

# FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

## NOVEMBER 2024

### WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

Last month we welcomed back Mike Abel this time to talk about vegetable growing. He is a font of knowledge about growing and bug problems and gave a most informative and interesting talk with good audience interaction which, as a former lecturer at Writtle College, is his forte. It was just such a shame that there were so few members who came along but nevertheless those who did venture out on what could be described as a vile wet evening enjoyed it. There was some delicious honey for sale together with various contraptions and solutions to those pesky bugs that infraltrate the produce being grown and nibble away.

The raffle took a rather strange turn as no raffle tickets etc had been brought along to the meeting by the raffle chief!

However, it all worked out in the end with some quick thinking to find a solution to running the raffle. It was agreed the best way forward was to write down the names of those who supported it then when their name was picked out each won a prize! On this occasion there were a good few prizes to choose from so thank you for the donations.

We now move on to this month's meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>, this being our last for this year with a speaker and we welcome Cherry Mullins travelling all the way from Kirby le Soken to give her power-point presentation and talk all about Monet's Giverney. This should prove to be a colourful and interesting evening and hopefully will be well attended.



**Now let's turn to jobs to do in the garden and allotment this month –**

1. Continue planting bulbs for Spring displays to brighten up the garden after the winter months.
2. Cut back herbaceous perennials as the foliage dies off but leaving a few dead stems to protect the plant.
3. Clear out borders that are to be replanted using a fork rather than a spade on heavier soil.
4. After the first frost lift dahlia tubers or cover with deep mulch.
5. Leaves are now falling rapidly – continue to rake up for the compost bin,
6. Plant bare-root raspberry canes for summer picking whilst Autumn varieties will start cropping in August and continue until the frosts appear.
7. Net up brassicas to prevent the pigeons from having a feast.

#### NEWS FROM MEMBERS

Membership still stands at 67.

**BIRTHDAY** greetings members with a birthday or anniversary this month. Regarding anniversaries special belated congratulations to Tim and Elizabeth Pailthorpe who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary last month – an incredible achievement!

#### RAFFLE PRIZES

A Kelvedon resident has kindly donated some unwanted gardening tools and has been warmly thanked. These will be put into the raffle this month. A number of other prizes will be available but we need more to boost up the stock so please do bring any unwanted items along. Those not used this month can be held over for the AGM in February and forwards from there in order to build up the depleted stock of prizes for ongoing raffles, Thanks!

## POET'S CORNER

Poem of the month

November 1793 by William Lisle Bowles



*There is a strange music in the stirring wind.  
When lowers the autumnal eve, and all  
alone  
To the dark wood's cold covert though art  
gone,  
Where ancient trees on the rough slope  
reclined  
Rock, and at times scatter their tresses  
sere.  
If in such shades, beneath their murmuring,  
Thou late has passed the happiest hours of  
spring,  
With sadness thou wilt mark the fading  
year;  
Chiefly if one, with whom such sweets at  
morn  
Or evening thou hast shared, far off shall  
stray.  
O Spring return! Return auspicious May!  
But sad will their coming, and forlorn  
If she returns not with the cheering ray.  
Who from these shades is gone, gone far  
away.*

### DID YOU KNOW?

The last Sunday before Advent is known as "Stir-Up Sunday" the day when traditionally families would gather together to prepare the Christmas Pudding! However, this day does not get its name from "stirring the pudding", it actually gets its name from the Common Book of Prayer where the Collect of the day for the last Sunday before Advent starts: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people". However, since Victorian times it has become associated with the endearing family custom of preparing for Christmas together by making the Christmas pudding. Does this custom still exist these days one wonders!

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### BRAMLEY APPLE AND BLACKBERRY CRUMBLE WITH A NUTTY BROWN SUGAR TOPPING

Pre-heat oven to 180o Gas Mark 4

### INGREDIENTS

6 large Bramleys - peeled, cored & sliced  
400g blackberries  
2tsp lemon juice & 1tsp lemon zest  
2tbsp runny honey  
200g plain flour  
150g light brown sugar  
150g butter  
150g oats  
Pinch of sea salt  
100g hazelnuts & 100g walnut pieces

### METHOD

Put the prepared apples into a baking dish (preferably the one you will use to bake the crumble in) Spoon over the honey, lemon juice and zest and toss gently. Bake for about 15 minutes. Meanwhile put the flour, sugar and butter into a bowl and rub the butter in with your fingertips until it looks like coarse breadcrumbs. Stir in the oats, walnuts and hazelnuts and add a pinch of salt. Stir to combine. Add the blackberries to the apples then spread the crumble mixture on top. Put the crumble back into the oven to bake for about 30 minutes. Flick a little water over the top of the crumble to stop it burning but check a few times and cover with some foil if the topping starts to blacken. Take out of the oven and enjoy with yoghurt, crème fraiche, ice cream or custard!

**FLOWER OF THE MONTH** resumed in October however there was only one entry and Naomi Emerick won with her Autumn Crocus exhibit. This month is definitely the last chance to try and win the Shield although as things stand there does appear to be an outright winner already!

**NEXT MONTH** is our **CHRISTMAS SOCIAL** and a good number have already purchased their tickets but there are plenty of spaces – so please see Annie – they are only £5pp! Please also add your name to the list to bring along food for the buffet. The list is still open!

**So that's all for now but do hope to see  
many of you there on Tuesday  
5<sup>th</sup> November!**