



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter September 2017

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Last Club Meeting

There was a large turnout for our September meeting when Brian Clews took us for the second part of "A Walk on the Wild Side" with his fantastic slides of wildlife in the Thames Valley. Brian moved to Berkshire in the 60's and became involved in a number of voluntary roles with the RSPB, including the Bird Bulletin, which still runs today.

This time most of the slides were concerned with the various insects found in the area, butterflies, moths and damsel and dragonflies, with anecdotes about their life stages and ways of survival. Did you know that there are over 2,000 species of moth in this country? They range in size from the Deaths Head Hawk Moth as big as your hand, to minute micro moths. Many are brightly coloured too, like the brimstone and cinnabar.

Do you know your damsels from your dragons? The damselflies rest with wings closed over the body, and the dragonflies, which are usually larger, rest with wings wide spread. They have very good sight and can have up to 30 thousand lenses in their large compound eyes. All are totally harmless.

Brian ended with some general pictures of local wildlife; mink, hares, weasels and stoats and a grass snake.

Lynn Potts

0118 977 1852

Things to remember

1. Next meeting is on 2nd October when Ray Norton will be telling us about "Setting up Pudding Lane Nursery". Should be very interesting as it is so local
2. Trading hut is open again but make note of the Trading Hut Managers comments below.
3. The Queen's Oak pub is offering 10% off food for those showing their club membership card.
4. Subs are now due for 2017

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

On Sunday 10th September, it is the Club's Summer Show - **please note** that the Trading Hut will NOT be open as usual in the morning but will open at the Show from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Normal Sunday opening times will resume at 10.00 on Sunday 17th September and then every Sunday until we close for the Winter on 29th October.

Our Spring bulbs are now in and are selling like the proverbial hot cakes - we are selling them well below retail price, so if you want some please don't delay. Come and enjoy the Show and buy your bulbs at the same time!

Monthly Table Competition

1st Peter Bateson 30 points, 2nd Ros Slocombe and Stuart Slocombe with 28points.
4th Betty Mold 27, 5th Hermione Lewis 26, 6th Janet Collins and Ian Gillott with 25 points.
8th Anne Blakeman, Peter Radband and Jean Potter with 24 points.

Another good month with lots of entries.

The subject for October is:

Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit.

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

As there is a cash prize, we will not be giving a free strip of raffle tickets each time you enter.

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

Sunday is show day. Lots of you have entered and that is great. Now we want lots of you who have not entered to come along, look at the entries and realise you actually do have items just as good in your garden. Doors are open at 2.30 there will be tea and cakes, tombola and raffle as well as a produce stall. Stuart will have the hut open for you to get your autumn supplies. So, come along, we look forward to seeing you.

The Show Schedule is below.

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

CALIFORNIA GARDENERS' CLUB



SHOW SCHEDULE 2017

Summer Show – Sunday 10th September 2017

Each Class entry 20p

Held at California Ratepayers' Hall

Finchampstead

Doors open: 2.30 p.m.

Admission to Show: 50p

Under 16 free

Prize Giving and Auction commence at 4pm

Show Secretary: Peter Turner

Tel: 0118 9730424

RULES

1. The Show is open to any amateur.
2. Club vases **must** be used and sundry items needed to stage the exhibit must be provided by the exhibitor. Every care will be taken of the sundries, but the Committee cannot accept any responsibility for breakages or losses.
3. A Novice is an exhibitor who has not won more than two first prizes in the same Novice section in the previous 3 years.
4. Packing is allowed for cut flowers, but no artificial supports are permissible.
5. Exhibits must be staged between 08.00 and 11.00 hours and the hall vacated prior to commencement of judging.
6. Exhibitors not wishing their entries to be sold should apply to a Steward for a label to affix to the entry card. Exhibits may be removed between 15.45 and 16.00 hours, but all entries on show after that time will be sold in aid of Club funds.
7. Either Official entry forms to be used or email entries, stating the exhibitor's name, address and class numbers entered. Forms to be accompanied by the entrance fee of 20p for each class entered emails entries to be paid for on the day of show. Children's Classes are FREE.
8. All entry forms will be accepted by the Show Secretary: -
 - 8.1 Between 19.00 and 20.30 hours on the Wednesday before the Show at California Hall.
 - 8.2 At the Club's monthly meeting preceding the Show.
 - 8.3 By email to: turner1235@btinternet.com
 - 8.4 Late entries will be accepted at the discretion of the Show Secretary up to 10.30 on the day of the Show, accompanied by an entry fee of 25p. No late entries are allowed for Flower Arranging classes.
9. No person may enter more than one exhibit in any one class.
10. Prizes will be: **1st** - 70p; **2nd** – 50p; **3rd** – 30p.
11. The Judges' decisions will be final.
12. Any complaint must be made to the Show Secretary before 3:45pm on the day of the show.
13. The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry not according to Schedule.
14. Any matter not provided for in these Rules shall be dealt with by the Show Secretary at his or her discretion and whose decision shall be binding.
15. All entries in the Children's, Domestic, Floral Art and Handicraft sections **must be the sole work of the exhibitor.**
16. All pot plants must have been in the exhibitor's possession for a minimum of 2 months.
17. Money prizes may be collected from the Club Treasurer between 15.00 and 16.00 hours on the day of the Show. Any prizes not claimed by the end of the Show will be returned to Club funds.

