facebook group, don't forget that we want to hear your gardening and wildlife news. What's happening in your garden? What kind of year has it been growing-wise? Do you have any tips to pass on? Do you have any gardening queries that others may be able to answer? Do you have any autumnal photos of your garden or area you could share?

We now have 21 members but the more the merrier! If you would like to join and are new to Facebook, you need to register first to set up an account. Search for Facebook in your browser and use either your mobile phone number or your email address to set up an account. Once you have done that:

- Search either within Facebook for the club's page with this number:207934410581605 or name.
- Or go back to your web browser and type. In :www.facebook.com/groups/207934410581605/
- Or simply go to the club's website and you can click on the link and start from there.

Julia Goodall, Publicity Secretary

Topical Tip –November 2021

Essential checklist for November

- Clear leaves with a spring tine rake and compost them.
- Plant shrubs, evergreens and conifers.
- Protect tender plants from frost with fleece or plant jackets.
- Put out bird food.
- Prune roses back, ensuring you cut stems at an angle just above the bud point.
- Remove fallen leaves from around the base of any rose bushes which suffered from blackspot or rust this summer, to reduce the chance of reinfection next year.

And for your lawn

- Aerate your lawn now before winter sets in. Either use a lawn aerator or simply insert a garden fork at regular intervals and lean it back slightly to let air in.
- Continue to clear fallen leaves off the lawn to keep it healthy using a light rake.
- Set your lawn mower to a higher cut-height for winter and complete a last cut.
- Edge your lawn. This is easy to do in the winter months once beds are clear. Lawn edging creates a neat and tidy appearance and makes maintenance easier throughout the year.

Seed Orders

Any outstanding seed orders must be with Peter Radband peter@radband.co.uk by Friday 12th November.

Member's email



Having fooled the squirrel with a pest proof bird feeder, the little beggar has taken to picking the myrtle berries. He has stripped the bush at ground level and now been obliged to try higher up.
Maurice May

Member's email – My favourite tool

In response to Sylvia's favourite garden tool, we do not have a favourite but the attached is a picture of tools which we have inherited from both sides of our family.

Greta May



Member's emails – My favourite tool



My Favourite Garden Tool. I bought this small spade from Wickes about 5 years ago for my grandson Tom who was then 5 and loved to dig in our garden. It wasn't too long before Tom had to share it with me as I realised how useful, versatile and tough it was. Tom has grown out of digging now but I find it indispensable. It's still available from Wickes (Roughneck Round Point Micro Shovel) in store and online although what I call a spade they call a shovel !

Wendy Whitmarsh

Member's emails – My favourite tool



Hand harrow (Monty Don's rake) Great for creating a fine tilth.

Root Slayer. Great for removing established shrubs and digging compacted ground.

Peter Radband



RHS card

Our club has a RHS Card.

It enables two people to gain entry to all RHS gardens throughout the country (this includes RHS Bridgewater from Sept).

Presentation of this card will give you and your friend a 30% discount on the entry fee.

You can borrow the card by contacting Chris Spinks (number at the end of newsletter) and arranging to pick it up.

Free membership this year

Big thank you to all those members who decided to pay their £5 membership fee this year even though it is a free year.

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 07976 640989	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Committee Member:
Deputy Chairman: Ian Gillott 0118 9892649	Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531	Membership: Jayne Male 07967639808	Co-opted Member: Marise Radband 01344 774310
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Secretaries: Daryl & Katie Phillips 07980 160169	Publicity: Julia Goodall	Table Competition Linda Garrett