



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter October 2017

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

57 members were present to listen to Ray Norton give a talk about establishing Pudding Lane Nursery.

In the early 1970's, ex-army officer Ray Norton and his wife bought 12 ½ acres of land in his home village of Arborfield to begin living 'The Good Life'. They bought cattle and chickens and sold cabbages, sweetcorn and Christmas trees to the public whilst living in a caravan on site. However, it was the horticultural side of the business which began to thrive and Pudding Lane Nursery was established

Beginning with conifers, they moved on to shrubs and trees gaining a reputation for Japanese acers. They introduced irrigation systems and sprinklers and soon were selling bedding plants, garden accessories, pots and statues.

The nursery and landscape business now secure, Ray is encouraging wildlife into the remaining land. Fieldfares, Redwings, Tawny Owls and a Barn Owl are all welcome visitors. He has also invited local apiarists to site their bee hives on the land and is also working in conjunction with the charity THRIVE.

He finished off his talk with slides of different planting schemes and examples of hard landscaping.

Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on 6th November when Sylvia Hawes will be giving us a talk on the Chateaux Gardens of the Loire Valley
2. Trading hut – **note** that October is the last month that the hut is open this year. Sundays 10 to 12.
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.

Christmas Party

If you are like me, I dislike Christmas advertising before November but bear with me here. Please note that at the next meeting the XMAS party tickets will be available for you to purchase. Those who have been before will know it's an evening of fun with quizzes and games. If you have not been before then give it a go and bring a friend if you want. The tickets will be on sale at £5 which covers all the food, drinks (soft and alcoholic), games and prizes.

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 open for only four more Sundays. At the end of October it will close for the winter so make to buy all you need for your winter gardening. Have you enough compost for potting on? Will you be giving your plants a last feed before the cold weather arrives? Have you enough fleece to cover those delicate plants?

Monthly Table Competition

1st Gerald Cooper with 28 points, 2nd Peter Radband with 22 points. 3rd Sylvia Hawes 21, 4th Ian Gillott 20, 5th Hermione Lewis 20 points, 6th Sheila Davenport 19 Points, 7th Jean Potter with 19 points.

It was a shame that several regular exhibitors were not present on club night and we fell below the double figure threshold.

Don't forget that the theme of the Table Competition for November is **A CHRISTMAS TABLE DECORATION**. It may be as subtle or as gaudy as you like but let's have lots of entries and make it a fantastic festive display!

*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 may not have a border, mount or frame.*

Summer Show

Our Summer Show was very successful, my thanks to you all for your support. I was aiming to increase our exhibits to 200, and although entries up to Saturday were only 194 a few late entries took us just over. This was really well done by you all.

We had more Floral Art than last year but as one of the classes was for a petit arrangement there was just enough room without pushing the treasurer off the end of the table. This remains my aim for next year. Entries in the Domestic Classes were down on last year, the Judge commented on this but said that the entries themselves were of a good standard. If there is a class you would like to see in this section please let me know and we will see if we can incorporate it.

Onwards then to next year, The Hall is already booked, a little later for the Spring Show as Easter gets in the way but the Summer Show is the same weekend.

Peter Turner

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	Hon. Treasurer: 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	Committee Member: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571











