

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

FEBRUARY 2023

WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

It simply does not seem possible that a year has gone by and we are shortly about to hold our 2023 AGM on the 7th of this month. The usual business will, of course, take place before refreshments are served. Hopefully the AGM will be well attended and as ever go without a hitch! As in last month's Newsletter it would be ideal to have some new Committee members on board not only to help with the running of the Club but also to join the Show Team. We have been without a Vice Chairman for some years now and the position is still vacant. Please do think about joining our small but very productive team – the Club needs you!

NEXT MEMBERS' MEETING

TUESDAY 7th MARCH - We welcome our first speaker of the year – Brian Cradwick who will be talking all about growing cacti and succulents.

MEMBERSHIP – First of all thank you to those who have already rejoined or become a new member. This period is always a very busy one for our Membership Secretary, Ian Standingford, who always does a sterling job collating the paperwork and delivering, as far as possible, the membership cards. Thank you Ian!

MEMBERS NEWS – Unfortunately this Newsletter contains sad news of a dear member – Mary Mays - who was in hospital for some weeks and sadly passed away in January – she will be very much missed. We must also remember Muriel Benson who also recently died and although had not been a member for some considerable years had been a very active member along with John Benson who also passed away last year and our thoughts are with their families at this saddest of times.

BIRTHDAY NEWS – greetings to all those who celebrate their birthday this month.

A WARM WELCOME TO Chris Papworth, Linda Bolton and Marc Griggs who have all joined this year.

RHS WISLEY OUTING SUNDAY 11th JUNE 2023

Good news – tickets are now available and thanks to those who have already booked and paid! Anyone wishing to put their names down or complete the form with payment at the AGM please see Annie. Many thanks.

TUESDAY JULY 4th AFTERNOON VISIT TO 9 AVENUE ROAD WITHAM CM8 2DT from 3pm due to restricted parking between 2pm and 3pm £5pp to include refreshments

If you would like to come along then put your name on the list– payment later! Any profits will benefit the Club! There will also be a special raffle.



Now let's turn to jobs to do in the allotment and garden this month – the nights are drawing out so we can spend more time in the garden.

1. Tidy up the garden and sort out the plants that suffered in the ferocious frosts making sure that they have survived before digging them up
2. Tidy borders, removing dead growth and persistent weeds.
3. Plant lily bulbs in deep pots of gritty compost for summer flowers.
5. Dig over your plot and add plenty of well-rotted organic material.
6. Start sowing early veg crops indoors
7. Plant shallots and garlic outside.
8. Chit early potatoes in a warm, bright spot.
9. Force rhubarb and chicory

POET'S CORNER

Ian Standingford's poem of the month
A special poem for Valentine's Day



Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Sonnet from the Portuguese 43:
How do I love thee?

*How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and
height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of
sight
For the ends of being and ideal grace.
I love thee to the level of every day's
Most quiet need, by sun and candle-light.
I love thee freely, as men strive for right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's
faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints. I love thee with the
breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life, and if God
choose
I shall but better love thee after death.*

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2nd February marks Candlemas, the day of the year when all candles that would be used in a church over the coming year were brought in and blessed. During the early days of the church, Candlemas also marked the end of the Christmas season, meaning that the festive season once lasted 40 days!

Candlemas has the share of weather proverbs too:

*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and
rain,
Winter will not come again.*

*Let's hope that the latter happens –
another cold spell is certainly not
wanted!*

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

GRAPE CHEESE WHIPS

A delicious cool dessert of low-fat cheese and honey, topped with sugar-coated grapes as decoration

Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

150g/5oz black or green seedless grapes
plus tiny bunches
2 egg whites
15ml/1 tbsp caster sugar
finely grated rind and juice of ½
lemon
225g/8oz low-fat soft cheese
45ml/3 tbsp clear honey
30ml/2 tbsp brandy (optional)

METHOD

Brush the tiny bunch of grapes lightly with egg white and sprinkle with sugar to coat.
Leave to dry

In a bowl, mix together the lemon rind and juice, cheese, honey and brandy if using. Chop the remaining grapes and stir them into the mixture.

Whisk the remaining egg whites in a grease-free bowl until stiff enough to hold soft peaks. Fold the egg whites into the grape mixture then spoon into four serving glasses.

Top with the sugar-frosted grapes and serve chilled.

ENJOY!

**Finally we can look forward to a full
calendar of speakers and outings through
2023.**

"The earth laughs in flowers"
Ralph Waldo Emerson



**HAPPY COOKING AND GARDENING AND
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**