

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

2020

WELCOME TO THE MARCH EDITION OF THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER



Mad March Hares – this picture seems appropriate for this March Newsletter -

Fortunately there were no fisticuffs at this year's AGM which was attended by 33 members with David Papworth (a past member) coming along as a visitor and it is hoped that he will rejoin the Club this year. The attendance was slightly down from last year but as there were quite a number of apologies this was understandable. All in all it went remarkably well with the only hitch occurring as regrettably our President, Roger Pitt was not in attendance to conduct the election of officers and committee. However, this was overcome and the following were duly elected for another year until 2021 and they are:

Annie Northfield - Chairman / Secretary
Terry Mays - Treasurer
Ian Standingford - Membership Secretary
Dawn Evans – Show Secretary
Cynthia Chignell – Posters / Trophies
Brian Peacock – Sponsorship Co-Ordinator

It was unfortunate that no-one was prepared to stand for the position of Vice-Chairman or Deputy Treasurer - and so the hunt goes on!

The meeting ended at 8.29am having started a little after 8pm and business was again dealt with in remarkably quick time. As ever all those present then enjoyed the wine, cheese & biscuits and pate on offer.

The Chairman & Committee are very grateful to those who have agreed to help with the running of the Club but do not wish to be on the official Committee:

Hall Management Don Davies
Raffle / Tombola Lesley Peacock
and in her temporary absence Jean Yems.

Thanks must also be given to **Pat Bradley** for her valued contribution of writing articles about our Club Meetings to the Feering Parish Magazine.

COMMITTEE BREAKING NEWS!

Ronda Howard has agreed to being co-opted on to the Committee and will be a great asset to the Club.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH WINNER



At the end of the meeting the presentation of the Horticultural Society Shield was made to Dawn Evans as the overall winner of the Flower of the Month competition. Congratulations to Dawn for winning the Shield for the first time!

Continuing now with events for 2020

Visit to Henstead Exotic Gardens with a stop off at Southwold Sunday 14th June 2020



Photograph by
Andrew Brogan – owner of Henstead Exotic Gardens
and who is our speaker tonight.

The 53-seater coach is booked with Kings and the price of the ticket will be £28pp for members and £33 pp for non-members and this includes all travel, driver's tip and entry into the gardens.

Last payments will be taken at the May Members' meeting on the 5th May but it would be preferable to receive it well before.

NB Please note that all monies received will be banked on or thereabouts on the 8th May and no refunds will be given after that date.

However, in the event that the trip is not viable (we need a minimum number of 30) and is cancelled all money will be refunded. So book early to avoid being disappointed.

Bookings to date for reserved seats stand at 30 with 10 fully paid up so payment from those who have reserved seats would be gratefully received. Completed forms and cheques / *cash payments (*but only in person) should be handed to Annie at any meeting **including May** and a ticket showing times of pick up will be given out. Payments can also be made by post to Annie Northfield 9 Avenue Road Witham CM8 2DT.

Please note that we will be leaving a little later from the pick up points this year and they are as follows:

**Pick up from Ridgeons at 8.45am
Pick up from The Sun Inn at 8.50am
Pick up from The Institute from 8.55am**

**JULY 7th Afternoon visit to
RHS Hyde Hall, Creep hedge Lane,
Retford, Chelmsford CM3 8ET**

This visit is free as we are Associated members of the RHS, however, a guided tour is available at the price of £3 which must be paid in advance (by 11th June) with a minimum of 10. Tickets are now available so **please see Annie**

POET'S CORNER

Ian Standingford's quote of the month

By John Greenleaf Whittier

*If thou of fortune be bereft
and in thy store but left two loaves,
sell one and with the dole,
buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.*

THE GARDEN CLUB WEBSITE

Dawn has worked very hard on the Club's new website
e-voice.org.uk/feeringkelvedon/gardenclub.

The monthly Member's Newsletter is posted on the web enabling those members who are unable to attend every meeting to keep in touch with what is happening. So do have a look at it and let us have your views.

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE 2020

Following on from growing strawberries in 2019 the 2020 challenge is to grow **Stalice** from seed sourced from Bourne Brook Nurseries at Greenstead Green. This will be judged at the Open Annual Show and will be a colourful addition to the other exhibits. So please pick up your seed packet and have a go!



What to do in the Garden / Allotment this month



So let's turn to gardening tips which have been gleaned from the experts and we start off with jobs to do this month and here are just a few to tempt us to spend a few hours in the fresh air and start to tidy up the garden from the dark days of winter.

1. Feed any plants that have been heavily pruned over winter and apply a generous layer of mulch
2. When the soil is not too wet (this could be a problem this year!), prepare for planting by digging and removing and disposing of perennial weeds. Not an easy task
3. Continue with clearing weeds from driveways, paths and patios
4. sow seeds of hardy annuals when the soil has warmed sufficiently
6. Move deciduous trees and shrubs
5. Sow tender vegetables such as tomatoes
6. Weed vegetable beds before sowing early crops such as rocket
7. Start sowing lettuce and broad beans
8. Plant first early potatoes, shallots, and onions

DID YOU KNOW?

At this time of year, before the bluebells emerge, the woodlands are covered in wild garlic. The plant, which is native to Britain is also known as bear leek, bear's garlic, broad leaf garlic, buckrams, ramsons and wood garlic. It can grow to heights of between 45cm and 50cm. The leaves and flowers are edible and delicious if added to soups, sauces and pestos. A good tip for the cooks!

The flower most associated in March is the Narcissus or wild daffodil being the main species found throughout Britain. It is known also as the Lent Lily as it blooms in early spring but the flowers have often dropped off before Easter.

Let's hope this does not happen this year in view of our Spring Show just before Easter. So we follow on to that event.



MEMBERS' SPRING SHOW

Tuesday April 7th – the Institute will be open from 6.30pm for members to bring along their exhibits and set them up in time for judging which will start about 7.45pm. Refreshments will be available as usual when the collating of the results is undertaken.

Please try and enter as many categories as possible to fill the Institute with lovely plants, daffodils, floral displays and planted pots for all the members to judge.

Finally, a quote from the great Gertrude Jekyll
"The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies"

HAPPY GARDENING!