

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

JANUARY 2023

WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL!

So here we are in 2023 and at the back end of last year the weather was certainly extremely cold with freezing temperatures and snow and ice in abundance. Fortunately, however, it staved off for our Christmas Social which again was very well attended but with some notable absentees through illness which was a great shame. Before we all enjoyed the wonderful display of excellent food which had been brought along by members to be shared by all we raised a toast to the Garden Club to celebrate a most successful and enjoyable year with a glass of Prosecco. The decorated raffle table was groaning with beautifully wrapped prizes and thanks must go to Jean Yems for running this so successfully with an outstanding £132 being made. Unfortunately, our "Chair" Chairman Don was unable to help due to illness this year and was greatly missed but nevertheless the Hall looked lovely with the decorations and excellent lighting this year – set off by gentle music and thanks again to Mark Roper for his invaluable help. All in all a successful end to a busy year made more especially so with the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Mary's Kelvedon and then the Christmas Fayre at the Feering Community Centre just before the Social itself. Although initially this was to be run independently from the Club it was decided that the profits would be shared with and run under the auspices of the Garden Club thus giving it more publicity and this added another £ to the coffers. Next year the Club will be taking part again with the profits shared as the Chairman still has a plethora of Christmas decorations on offer!



Now let's turn to jobs to do in the garden and allotment this month!

1. Clear dead tops of non-shrubby plants from borders and fork over the surface of the soil between plants and bury weeds.
2. Order gladioli corms from a reputable supplier.
3. Plan spring planting programme. Complete digging beds and borders to be used for annuals.
3. Plant rhubarb roots 3' apart in well manured soil.
4. Plant shallots in well drained soil.
5. Sow peas in sheltered areas for picking in May or June.
6. Sow broad beans for an early crop.

POET'S CORNER

Ian Standingford's poem of the month

Extract from In Memoriam

(Ring out, wild bells)

by Alfred Lord Tennyson 1809-1892

*Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty night;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

DID YOU KNOW? – Traditionally the New Year started with a custom known as "first footing". For good luck, the first person to cross the threshold should be a dark-haired man! He should be carrying a piece of coal so that the house should always be warm, a loaf of bread so no one would be hungry, coins so the household would know wealth in the coming year and some greenery – often holly to wish the inhabitants a long and healthy life. He should also take a pan of dust or ashes away with him, to sweep away the old year.

BIRTHDAY greetings to all those members with a birthday or anniversary this month!

MEMBERS' NEWS – we already have a newly joined member this year and we welcome **Linda Bolton** to the Club.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE AGM ON TUESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2023

It is now becoming vital to attract members to join our very small but successful Committee in order to keep the Club running. Although Cynthia Chignell will be still be helping with the Trophies for the Annual Show she has decided to "retire" from the Committee itself. The remaining Committee will be seeking re-election at the 2023 AGM but we need to increase the number on the Committee please. We have a wonderful team and with the extra invaluable help from those who volunteer with the running of the Open Show we are very lucky. This year was no exception and the Show turned out to be most successful, albeit with fewer entrants and entries. Long may that last!



All paperwork for the AGM and rejoining the Club will be sent out shortly and it would be helpful to Ian, our Membership Secretary, if the forms could either be completed and sent or delivered to him before the 7th of February and if not that the correct payment and filled in form is presented to him at the AGM – this will save so much valuable time. Many thanks!

YEAR BOOK & MEMBERSHIP CARDS ERRATA - Please note that dates of the meetings for June, July and October are incorrect – and should read as follows:

JUNE 6th, JULY 4th and OCTOBER 3rd.

With apologies for the mix-up but thanks to Ian for astutely picking these up!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

IRISH BAKED APPLE

Apple Niamh Chinn Oir

Makes 6

Pre-heat oven to Gas Mark 6, 200c

INGREDIENTS

6 apples peeled and cored
125g butter
4 tbsp liquer Irish whiskey
1 tbsp honey
1 lemon, rind grated
1 tbsp sugar
500g puff pastry

METHOD

Mash the butter with the whiskey, honey, lemon rind and sugar. Fill the cored apples with this mixture. Roll out the dough and cut into six pieces. Place an apple on each piece of dough and wrap around the apple. Place the apples on a baking sheet and bake them in the pre-heated oven for 20-25 minutes or until the pastry is golden brown. Serve hot and enjoy!

Just to say that hopefully all who read the Newsletter have enjoyed its content over the past year and that articles and news from any member would always be gratefully received. With thanks to those who have contributed and especial thanks to Ian Standingford for his choice of poem each month!

That's all for this month so happy cooking and gardening, stay safe and well and see you at the AGM.

"Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are". Theodore Roosevelt

And remember as the nights and days begin very slowly to draw out we can look forward to Spring and put the dark days of winter behind us.

HAPPY GARDENING & COOKING!