



Girton Garden Society

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2016



February Competition table

Dear Member,

As I write this it feels as though the spring bulbs have been flowering since Christmas, the birds are nesting and I fear for the blossom on the fruit trees. Let's hope for a good year's gardening for everyone after such a strange winter.

MEETINGS have been well attended since October and we have had a series of very interesting talks plus a thought provoking 'Gardeners' Question Time'. We have three meetings left before the summer, the next being the ever popular Rodney Tibbs talking about 'Vegetables for Value' on Thursday 10th March. All three are very different and all sound fascinating so do come along and bring any interested friends and neighbours.

The AGM and social evening was very successful with over half our members attending. The feedback was very positive so I think we have found a winning formula. The committee was re-elected unchanged with Kay as chair again. We are always willing to welcome new members onto the committee to spread the load so feel free to volunteer.

On a sad note, we lost a valued member of the society, Joan Field, very suddenly in January. Only days before, Joan had provided the lovely table decorations for the AGM. The flowers at the funeral were provided and arranged by Valerie Hall and Felicia Moor and I am sure those of you who were able to go would agree that they did an admirable job.

THE PLANT SALE SATURDAY 30th APRIL from 2pm, 46, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, GIRTON.

This is proving very successful and Janet has kindly offered to host 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: If you can help on the Plant Sale day please phone Kay on 276819 or sign the list 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.

VISIT WEDNESDAY 8th JUNE Janet is organising a visit to the RHS garden at Wisley in Surrey. Entry will be **free** for all members of the Garden Society so you will only have to pay the coach fare. The visit will be open to everyone in the village for a charge of £10 (normal group entry £11.70) plus the coach fare. This will give them automatic membership of GGS and all its benefits. 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 10th.

VISIT WEDNESDAY 13th JULY We are hoping to go to Easton Walled Garden, near Grantham. This comes highly recommended and is only an hour away. It is a unique garden and well worth visiting especially to see the 100 varieties of sweet pea which will be at their best then. Again more details at the next meeting.

VISIT THURSDAY 30TH JUNE 6pm Tour of Fitzwilliam Garden with head gardener Steve Kidger

NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY 2016 The new yellow booklet will soon be 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. For example Robinson College opens weekdays until April and you can visit for a small donation. Look out for group openings as these are often gardens on a smaller, more personal scale. Look out for the many Capability Brown events at Wimpole, Fenstanton and Madingley Hall.

GIRTON OPEN GARDENS This event kicks off **Feast Week on Sunday 3rd July**. This year gardens will be open from 2-5pm. If you would be willing to open your garden to raise money for St. Andrews Church and also to improve the flower displays around the village then please contact **Mary Rodger on 01223 277316**. She really would appreciate some new gardens to offer visitors. It doesn't have to be perfect!!

GIRTON FEAST WEEK More information about this in the next letter but put the date in your diary **Saturday 9th July**. We hope to provide some lovely pots again, which we will sell for collection at the end of the afternoon. A **very informal mini show** in conjunction with the Allotment Society and WI will take place in the main marquee. There will be competitions for children, (including vegetable monsters and pots of calendulas grown from seed), and adults (cut flowers and vegetables). Full details will be in the GPN and the Feast week programme.

I hope you have found this newsletter informative and full of ideas for visits. More information will be available at our meetings and on the website. In the meantime enjoy the first taste of spring and get planting.

Kay Green and all the committee