



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter October 2018

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

On Monday there was a big turnout of 60 members for a very entertaining talk by Jeff "The Mole Catcher". He had an "assistant" in the form of Wort, a metre tall, talking, laughing and singing "Grass Shark" or mole who answered questions from the audience. Their amusing repartee took up the first part of the evening, and then Jeff went on to tell us lots of things that we did not know about moles.

Did you know that they must eat two thirds of their bodyweight in worms every day? They are not deaf or blind, and in fact can see more of the light spectrum than we can. They have been around for 23 million years, can tunnel 18ft in one hour. They can also survive burrowing down to 6 ft where there is very little oxygen.

Moles do not like one another, and will fight if they meet, except for breeding once a year. There are 3 or 4 in a litter, and the young only spend 5 or 6 weeks with their mother before they are driven out of the territory. Their main predator is the weasel which hunts mice in the tunnels the mole has made but will eat moles as well.

The reason why they like our lawns is that they are well-watered and fertilised which in turn attracts the moles favourite, and only food, the earth worm.

Jeff impressed upon us that although he kills moles, he has great respect for them and only uses one type of instant kill trap. He told us that it is illegal to poison them, or to use strong smelling items to try to drive them away. Sonic mole chasers do not work, as vibrations attract worms which in turn attract moles! He also films moles and works with natural history programme makers from around the world. When asked how to catch a live mole, he refused to say how he does it and he won't keep them in captivity.

Lynn Potts

Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on November 5th when David Fletcher tells us about the Falklands and South Georgia.
2. **XMAS party tickets** will be on sale at the November meeting. £5 per head, all you can eat and drink.
3. **Membership subs are now due.**
4. Table competition for November is "Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit".

Summer Show

Our Summer Show, which was held on Sunday 9th September, turned out to be a great success. The Show Secretary, Peter Turner, was worried about the effect the hot summer would have on exhibits. However, those of you who showed, really did well. I think it's safe to say we demonstrated to all the other clubs in the area how a show can be a success whatever the conditions.

Well done and thank you to all those who supported the show by exhibiting or visiting.

Ordering seeds this year?

Mr Fothergill's Seed Catalogue

There are still a few Mr Fothergill seed catalogues available for collection from the HUT on Sunday morning.

Please take note of the need to return them to one of the designated locations by the 21st October as no orders can be accepted after this date. No money is required at this stage.

Thank you Peter

Chairman's Challenge

Chairman's challenge bulbs are now available. Once again, 5 bulbs + a pot + compost all for £2.50. There are only a few left so, if you want to take part, email Dick on californiagardenersclub@gmail.com and he will reserve them for you to be collected either in the hut or at the next meeting. The bulbs this year are a special tulip which I think you will be very impressed with. Once again, I will not give you the name of the bulb until later in the year.



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

Wyevale garden centre on Heathlands Road have seeds at 50p/packet. They have a wonderful selection of flower and vegetable seeds and even green manure seed. Get in now while stocks last!!

Question time

At the suggestion of one of our committee members, we will be holding a ten minute question and answer session after the tea break at our monthly meetings.

As a club, we have a wealth of knowledge and this would be an excellent opportunity to share this knowledge.

Timing will be restricted to ten minutes! We look forward to receiving your questions.

Monthly Table Competition

Joint 1st was Kerry Eaton and Peter Radband with 28 points, 2nd Margaret Wade with 27, Joint 3rd Anne Blakeman and Ian Gillott with 26 points, Joint 4th Pauline Macbrayne and Hermione Lewis with 24 points, 5th Betty Mold with 22 points and 6th Jayne Male with 20.

The subject for November is:
Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit.

All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least one month.

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