

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

JUNE 2024

WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Last month we welcomed back Dave Spencer together with his wife Carmen who had last visited the Club some ten years ago. He brought along some beautiful dahlia plants for sale which were eagerly snapped up (even before the meeting had started!) by dahlia growing enthusiasts. (We expect great entries at the forthcoming Open Show). Dave is a prodigious grower and in his large garden cultivates some 2000 dahlias from pom poms to giant headed dahlias which he then markets but retains at least 600 to choose from for his exhibits at the prestigious shows he enters and invariably wins!. He has shown and won prizes as far afield as Canada and nearer to home at RHS Shows and other venues. A really interesting and informative evening attended by 32 members and 2 visitors.

MEMBERSHIP – Membership has now reached 68 with two new members joining and we welcome Caroline Wheeler and Paul Lees to the Garden Club

GREETINGS to all those with a birthday or an anniversary this month.

TROPHIES & SHIELDS – Please remember to bring back your trophies at this month's meeting. These should be given to **Angela Carruthers** who is kindly organising the engraving in time for the Show.

HELMINGHAM HALL

Sunday 9th June with Kings Coaches

We now have 26 members coming along on the trip a little disappointing but nevertheless should be a good day out with certainly a good number of spare seats to choose from!

SUMMER SHOW

Many hands make light work and this applies most definitely to the set up of the Show and we are now fully complemented with helpers so thank you to all those who have come forward to help this year – it is much appreciated.

Posters are ready for distribution in the next few weeks to advertise the event and thanks go to Carol Taylor who has added a QR code and has also undertaken the printing of them. Schedules and posters will be distributed at many outlets by the Committee but members can also help by displaying them in their windows or outside their house if appropriate and these will be available at this month's meeting to pick up.

Outing to Ulting Wick Tuesday July 2nd.

18 members have now signed up for this visit. Please contact Annie for further purchase of tickets.



Let's turn to a few gardening tips

1. Plant bedding plants in patio pots for a vibrant display of colours.
2. Add plant supports to unruly perennials.
3. Plant out tender crops including tomatoes and courgettes
4. Keep new plants well watered until established.
5. Take cuttings of rosemary and sage.



POET'S CORNER

Quote of the month

An extract from "To the Gardener"
by Robert Louis Stevenson 1850-1894
(to be continued)



*Friend, in my mountain-side demesne
My plain beholding rosy, green
And linnet-haunted garden ground
Let still the esculent abound.
Let first the onion flourish there,
Rose among roots, the maiden fair.
Wine scented and poetic soul
Of the capacious salad bowl.
Let thyme the mountaineers - to dress
The tinier birds - and wading cress,
The lover of the shallow brook,
From all my plots and borders look.*

DID YOU KNOW? The ancient custom of well dressing is peculiar to England and in particular to Derbyshire and Staffordshire. Well dressing involves the decoration of springs and wells with pictures made from living plants, flowers, fruits and berries and usually happens in the early summer and early autumn. The early Christians, however, were not happy with the custom of dressing wells – they considered it water worship and promptly put an end to it. But the tradition refused to die. Tissington was the first village to re-introduce well dressing in 1349, after the village managed to escape a terrible outbreak of the Black Death that swept through England at the time.

John Constable was born on 11th June 1776 and was one of the major English landscape painters of the 19th century. He is best known for his paintings of the English countryside around his home in Suffolk. His most famous paintings include 'Dedham Vale' of 1802 and 'The Haywain' of 1821. The area surrounding his home on the Essex/Suffolk border in East England is now known as 'Constable Country' and is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and long may that last.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

There were only 3 entries in May!

Here are the results

1st Carol Taylor – Clematis

2nd – Janet Davies – Rose

3rd Don Davies - Rose

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHEDDAR, SMOKY BACON AND POTATO SODA BREAD

Pre-heat oven to 190c Gas Mark 7
Line a flat baking tray with non-stick
baking paper

INGREDIENTS

5 rashers of smoked streaky bacon (fried
and chopped into pieces)
350g self-raising flour
50g oats
170g potatoes (cooked, mashed or
roasted)
1½ tsps bicarbonate of soda
A pinch of salt
170g strong cheese cut into chunks (not
grated)
200ml milk and 1 tsp of vinegar or lemon
juice to make it sour; or buttermilk.
60g thick plain yoghurt
A few seeds of sprinkle on top

METHOD

Fry the bacon in a pan with a little butter put to one side to cool before adding to the mixture. Put the flour, oats, mashed potato and salt, bicarbonate of soda into a large mixing bowl. Stir well to combine. Add the chunks of cheese, the cooled bacon and the juices from the pan and stir again. Use a knife to stir in the wet ingredients. Knead together gently to make a soft dough. Turn the dough onto a lightly-floured worktop and shape into a rough ball. Use a sharp knife to cut a deep cross into the dough – you need to cut almost all the way through to the bottom.

Sprinkle some sesame seeds, a little grated cheese or some oats on top.

Bake in the middle of the pre-heated oven for about 40 minutes. It should look golden and will sound hollow if you tap the bottom then leave to cool on the tray for about 10 minutes. Carefully move to a cooling rack to rest for at least an hour otherwise it will still be doughy inside.

ENJOY!

Have a wonderful summer hopefully without too much more rain and a bit warmer than of late and remember to think about your exhibits for the Show in August.

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH!

*"The best thing we can do when it is raining
is to let it rain"*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow