

# FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

## AUGUST 2024

### WELCOME TO THE CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER

On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 15 members visited Ulting Wick Gardens an 11 acre site near Maldon centred around three listed black Essex Barns and a 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse. Doug Read kindly met all the members gathering as Annie was unable to attend at the last minute due to an unforeseen appointment. So thanks to Doug for stepping in and also sending over some notes about the visit to enable Annie to write the report. The owner, Philippa Burroughs greeted everyone on arrival and then gave a conducted tour of the garden. In the months of November and December thousands of tulips are planted creating a magnificent show in the Spring months. Following on from there exotic plants are on show with the summer months displaying dahlias in abundance. Although the afternoon started off a little damp the rain staved off unlike last year's deluge at Avenue Road!

As members all know the Open Show is at the end of the month and it is hoped that there will be some excellent exhibits. Annie will not be able to participate this year nor with the setting up but is hoping to visit in the afternoon and to announce the winners – fingers crossed! Meanwhile all is in hand and it is with gratitude to Janet Edwards stepping in as Co-Ordinator and Rob Evans, who, this year will be collecting the entry forms and bringing them over to Annie's for inputting. The following day card writing will also take place at Annie's and thanks to everyone who is helping out with all the various jobs entailed in putting the Show on and for participating by entering. Results of course will be reported in the next Newsletter.

Before that of course, prizes are still required for the tombola and cakes for the refreshments in the afternoon. Thanks must go to Gill Read for stepping in to co-ordinate this again this year although it was with a lot of persuasion! Please bring along cakes etc either on Friday evening before 7.30 or on Saturday morning until 10pm when of course judging will commence. Any prizes for the tombola should be brought along preferably on Friday night again by 7.30pm when Jean Yems will be there from about 6pm or so.

**MEMBERSHIP** – Membership remains the same at 68

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



Let's turn to a few gardening tips

1. Start planning autumn planting and ordering plants and bulbs.
2. Apply top dressings to lawns evenly into the top few inches of soil and then rake to leave a level surface.
3. Plant out well grown perennial seeds into nursery beds and water them. These should be ready for planting out in their final positions either during the autumn or early spring.
4. Sow seeds of spring cabbage, lettuce and Brussel Sprouts
5. Pick loganberries when perfectly ripe.
6. Plant rooted Strawberry runners to ensure a good crop next year.



## POET'S CORNER

A double quote of the month!

A further extract from "To a Gardener"

By Robert Louis Stevenson 1850 - 1894

*Nor crisp and muddy radish, nor  
Pease-cods for the child's pinafore  
Be lacking; nor of salad clam  
The last and least that ever ran  
About great nature's garden beds.  
Nor thence be missed the speary  
heads  
of artichoke; nor thence the bean  
That gathered innocent and green  
Ousavour the belauded pea.*

### "Allotments"

By Richard Church 18930-1972

*Lifting through the broken clouds there  
shot  
A searching beam of golden sunset-  
shine  
And all the digging clerks became  
divine  
Stood up like heroes with their spades  
of brass,  
Turning the ore that made the realms  
of Spain!  
So shone they for a moment. Then  
alas!  
The cloud-rift closed and they were  
clerks again,*

**DID YOU KNOW?** Watch the weather in early August for an indication of the winter ahead! According to the old saying "If the first week in August is unusually warm, the winter will be white and long". Another old wives' tale suggests that "If a cold August follows a hot July it foretells a winter hard and dry". Who knows what our winters will be these days but interesting thoughts from the above as to what we could expect from this winter's weather!

If you are lucky enough to hear the "chirrup" of a cricket this summer, you can calculate the air temperature by the number of "chirups" it makes, Count how many times you hear the call in eight seconds, then add five, to give you the approximate current temperature in Celsius!

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH HONEY CAKE AND HONEY BISCUITS

**for the Cake** pre-heat oven to 180c Gas Mark 4 for the cake and grease & flour a square cake tin

**for the Biscuits** pre-heat the oven to 190c for 15 minutes and grease a baking tray

### INGREDIENTS FOR THE CAKE

1 egg  
½ cup of sugar  
150g honey  
cinnamon to taste  
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 cups of flour, sifted  
50g blanched almonds

### METHOD

Beat the egg and sugar together. Then add the honey, spice and bicarbonate of soda. Gradually fold in the sifted flour. Pour into the prepared cake tin and bake for 15-20 minutes. Turn out on to a wire rack and when cool the cake can be cut into two halves and filled with jam.

### INGREDIENTS FOR THE BISCUITS

4 eggs  
2 cups of sugar  
500g honey  
½ tsp vanilla essence  
1kg flour  
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
¼ tsp cinnamon  
¼ nutmeg  
Icing sugar and cinnamon

### METHOD

Beat eggs and sugar until thick. Add honey and vanilla and mix well. Sift flour, cinnamon and nutmeg and fold into the mixture until the dough is stiff then set aside covered for 24 hours. Roll out onto a flat sheet and cut into shapes or roll up tightly and cut into widths 10-15mm thick. Bake in the prepared tin and pre-heated oven for 15 minutes. Dust with icing sugar and cinnamon.

**ENJOY!**

So good luck to all entering the Show and above all enjoy it! Thank you once again to all who are helping with the Show and have volunteered to ensure the Show runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible!

**"In summer the song sings itself"**

*William Carlos Williams*