



California Gardeners' Club

Newsletter September 2019

www.californiagardenersclub.co.uk

Things to remember

On Monday's meeting Jan Lowe gave us a talk about the Send-a-Cow Charity.

They work in several African countries to help small farmers grow enough to feed themselves and produce enough to start up small businesses. Small village groups are asked to select someone to go for training, and that person then goes on to train other people. They do not tell people what they should do, but ask "what do you have", and offer advice. The Charity operates the "Pass on Principle"; people are often given seeds, or even livestock, with the promise that at the first harvest they will pass on the same donation to another person.

The main training is in the making of compost; being shown how to make an effective compost heap, waste turns into compost as quickly as 6 weeks near the Equator! Also plant teas, manure teas, and double digging are shown. Crops can be grown all year round.

Bag gardens can be used even on a tiny space. In an old sack a bunch of twigs is placed in the centre, surrounded by soil. Plants are placed in the top and in holes in the side and water and fertiliser poured into the centre. As many as nine plants can be grown this way. Keyhole gardens work on the same principle but are larger and have access to the twigs in the centre. Raised beds are also used.

We were told how the use of these methods helped one family to improve their lives. The father had previously walked 4 hours each way to work for a pittance and had very poor soil in his plot. With what he learned, within 8 months he was growing beetroot, leeks, sweet peppers, carrots sweetcorn, courgettes, tomatoes and lettuce, enough to feed his family, and some to sell. He bought more seeds, medicine, bricks, and shoes so his children could go to school.

Lynn Potts.

1. Our next meeting is on 7th October when Ian Paine will give a talk on "Greenham Common from military base to heathland"
2. Trading Hut now open.
3. Annual membership is now due (£5).
4. Just a reminder that any car parked in the Disabled space must have a Blue Badge. A Blue badge belongs to the person, not the car and so can be in any car where the holder is a passenger.

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

This month's tip concerns our Summer Show. Judging horticultural classes over the years, it is surprising how often exhibitors' entries don't comply with the show schedule – even to the extent of putting in six tomatoes when only five are required! Make sure you read the requirements carefully for a particular class. Some handy tips are to be found at the back of our show schedule. Best of luck!



Help Required

We are looking for someone who is prepared to work with the Show Secretary and learn the ropes. It's not a difficult job but certainly a very interesting one. It does not require a great deal of horticultural knowledge but more administrative and is only a twice a year commitment. PLEASE give it your consideration. If you fancy having a go then please email Dick on sandr@morseconsultants.com Many thanks

Monthly Table Competition

First with 29 points was Hermione Lewis with 29 points, 2nd Kerry Eaton with 28 points, 3rd Ian Gillott with 26 points and joint 4th Peter Radband, Anne Blakeman, Jane Male and Robert Vacher with 25 points.

The subject for October is:
Any plants, flowers, vegetables or fruit.

All exhibits must have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months and you must be present on the night for your points to be counted towards the annual prize.

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).

Chairman: Dick Hawes 0118 979 3730	Hon. Treasurer: Peter Radband 01344 774310	Programmes: Hermione Lewis 0118 989 1671	Committee Member: Jayne Male
Deputy Chairman: Ian Gillott 0118 9892649	Trading Hut: Stuart Slocombe 0118 9734531	Membership: Kerry Eaton 07736 022361	Co-opted Member: Marise Radband 01344 774310
Hon. Secretary: Chris Spinks 0118 978 1432	Show Secretary: Peter Turner 0118 9730424	Committee Member: Lynn Potts 0118 977 1852	Co-opted Member: Shirley Brown 0118 9734571