

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

APRIL 2023



WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Last month's meeting was very well attended considering the rather inclement evening and were thoroughly entertained by Brian Cradwick, an expert in his field of cacti and succulents. He was indeed a breath of fresh air with a rather irreverent stand on what we know as "wokery"! There was much laughter throughout his talk and from comments afterwards it would appear that a great number enjoyed the banter. Brian is also a very keen fuchsia grower and all being well will be returning in May 2025 – something to look forward to!

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

Thank you to all those who exhibited last month – indeed many more than usual which was excellent as at the same meeting last year there were only 2! Now that we have abandoned the bean counters Perennial are certainly reaping the benefit and the tin is starting to rattle nicely. The results were:

Joint 1st

Lyn Harris – Camellia
Annie Northfield Helleborus

3rd

Tracy Harman Miniature Daffodil

No Flower of the Month in April but please remember to bring along your exhibit for the May meeting where we will finally be able to welcome, after a wait of 2 years due to the Pandemic, Roger Hance who will be giving a talk all about Flowers of the British Countryside.



MEMBERSHIP – this has increased to 74 since the last Newsletter and we welcome **David Curtis** to the Club.

WEBSITE – Having administered the website for some years Dawn Evans has decided to step back from this role. However, we are extremely lucky that Carol Taylor has kindly volunteered to be the Club's new administrator – thank you so much Carol - It is much appreciated. Editing has already commenced but it is a work in progress so do look at it and see the changes as they happen – comments would certainly be appreciated – link below:
<https://e-voice.org.uk/feeringkelvedongardenclub/>

Greetings also to all those with a birthday or an anniversary this month!

RHS WISLEY

Sunday 11th June with Kings Coaches

Outstanding payments for reserved seats can be settled up at the Spring Show and of course at the May meeting. Completed forms and cheques / *cash payments (*but only in person) should be handed to Annie by May and a ticket showing times of pick up will be given out. Payments can also be made by post to **Annie Northfield 9 Avenue Road Witham CM8 2DT.**



Let's turn to a few gardening tips

1. Plant new alpines and mulch with gravel.
2. Give lawns a spring feed and sow lawn seed or lay turf. Water well!
3. Start hardening off cannas and pelargoniums after the last frost
6. Sow vegetables outdoors into the warming soil.
7. Sow tomatoes indoors



POET'S CORNER

Ian Standingford's quote of the month
An extract from
"A Subaltern's Love Song"
by Sir John Betjeman

*Miss J. Hunter Dunn, Miss J. Hunter Dunn,
Furnish'd and burnish'd by Aldershot sun,
What strenuous singles we played after
tea,
We in the tournament -you against me!*

*Love-thirty, love-forty, oh! Weakness of joy,
The speed of a swallow, the grace of a
boy,
With carefullest carelessness, gaily you
won,
I am weak for your loveliness, Joan Hunter
Dunn*

*Miss J. Hunter Dunn, Miss Joan Hunter Dunn,
How mad I am, so sad I am, glad that you
won,
The warm-handled racket is back in its
press,
But my shock-headed victor she loves me
no less.*

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the great English poets, William Wordsworth was born at Cockermouth, Cumberland on 7th April 1770 and that in 1843 at the grand age of 74 he was appointed Poet Laureate. The title "Poet Laureate" comes from the laurels with which the ancient Greeks traditionally crowned their most celebrated poets.

On the same date as our Show Spring Show this year, Zebra Crossings were first introduced in 1949 (being the same year your Chairman was born!) by the then Parliamentary secretary to the Ministry of Transport, James Callaghan, who came up with "zebra" as a name for the crossing as he thought it would be easily understood and remembered, particularly by children. The flashing beacons were added some four years later in 1953.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH BANANA GINGER PARKIN

Makes 12 squares. Store in a covered container for up to two months

INGREDIENTS

200g /7oz plain flour
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
2 tsp ground ginger
150g /5oz oatmeal
4 tbs dark muscovado sugar
75g / 3oz margarine
5 oz golden syrup
3 ripe bananas mashed
75 /3oz icing sugar
Stem ginger to decorate

METHOD

Pre-heat oven to 160c/Gas 3
Grease and line an 18x28cm / 7"x11"
cake tin

Sift together the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ginger, then stir in the oatmeal. Melt the sugar, margarine and syrup into the flour mixture. Beat in the egg and mashed bananas.

Spoon into the tin and bake for about 1 hour, or until firm to the touch. Allow to cool in the tin and then turn out and cut into even-sized squares.

Sift the icing sugar into a bowl and stir in just enough water to make a smooth, runny icing. Drizzle over each square on top with pieces of stem ginger. **ENJOY!**

Next month on **May 2nd** we welcome Roger Hance, finally making it to the Club after having to cancel his talk and presentation in 2020 due to the pandemic. He will be telling us all about "Wild flowers of the British Countryside" which should be both informative and interesting.

CLUB MEMBERS' AFTERNOON VISIT 4th JULY 2023 from 3pm (parking restrictions from 2-3pm)

Tickets are now available for members to visit Annie's garden costing £5pp to include refreshments - any profits will be donated to the Club. There will also be a raffle plus more.

Finally the doors open at 6.30 to set up exhibits for the Spring Show until 7.30pm when judging will commence shortly thereafter!

*"Blossom by blossom the Spring begins
Algernon Charles Swinbourne*