

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

FEBRUARY 2024

WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Greetings to all our dear Members as we begin our events of the year with the all important Annual General Meeting. As members are already aware we are looking for more to join the Committee to help with the running of the Club. Following the January Newsletter when we appealed for certain roles to be filled Andrew Taylor has come forward to take up the role of Assistant Treasurer. This is with the understanding of becoming the Club's Treasurer in due course – so thank you Andrew. As members are already aware Paul Rice has been co-opted on to the Committee and all that is needed now is for both to be approved by the members to become part of the Committee. Other roles also need to be filled and most importantly a Vice-Chairman and a Show Co-Ordinator and in addition we need more members to join the Committee to help run the Club otherwise it could easily go into decline and it is imperative that this simply does not happen.

NEXT MEMBERS' MEETING



Moving on from the AGM we welcome back Dr Ian Bedford on the **5th March** and this time he will be giving a talk entitled "Garden Bugs" co-habit, conserve or control. Those who came along to his last talk may well remember his vast knowledge and an interesting and entertaining evening so we look forward to more of this on bugs!

MEMBERSHIP – Ian Standingford, our Membership Secretary, has been busy collating the paperwork and the delivery of the membership cards to those who have rejoined so far. Thank you to all those who have renewed their membership already for 2024 and a big thank you to Ian for his hard work with more to come!

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

OUTING TO HELMINGHAM HALL with Kings Coaches SUNDAY 9th JUNE 2024

. Tickets are now available and anyone wishing to put their names down or complete the form with payment to guarantee seats please see Annie at the AGM. Many thanks.

AFTERNOON OUTING TO ULTING WICK using own transport TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2pm to 5pm TICKETS AVAILABLE WITH DIRECTIONS £12pp including refreshments



Now let's turn to jobs to do in the allotment and garden this month – with the days now drawing out and signs of Spring around the corner all the more time to be out in the fresh air!

1. Tidy the shed and scrub seed trays ready for planting.
2. Tidy borders, removing dead growth and persistent weeds.
3. Plant lily bulbs in deep pots of gritty compost for summer flowers.
4. Prune summer flowering clematis
5. Start sowing early veg crops indoors and plant shallots outside.
6. Chit early potatoes in a warm, bright spot.

POET'S CORNER

Ian Standingford's poem of the month

William Wordsworth

To A Snowdrop



Love flower, in with snow and white as
they
But hardier far, once more I see thee bend
Thy forehead as if feature to offend
Like an unbidden guest. Though day by
day,
Storms, sallying from their mountain tops
waylay
The rising sun and on the plains descend;
Yet are though welcome, welcome as a
friend
Whose zeal outruns his promise! Blue-eyed
May shall soon behold this border thickly
set
With bright jonquils their odours lavishing
On the soft west-wind and his frolic peers;
Nor will then thy modest grace forget,
Chaste Snowdrops venturous harbinger of
Spring
And pensive monitor of fleeting years

DID YOU KNOW?

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) usually start in very early February (*this year they showed in early January!*) signalling the start of Spring and symbolising hope. According to folklore when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden and were shivering in the snow, an angel appeared and transformed some of the snowflakes into snowdrop flowers, offering hope that even the harshest winter eventually gives way to Spring. A delightful sentiment!

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 into be blessed.

Candlemas has its fair share of weather proverbs too:

*"If Candlemas Day is fair and bright,
Winter will have another fight.
If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain,
Winter won't come again".*

If this is the case we are in for more winter weather as it was a beautiful day on the 2nd this year – so let's hope this doesn't happen!

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

FUDGY NUT PIE

Serves 8

Pre-heat the oven to 200oC / Gas 6.

INGREDIENTS

225g / 8oz shortcrust pastry
50g / 2oz plain chocolates broke into small pieces
50g / 2oz butter or margarine
175g 6oz caster sugar 1 tsp / 5ml
75g /3oz soft brown sugar
100ml /4 fl oz milk
25g / 1oz butter
75g /3oz light brown muscovado sugar 250
75g /3oz golden syrup
1 tsp / 5ml vanilla flavouring
¼ tsp salt
3 eggs
100g /4oz chopped mixed nuts (optional)
1 eating apple
Icing sugar to decorate
Vanilla ice-cream to serve

METHOD

Roll out the pastry on a floured surface and use to line a 23cm (9") flan dish or fluted flan ring placed on a baking sheet. Bake blind in the oven at 200c /Mark 6 for 10 -15 minutes until set. Set aside to cool.

While the pastry case is cooling put the chocolate and fat into a large heatproof bowl standing over a pan of simmering water. Heat gently until melted and remove the bowl from the pan adding the remaining ingredients except for the chopped nuts at this stage. Beat with a wooden spoon until well mixed then add and stir in the nuts if using.

Pour the filling into the pastry case and bake in the oven at 180c /Mark 4 for 45-60 minutes or until puffy and golden. Remove the flan from the oven and dredge with icing sugar. Serve hot or cold with ice cream.

ENJOY!

FLOWER OF THE MONTH will start again at the March Meeting for the Shield currently held by Lyn Harris

Meanwhile stay safe and well and remember

"Blossom by blossom the Spring begins"
Algernon Charles Swinburne

HAPPY COOKING AND GARDENING AND

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