18. Points for calculation of awards:
1st – 3 points; 2nd – 2 points; 3rd – 1 point.

FOR SHOW NOTES AND ADVICE PLEASE SEE END OF SCHEDULE

Summer Show

Summer Show – Section A – Vegetables

Class	Title	Variety
1	6 Runner Beans	One
2	6 Runner Beans (Novice)	One
3	3 Onions (globe or flat)	One
4	3 Courgettes	One
5	4 Potatoes – white or coloured	One
6	5 Tomatoes – other than cherry	One
7	5 Tomatoes (Novice) – other than cherry	One
8	1 Truss of tomatoes * (cherry/small fruited)	#
9	1 Truss of tomatoes * (Not cherry/small fruited)	
10	1 Dish of 12 cherry/small fruited tomatoes #	One
11	3 Beetroots	One
12	2 Cucumbers	One
13	3 Carrots	One
14	5 Shallots	One
15	Any vegetable not included in Classes 1 – 14 (quantity optional)	One
16	Collection of 4 vegetables. Quantities and kinds to be chosen from 1 to 14. Space 60 x 60cm (2'x2')	
17	3 different vegetables (One of each) (Novice)	
18	A Corn on the cob	
19	Longest Runner Bean	
20	Oddest Shaped vegetable	
*	<i>A Truss consists of a Single or Forked Stem of flowers and fruits growing from one main stem of the plant (this can contain unripe fruit).</i>	
#	<i>Cherry Tomatoes must not exceed 38mm (1 ½") diameter.</i>	

Summer Show – Section B – Fruit

Class	Title	Variety
21	3 Apples – Dessert	One
22	3 Apples – Cooking	One
23	A Dish of Soft Fruit shown with stalks (quantity optional)	One
24	Any other Fruit – quantity optional	One

Summer Show – Section C – Flowers

25	3 Roses (one flower per stem)	One
26	2 Sprays of multi-headed roses	One
27	1 Specimen Rose bloom	
28	3 Hydrangea heads	One or more
29	3 Pelargonium heads	One or more
30	A vase of mixed grasses (no more than 5 stems)	One or more

31	1 Vase of Annual Flowers or Biennials grown as Annuals (mixed colours allowed)	One
32	1 Vase of Herbaceous Perennial Flowers	One or more
33	1 Vase of mixed flowers with no additional foliage in a decorative vase (both to be judged)	One or more
34	1 Vase of mixed flowers using the smallest club vase	One or more
35	1 Gladiolus spike	
36	1 Dahlia, Giant or Large	
37	3 Dahlias, decorative	One or more
38	3 Dahlias, cactus or semi-cactus	One or more
39	3 Dahlias, water lily, small	One or more
40	5 Dahlias, pompom or ball	One or more
41	1 Vase of 5 Dahlias, any variety	
42	Club competition Begonia	

