

# FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

## APRIL 2024

### WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

A good number turned out for the March meeting when we welcomed back Dr Ian Bedford, who again proved to be an excellent speaker. This time round his talk was entitled "Garden Bugs" cohabit, conserve or control. He informed us on any number of bugs - from mealy bugs which we should be aware that clothes moths are not the only nibblers to the unwanted import of the Spanish Slug - a huge red monster that even birds find difficult to swallow! A most interesting evening.

**RAFFLES** - since the last meeting we have received a complaint about the prizes not being more gardening orientated and that it would appear that "the raffle has lost its way". All we can say is that despite our pleas for more raffle prizes these requests have largely not been acknowledged although many thanks to those who have contributed recently. Both Annie and Ronda have kept the raffle going (even purchasing prizes such as plants and eggs for some time now) but the prizes in stock are not many and need replenishing. We also need a co-ordinator for raffles who can hold the stock (currently in Annie's garage) and bring along the raffle prizes for each meeting, sell the tickets and call the raffle at the end of meeting - but again no-one has come forward!

**REFRESHMENTS** - the good news is that we have at last secured a cupboard at the Institute so that the plates etc can be kept there for our meetings and therefore no longer have to be stored in Annie's garage and brought along for every meeting. However, it still remains for a co-ordinator to purchase (a float is provided for this so no-one should be out of pocket and receipts should be passed on to the Treasurer for reimbursement) and prepare the refreshments if necessary, then set up and help out at the meetings. It is imperative that someone comes forward by next year!

**MEMBERSHIP** - at the time of writing **65** members have now rejoined. We also welcome a new member Adrienne Copsey who joined at the recent Community Event held at All Saints' Church in Feering thus bringing the total to **66**.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all those with a birthday or anniversary this month!

#### HELMINGHAM HALL

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June with Kings Coaches providing a 53 seater coach**

Thank you to those who have made reservations and have now paid for the trip with their places guaranteed and all issued with tickets. However, late bookings will be taken after the meeting in May, space allowing, but please note that no refunds will be given after 4<sup>th</sup> May. Completed forms and cheques / \*cash payments (\*but only in person) should be handed to Annie and a ticket(s) given showing times and location of pick up and confirming full payment received.

**TUESDAY JULY 4<sup>th</sup> from 3pm**

**Afternoon visit to with refreshments to Ulling Wick, Crouchman's Farm CM9 6QX  
Tickets £12 are available now.**



Let's turn to a few gardening tips

1. Protect new shoots of hostas, delphiniums and tulips from slugs.
2. Replenish ponds with aquatic plants such as waterlilies and irises.
3. Mix up compost bins to speed up decomposition.
4. Deadhead tulips, but allow foliage to fade for a good display next year.
5. Harvest rhubarb, pulling stalks from the base.
6. Sow vegetables and herbs both inside and out.

### POET'S CORNER

#### Poem of the month

AE Housman  
"Loveliest of Trees"



*Loveliest of trees, the cherries now  
Is hung with bloom along the bough,  
And stands about the woodland ride*

*Now, of my threescore years and ten,  
Twenty will not come again,  
And take from seventy springs a score,  
It only leaves for fifty more.*

*And since to look at things that bloom  
Fifty springs are little room,  
About the woodlands I will go  
To see the cherry hung with snow.*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Well, we all know that April 1 is April Fool's Day but that the origins of this are shrouded in mystery with some thinking that it dates back to the change in the calendar from Julian to Gregorian as in the old Julian calendar New Year was celebrated from 25<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April. However, in the Gregorian calendar it was 1<sup>st</sup> January. Those who refused to accept the new calendar and still celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> April were called fools. The first British reference was in 1686 when John Aubrey referred to 'Fool's Holy Day' and it was on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1686 a group of people were tricked into attending the Tower of London to watch the lions being washed! Quite mad.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### BEETROOT CHOCOLATE LOAF

2lb buttered loaf tin

#### INGREDIENTS

8oz plain flour  
1oz cocoa powder  
1tsp baking powder  
4oz caster sugar & a pinch of salt  
3oz dark chocolate  
3oz unsalted butter  
4oz raw beetroot (weight after peeled)  
2 egg beaten

#### METHOD

Pre-heat oven to 180c / Gas Mark 4  
Grease a loaf tin with butter

Sift the flour, cocoa and baking powder into a bowl then stir in the sugar and salt.

Melt the dark chocolate and butter in a saucepan over a low heat. Leave to cool for at least 5 minutes.

Grate the beetroot with a fine grater (use gloves for this procedure!)

Beat the eggs into the chocolate mixture and stir in the grated beetroot and the flour mixture. Stir well to combine.

Spoon into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for about 50 minutes or until a skewer is inserted into the middle comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tin. **ENJOY!!**

Our next meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup> welcomes back Dave Spencer, a specialist in dahlias. Those who remember his talk a while back now may recall he brought along fantastic dahlia tubers for sale. So, dahlia growers do not miss this meeting!

As usual refreshments will be available together with Flower of the Month (this is already proving popular and a closely fought battle so far) and of course the raffle!

**That's all for this month except to say good luck for all those entering the Spring Show and importantly please stay safe and well!**

*"A flower blossoms for its own joy"*  
Oscar Wilde