

FEERING & KELVEDON GARDEN CLUB

JANUARY 2025

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

First a mention of the Christmas Social in December just past! The Hall looked very festive so thanks to all who helped with the tables and decorations. It was a fun evening starting off with a glass of "bubbly" to celebrate the year and the evening ended with a raffle of beautifully wrapped surprise presents ably run by Jean Yems and Pat Spinks. In between there was a delicious assortment of food to eat and certainly no-one went hungry!

However, now 2025 has arrived and it seems in record time. Where has the year gone? It certainly was a busy one with all the members' meetings, shows and outings and hopefully enjoyed by all who participated.

We now turn to the forthcoming AGM ON TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2025

All paperwork for the AGM 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 Year Book will be completed after this year's AGM in consideration of the big changes of Officers and Committee Members– not least the Chairman/Secretary and Treasurer who will be retiring alongside other Committee Members. There are many roles to fill to ensure the continuation of the Club running smoothly – so please bear this in mind. 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 help run the Club and it is also an opportunity to put across your suggestions and ideas which can be discussed and implemented if agreed.

Please note that both the Year Book and Schedule will be available at the March meeting for those attending - alternatively please inform Ian Standingford and he will arrange for these to be sent out.

Meanwhile, listed below are the events for the year and readers may like to make a note of these:

Feb 4th AGM

MARCH 4TH Roger Hance "Wildflowers of the Countryside Part 2

APRIL 1ST SPRING SHOW

MAY 6TH Brian Cradwick "Fuchsias""

JUNE 3RD Peter Fielding "Bonsai"

JUNE 8TH OUTING Gooderstone Water Gardens

JULY 1ST OUTING Feeringbury Manor

AUGUST 30TH OPEN SHOW

OCTOBER 7TH Brian Carline
"Understanding plants"

NOVEMBER 4TH Mike Abel "Beekeeping"

DECEMBER 2ND CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

POET'S CORNER
Poem of the month
An extract from Auld Lang Syne
Robert Burns
1759-1796

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And days of auld syne?*

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll drink a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne*

DID YOU KNOW? – January was highly significant in medieval superstitions regarding prosperity or lack of it, in the year ahead. One tradition was to put a flat cake on one of the horns of a cow in every farmyard. The farmer and his workers would then sing and dance around the cow until the cake was thrown to the ground. If it fell in front of the cow, that signified good luck, to fall behind indicated the opposite. One wonders whether this tradition is still carried on but in the current climate perhaps it would not be such a good idea!

BIRTHDAY and ANNIVERSARY greetings to all those members with a birthday or anniversary this month.



Now let's turn to jobs for the garden and allotment this month with hopefully the weather turning a bit brighter to make gardening more fun!

1. Wash out pots and plastic trays.
2. During mild spells firm up soil around plants loosened by frost and prepare new beds.
3. Mend any pergolas and other wooden structures as necessary.
4. Order veg and flower seeds to grow this year.
5. Plant bare-root roses, fruit trees, bushes and canes.
6. Sow sweet peas for summer in a heated propagator or indoors.
6. Sow broad beans
7. Plant shallots in well-drained soil.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH
EGGLESS ORANGE SPONGE
Swiss roll tin greased
Pre-heat oven to 180oC

INGREDIENTS FOR SPONGE

150g / 5oz wholewheat flour
1 tsp baking powder
100g / 3½oz butter, softened
100g / 3½oz soft brown sugar
½ orange, finely grated, juice strained
12.5 cl / 4 fl oz of milk

INGREDIENTS FOR NO-SUGAR ICING

100g / 3½oz coconut cream grated
2tbs boiling water
2tbs honey

METHOD

Sift together the flour and baking powder. Cream the butter and sugar, then gently add the sifted ingredients and the orange rind alternately with the milk and orange juice; if the mixture looks lumpy beat it well and it will smooth out again. Spread into the prepared Swiss roll tin and bake in the oven for 25 minutes or until golden. Cool the sponge in the tin.

TO MAKE THE ICING

Mix the coconut cream, water and honey. Stir until creamy. Pour the icing over the sponge. Cut the cake into fingers when the icing has set. ENJOY!

"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, stay well and see you at the AGM.