

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

JANUARY 2024

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

So here we are in 2024 with the past year behind us but a mention of the Christmas Social in December has to be made! This certainly went off with a bang with corks flying as members were greeted with a glass of "bubbly" to celebrate. The tables of food were groaning with delicious dishes prepared by members and the new layout this year seemed to be met with great approval by all those attended. The hall was certainly decked out for a Christmas celebration and thank you one and all for your contributions which made it so successful. The raffle with beautifully wrapped prizes surpassed all expectations and enormous thanks to Jean Yems and Pat Spinks for raising a magnificent £155 – this has to be a record - but also thanks to those who participated for their generosity!



Photos courtesy of
Paul Rice



NEWS ON THE FORTHCOMING AGM ON TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2024

All paperwork for the AGM together with the Year Book and membership application forms for rejoining the Club will be sent out shortly and it would be helpful to Ian, our Membership Secretary, if the forms could be completed and sent or delivered to him before the AGM. Please note that payment in cash should not be sent by post and only delivered in person. For those paying on the 6th, however, please make sure you have the correct payment of £6 and the completed form to present to Ian at the AGM – this will save so much valuable time. Many thanks!

The 2024 Open Show Schedule will also be available at the AGM.

COMMITTEE NEWS

The Committee is happy to announce that Paul Rice wishes to become involved with the running of the Club and has already been co-opted onto the Committee with his appointment needing to be agreed at the AGM.

However, it is imperative for more to join the Committee this year with a view to taking on various roles. In particular it is absolutely vital that we appoint a Vice-Chairman (this role has never been filled since Tim Pailthorpe retired) and also an Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary alongside a Show Co-Ordinator. So, please come forward to help with the running of the Club. The existing Committee will be seeking re-election at the 2024 AGM but would appreciate more input to ensure the continuation of the Club and its success in the future.

We look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and we stress again that it is imperative for members to put themselves forward to ensure the continuation of the Club! Do not forget this is your opportunity to put across your suggestions and ideas which can be discussed and implemented if agreed.

POET'S CORNER

Poem of the month

A rather frivolous one!

The New Year – Anon

*I am the little New Year ho! ho!
Here I come tripping in over the snow
Shaking my bells with a merry din –
So open your doors and let me in!*

*Presents I bring for each and all –
Big folks, little folks, short and tall
Each from me a treasure to win –
So open your doors and let me in!*

*Some shall have silver and some shall have
gold,
Some shall have new clothes and some shall
have old,
Some shall have brass and some shall have tin,
So open your doors and let me in!*

*Some shall have water and some shall have
milk,
Some shall have satin and some shall have silk
But each from me a present may win
So open your doors and let me in!*

DID YOU KNOW? – The earliest known New Year celebrations were in Mesopotamia and date back to 2000 BC. The early Romans, however, used 1st March as their New Year's day. Other cultures used the autumn equinox or the winter solstice to mark the New Year. It was only in 1752 that England adopted the 1st January as New Year's Day and before that the year began on 25th March being the feast of the Annunciation.

BIRTHDAY and ANNIVERSARY greetings to all those members with a birthday this month with a special mention to Terry!



Now let's turn to jobs for the garden and allotment this month although the earth is so sodden from all the rain this may difficult!

In mild spells firm up soil around plants loosened by frost.

Check pergolas and other wooden structures and repair if necessary.

Wash out pots and plastic trays.

Plant lily bulbs in mild weather

Plant rhubarb roots Sow peas in a sheltered area

Sow broad beans

Plant shallots in well-drained soil.

Lift Jerusalem artichokes

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

CHERRY TWISTS

Finely chopped cherries give these biscuits their pretty pink colour!

Makes 16

INGREDIENTS

8oz (225) soft margarine
2oz (50g) icing sugar
7oz (200g) plain flour
5oz (150g)
a few drops of vanilla essence
1tbs milk
2oz (50g) glace cherries
cherries and (angelica optional) for decoration

METHOD

Pre-heat the oven to 180c Gas Mark 4

Cream the margarine and icing sugar together until fluffy. Stir in the flour, cornflour, vanilla essence and milk and beat until very soft. Chop the cherries finely and fold into the mixture. Spoon the mixture into a piping bag fitted with a ½in (1cm) star nozzle. Pipe lines about 2in 5cm long finishing with a star at the end on greased baking sheets, making sure they are well spaced. Chop the cherries (and angelica if using) to decorate the biscuits. Bake for 15 minutes. Cool slightly before transferring onto a rack to finish cooling – **ENJOY!**

OUTINGS FOR 2024

HELMINGHAM HALL 9th June 2024

Tickets £30 members – non-members £35

ULTING WICK July 2nd £12 with refreshments

Tickets will be available for both outings if you would like to pay early. Reservation lists will be available for both outings as well.

“To plant a tree is a matter of confidence in the earth. An action of hope for the future. An action of the love of the fellow men for future generations who will enjoy their fruit when we are not there anymore”

Louis Mercier 1740-1818

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