Summer Show – Section D – Pot Plants

Class	Title
43	1 Fuchsia in a pot (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
44	1 Fuchsia in a pot (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
45	1 Standard or Half Standard Fuchsia (minimum 45cm (18") length of clear stem from soil to lowest branches)
46	6 Fuchsia florets, one variety displayed on a board (board supplied)
47	6 Fuchsia florets, mixed variety displayed on a board (board supplied)
48	1 Pelargonium in a pot (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
49	1 Pelargonium in a pot (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
50	1 Foliage pot plant (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5"))
51	1 Foliage pot plant (pot size not to exceed 25cm (10"))
52	1 Cactus or Succulent pot plant (pot size not to exceed 22.5cm (9"))
53	An Orchid or other exotic pot plant. Pot size over 13cm (5 ½")
54	1 Flowering pot plant exclusive of Classes 43 to 53 (pot size not to exceed 12.5cm (5")).
55	1 Flowering pot plant exclusive of classes 43 to 53 (pot size not to exceed 25cm (10"))

Summer Show – Section E – Floral Arrangements (NO LATE ENTRIES ALLOWED)

See class for space allowed

Please refer to the explanation of terms set out at the back of the schedule

Novice Classes

Class	Title
57	"Wedding Buffet" – An exhibit to stand on a buffet table. Candles may be used. Space allowed 2'. Open staging
58	'Treasure Trove'-An exhibit in a chest or box. Open staging 2' x 2'
59	'Harvest Festival' An exhibit of flowers and natural plants suitable for a mantelpiece. 2'6" length max.
60	'Summer sunshine'. An exhibit of flowers and natural foliage. Niche size 2'6" x 2'6"
61	A petit arrangement in a teacup. i.e. between 4" and 9" in height, depth & width

Summer Show – Section F – Young Exhibitors

Class	Title
Aged 7 and under	
62	A Garden on a Dinner Plate
63	A painting of a flower in summer. Size A4

Aged 8 to 11 inclusive

- 64 An article of your own handiwork.
65 A vase made from a decorated jam jar.
66 3 Brownies
67 **tba**

Summer Show – Section G – Domestic

Class Title

- 68 Cherry cake
3 oz self-raising flour. 8 oz Glace Cherries
6 oz butter 3 oz Plain Flour
4oz caster sugar 3 oz Ground Almonds
3 egg - beaten Pinch of Salt
Finely grated rind of 1 lemon

Grease and line a 7" (18cm) appx. Cake tin with greased greaseproof paper. Cut each cherry in half, sieve the flours together and toss the cherries in a little of the flour. Cream butter, sugar and lemon rind together until mixture is pale and creamy, add a little beaten egg at a time and beat well after each addition. Fold in flour, ground almonds and cherries, adding a little milk to make a fairly stiff dropping consistency. Turn mixture into tin and bake in a moderate oven at 350F, 180C, gas mark 4, for about 1 hour 20 minutes, or until skewer comes out clean.

TIP: To remove excess syrup from cherries, rinse thoroughly in water, drain well and dry thoroughly on absorbent kitchen paper.

- 69 Home-made ginger biscuits
70 A jar of Lemon Curd
71 5 Macarons
72 A jar of your favourite Jam

SHOW NOTES - To aid and assist members who may not have shown before, the following notes may be helpful. If you are unsure how to stage or exhibit, or this is your first Show, then please ask a Committee member at a meeting or on the morning of the Show, to introduce you to an experienced member of the Club who can answer queries. Please remember that help and advice are always readily available.

Flowers, Fruit and Vegetables

- Read the schedule carefully and be sure that the number of specimens and groupings per variety are correct.
- It is recommended that you use the smallest Club vase that will comfortably hold the exhibit. Please ask for an alternative sized vase if required.
- Aim for uniformity of freshness, size, shape and colour.
- If you wish to read more about show techniques the Horticultural Show Handbook published by the Royal Horticultural Society is worth reading. A copy is available, for reference purposes only, at all meetings or in the Trading Hut. This book is widely accepted and forms a standard reference for all who take part in shows, judges, exhibitors and organisers alike.

- Please name your exhibit whenever possible as this adds the final touch for the benefit of the judge and public.

Domestic

- Key points are presentation, adherence to schedule, i.e. no original manufacturer's writing on jars or lids, correct number of items and size, etc.
- Entries should be appropriately covered, e.g. cling-film or a dome
- Finally – please ask if you are unsure, help and advice is readily available.

Plants

- All pot sizes are measured across the top edge (inside diameter).
Plants usually grown for their ornamental foliage are not debarred from Foliage Classes simply because they happen to be in flower at the time of the competition. However, when judging a 'Foliage Class' judges must take no account of any flowers on a plant.