



**Girton Garden Society**

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2015



February Competition table

Dear Member,

As I write this it feels for the first time that spring is on the way, the bulbs are coming up and the birds are singing. Let's hope for a good year's gardening for everyone. I'll start with some observations, notices and requests.

**MEETINGS** have been well attended since October and we have had a series of very interesting talks plus a very well organised and challenging quiz thanks to Peter and Fred. Competition entries have been of a high standard and as always I would encourage more of you to have a go as it really cheers the room up. We have three meetings left before the summer, the next being the ever popular Rodney Tibbs talking about patio gardening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March. All three are very different and all sound fascinating so do come along and bring any interested friends and neighbours ( £2 on the night).

The AGM and social evening was successful and we have had positive feedback about the food so unless there are any objections we will probably continue in the same way. The committee was re-elected unchanged with Kay as chair. We would always welcome new members on the committee to spread the load.

Is anyone willing to write a **Girton Green Fingers** article? It is quite straightforward and a good way to focus on what needs doing a month ahead. At present we need someone to write for August, which means submitting it in early July. Please contact one of the committee if you are willing to have a go.

## THE PLANT SALE SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY, 2-4 pm, 46, Cambridge Road, Girton

This was so successful last year that we have decided to do it again. It is a great way to publicise the society, boost our finances (for better speakers) and offer people in the village bargain plants, seeds and surplus seedlings (tomatoes, courgettes, herbs, salad seedlings and annual bedding are always very popular.) Please donate whatever you feel you can. Now is a good time to split some of those perennials.

**Helping:** Please phone Kay on 276819 if you can help on the day or let a committee member know at the next meeting. Help is needed in the morning to label, price and lay out the plants and in the afternoon to man the stalls and deal with money.

**Contributions:** These can be delivered to Janet's house between 10am and 12noon on the day. Please make sure plants are labelled and if possible give some information on growing and flowering conditions.

**Tables** Last year the tables we used were VERY heavy so if anyone has any lighter tables that we could borrow on the day we would be very grateful.

**VISIT WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE** Janet is organising a visit to the RHS garden at Hyde Hall in Essex. Entry will be free for all paid up members of the Garden Society so you will only have to pay the coach fare. Hyde Hall has undergone a lot of changes recently so if you haven't been for a while it is certainly worth a visit. As with all RHS properties the facilities are excellent so I think we can look forward to a really good day out. Booking forms and more details will be available at the meeting on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

We also hope to visit Clare College for a guided tour with Steve Elstub in July. Details later.

**VISITS WITH OTHER GARDEN SOCIETIES.** We have contacted Willingham, Oakington, Histon, Cottenham and Coton Garden Societies to see if they have any visits planned in which our members could participate.

**1.Oakington Garden Society Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015.** Two outstanding gardens in Northamptonshire- Canon's Ashby and Coton Manor (which we visited in 2006 and found very beautiful). Cost £10.00 pp for the coach fare and pay for entry to the gardens on arrival. Canon's Ashby is free for National Trust members (with card) or £4 for non members plus optional (extra cost) tour of the house at 11am. The party will leave at 12.45 for Coton Manor, renowned for its roses and wildflower meadow. Entry £6.50(concessions) or £7.00 .Both venues have excellent tea rooms or you can take a picnic. The coach will leave Oakington High Street at 9.15am returning around

6pm. Numbers are needed by the end of March so if you would like to go please contact **Arthur Sillet on 01223 237001** as soon as possible.

**2. Willingham Garden Society** plans a full programme of visits this year and welcomes applications from other local garden societies. All journeys will depart from the bus stop adjacent to the access road to Cottenham Village College at approx. 8.10am and arrive back around 6pm. Seats are allocated on a first come basis and payment is on the coach by cash or cheque. To reserve your place for any of the outings (firm reservations) please contact **Keith Thompson on 01954 261885** as soon as possible. Leave full details of your name and telephone number.

(a) **SATURDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE.** Morning in Sheringham to look round and get lunch. Afternoon, Felbrigg Hall National Trust. Walled gardens, woodland and parkland, 17<sup>th</sup> century Jacobean mansion with Georgian interior. Cost £18 pp coach fare for N.T members (you must bring your membership card) or £27 for non members.

(b) **SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> JULY** Sissinghurst Castle, Kent. National Trust. A famous garden of great historical importance, with excellent catering facilities. (we last visited in 2007 and it was a great day out.) Cost £18 pp coach fare for NT members and £28 for non members.

(c) **SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER** Morning in Stamford, Lincs much beloved of costume drama producers. Then to Easton Walled Garden, restored in recent years by the owner, Lady Cholmney, from near dereliction. Her family have owned the site for 14 generations but the hall was demolished many years ago. Guided tour of the garden. Cost £25pp

(d) In addition there will be a Christmas shopping trip to Lincoln on **WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER.** Cost £20

**NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY 2015** The new yellow booklet is now available at Oakington Garden Centre and elsewhere. There are many wonderful gardens and groups of gardens open throughout the year and all raising money for well known charities. **SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MAY** and **19<sup>th</sup> JULY** Lode gardens are open and this includes the garden of Richard Ayres who spoke to us in May last year.

Kirtling Tower near Newmarket is open on **SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 12<sup>th</sup> APRIL** and **21<sup>st</sup> JUNE** from 11-4pm and many, many others so do look at the book and plan some visits with friends.

## Talks

**TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2.30-3.30pm Scotsdales Garden Centre** is holding a talk on planting in shade- always a useful topic, although we should all be experts already having recently heard Peter Jackson speaking on this topic.

**WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm Oakington Garden Society** will have a talk by a representative from Peter Beale's Roses. These talks are reputedly extremely good. The meeting costs £3 for non members and takes place in the new church hall adjacent to the village church in the High Street.

With all these visits and talks there will be no time for gardening! However I think you will agree that there is a lot on offer and if you choose to go on one of the outings with a couple of friends you are sure to have a good day out and meet enthusiastic gardeners from other societies.

Now back to advance notice of more local events:

**GIRTON OPEN GARDENS** This event kicks off **Feast Week on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**. This year people will be opening their gardens either from 11am-2pm, 2-5pm or 11-5. If you would be willing to open your garden to raise money for St. Andrews Church then please contact **Mary Rodger on 01223 277316**. It is lovely on the day to see other people enjoying and appreciating all the hard work you have put into your own garden.

**GIRTON FEAST WEEK** More information about this in the next letter but put the date in your diary **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July**. We hope to provide some lovely pots again, which we will sell for collection at the end of the afternoon ,and also to organise a mini **very informal** fun show in conjunction with the Allotment Society with competitions for children (vegetable monsters and a plate of vegetables), and adults (cut flowers and vegetables and possibly jams and chutneys). The WI is also organising a competition using WW2 rationing recipes for biscuits (children) and a cake (adults)

I hope you have found this newsletter informative and full of ideas for visits. More information will be available at the meetings and eventually, I hope, on our own website but that at the moment is a work in progress.

In the meantime enjoy the first taste of spring and get planting.

Kay Green and all the committee