



# California Gardeners' Club

## Newsletter September 2018

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

### Last Club Meeting

On the first Monday of September we had a large turnout for Richard Gillings' talk on daffodils.

Richard is a very well-known exhibitor who has won the RHS Bowles Championship for daffodils for seven years. He buys bulbs from the U.S.A, Australia and New Zealand as well as Europe. They are planted 5 or 6 to a large pot with the tops of the bulbs sticking out, in John Innes No 3 compost, then they are all covered over with topsoil and left outside.

When the first leaves are up they are uncovered and either moved under light shelter outside or brought indoors depending on whether they need to be held back or brought on. To speed them up they are put onto heated mats. He never uses warm air heating as this dries the buds and ruins the flowers. Once the flowers are up they are given plenty of water.

After flowering the bulbs are dried off and then planted out in beds to recover for up to 3 years.

Every year between 250 and 300 varieties are grown, and fortunately he has the use of machinery as tons of compost and topsoil need to be moved around, so I don't think many in the Club will be growing on this scale!

RHS classes are: 1. Trumpet, 2. Large Cup, 3. Small Cup and 4. Doubles.

Lynn Potts

### Things to remember

1. Our next meeting is on October 1<sup>st</sup> when Jeff (the mole catcher) will be talking about moles.
2. Make a note that our Summer Show is on Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup>
3. **Membership subs are now due.** Once again, we have held the cost at £5.
4. Table competition for October is "Any plant, flower, vegetable or fruit".

### Trading hut

Please remember that this Sunday 9 Sept the Hut will NOT be open at our usual time of 10.00 – 12.00 but will be open only at the Show (inside the Hall) from 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.

### Summer Show

Our Summer Show is this Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September. I hope that you have all got your entries in. Last time for e-mail entries Friday (e-mails on Saturday will be classed as late entries). At a push, we also do accept the odd late entry (not Floral Art) early on Sunday morning. Late entries incur an increased charge.

However, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Show in the afternoon, at 2:30 pm.

## **Ordering seeds this year?**

Mr Fothergill's Seeds

As many of you already know, we are working with Sandhurst Garden Club to order our seeds and hope to achieve a massive 60% discount! The catalogues have not arrived yet but at the time of penning this I am still hopeful to have them for Sunday. Should they not arrive in time you will be able to collect your copy from the hut or direct from me (tel. [07976640989](tel:07976640989) or email, [peter@radband.co.uk](mailto:peter@radband.co.uk))

Peter

## **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

## **Topical tip**

The beginning of September is the time when members of the cucurbit family (marrows, cucumbers, courgettes etc) start to suffer from powdery mildew.

Although a bit late for this season, it may be worth making a note for next season in order to prevent your plants being attacked with mildew, which always results in the premature senescence.

Potassium bicarbonate is the answer. One level tablespoon per gallon (15grams in one litre). Apply from the third week in August and repeat every 7-10 days. Add a splash of washing up liquid to the solution to help the mixture spread over the leaves.

## **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 meeting chairman, I will take questions from the floor and then ask members whether they can contribute an answer to the question.

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

I can assure you – timing will be restricted to ten minutes! We look forward to receiving your questions.

## **Monthly Table Competition**

1st was Anne Blakeman with 26 points, 2nd Ian Gillott with 25 points,  
3rd Hermione Lewis with 22 points,  
4th Jayne Male with 21 points,  
5th Jean Potter with 20 points and 6<sup>th</sup> Peter Radband with 18 points.

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.

**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 Peter Radband 07976 640989
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: Judy Thomas 0118 9780108	Co-opted Member Shirley Brown 0118 9734571