



# Newsletter October 2021

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



## Club Meeting

Celebrating our return to the California Ratepayers Hall, 40 members were give a talk by Tony Weston on the history of Brownsea Island.

The island, situated off the promontory of Poole in Dorset, has over a thousand years of history. Originally occupied by the monks from Cerne Abbas in Dorset, their occupancy ended when the island was raided by the Vikings under King Canute. William the Conqueror gave Brownsea to his half-brother whose family occupied the island until the dissolution of the monasteries under Henry the Eighth, when the island was passed to the Crown. A 'blockhole' was constructed by Henry which was later expanded to form a castle.



Since then, Brownsea has had many occupants. These included an MP, a diplomat, a former Lord Mayor of London and in 1927, a recluse who evicted all the residents from the island!

In 1907, Robert Baden-Powell rented a small area of the island and invited

21 boys from mixed backgrounds to an experimental camp. This was the beginning of the Boy Scout movement.

Commercial activity on the island has included a pottery – largely confined to making sanitary ware because of the poor quality of the clay - and daffodil growing.

The National Trust bought Brownsea island in 1962. The Dorset Wildlife Trust leases a Nature Reserve on part of the island. Resident red squirrels are an attractive feature of the island's wild life.

The castle has been beautifully restored and is now leased to the John Lewis Partnership. 'Partners' from the John Lewis Partnership are welcome to stay in the hotel, along with their families.

Tony concluded his talk by advising the audience that every time they shopped in Waitrose, they were, in some small way, contributing to the upkeep of the restored hotel on Brownsea Island.

Ian Gillott, Deputy Chairman

## Things to note

1. Our next meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. A talk about 'NatTrust Nuffield Place' by Tony Boffin. **This will be in the hall.**
2. **Trading Hut** – Now open till the end of October, so only a few weekends left to prepare for the winter.
3. **Member's articles.** See in newsletter for more details.



Ian Gillott, the club's Deputy Chairman, presents the club's Chairman, Dick Hawes, with the RHS Banksian medal in recognition of the sterling work he had undertaken over the last eighteen months.

The committee felt that Dick had played a huge part in ensuring that not only had the club emerged from the pandemic alive and well, but was also flourishing.

### **Christmas Lights at Wisley**

Earlier this month, some of you went to Winchester Cathedral for the flower festival. The person who organised it is now trying to fill a coach to go to Wisley for the Christmas lights.

It is on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> December and there are 11 tickets left. The cost is £19.35 (if you are a RHS member) or £26.40 (if you are not an RHS member).

The coach will be leaving Crowthorne at 3:30pm (Lower Broadmoor Road). It will then leave Wisley at 7:30pm.

If you are interested then contact Anne Brown 01344-772731 or email her on [annatbeverley@gmail.com](mailto:annatbeverley@gmail.com)

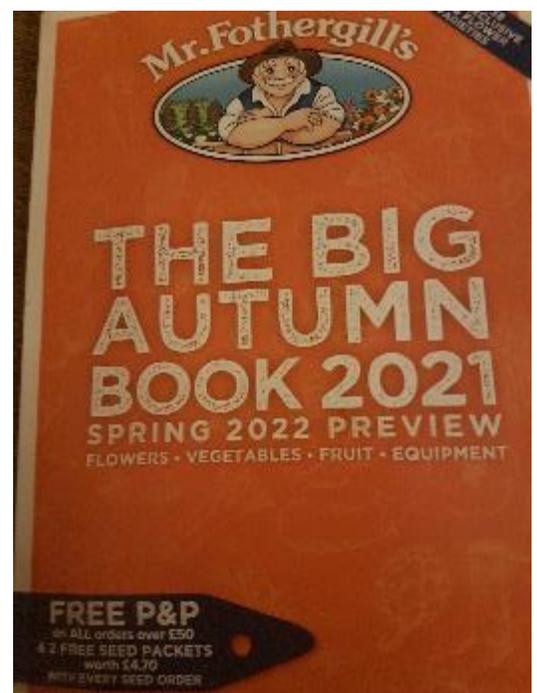
### **Seed Catalogue**

Mr Fothergill seed catalogues are now available for you to order your 2022 seeds. Last year members received a 60% discount! This year is likely to be just as good.

Please email me [peter@radband.co.uk](mailto:peter@radband.co.uk) or text or ring me 07976640989 to order your catalogue.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Radband



## **Topical Tip –October 20221**

October is the time when a great clearance usually take place in the vegetable garden.

Runner beans, courgettes and salad crops are all finished and you are often left with an area of uncropped land until you start spring planting.

It is quite a good idea to sow some green manure now to provide humus when the crop is incorporated in the spring. The most popular options for green manure are mustard, red or white clover (or both) and rye.

You are too late for mustard as it does not have enough time to establish before the cold weather as it is very susceptible to frost.

It is not too late to sow clover, providing you do so in the next week. One of the benefits of clover is that in addition to valuable humus, you will also have the benefit of organic fertiliser from the nitrogen-fixing nodules on the roots of the clover when the crop is incorporated. The other alternative is rye which is a very fast growing. I buy my green manure seed in small packets from Henry Street Garden Centre.

*This is the last topical tip I will be writing: I hope you have found some of the tips useful. I have been writing these tips for three years now and it is time for a fresh approach. The club has a wealth of experienced gardeners who are more than capable for providing a monthly tip. I shall look forward to reading them!*

Ian Gillott (Deputy Chairman)

## **Member's email**

### Free sawdust mulch

Club member Sandra Sigley posted in our Facebook group that she is part of QTD Timber, 280 Nine Mile Ride and that they currently have an excess of hardwood sawdust, untreated. If you take your own bags, you are welcome to have some for free. This is a time-limited offer.

Julia Goodall

## **Member's email**



Just like to say thank you for the plant sales the club ran last spring. The fuchsias and geraniums have been wonderful. Here is one of my tubs with a few geranium plants.

Margaret Pearce

## Member's emails

Also bought from the club plants stall was the fuchsia 'Paula Jane' which has been such a success in our garden pots. I would recommend this variety to other members for it's long lasting blooms.

Greta May



## Club 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/](http://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

## 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. We, the committee, appreciate this demonstration of your support. I must also go further and say thank you to a few who have made voluntary donations on top of their subs. Very kind of you. If you would like to pay your voluntary subs at the Trading Hut then Stuart will be willing to take your details etc.

The clubs bank details are: Sort Code: 40-47-09, Account number: 71301608 (don't forget to give your name as the reference).

## 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).

## Member's email



My favourite gardening tool is a hoe inherited from my Dad.

He used to call it a 'Dutch Hoe' but I don't think that is the correct name for it. I suspect it was probably made by the blacksmith at the local colliery where Dad worked.

Despite its humble origins it is worth a great deal to me. I can weed the flower borders in double quick time without much bending or kneeling and even use it to sharpen up the edges where the flowerbed meets the lawn.

Have you got a much loved garden tool which you wouldn't be without. Drop an email to

[www.californiagadenersclub@gmail.com](mailto:www.californiagadenersclub@gmail.com)

Sylvia Hawes

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