



**Girton Garden Society**

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2018



The Society's 2017 Plant Sale

The days are lengthening so it's time to look forward to our Spring and Summer events.

**MEETINGS** We have had a series of well attended and very interesting talks since October. Still to come this Spring: on 8<sup>th</sup> March, broadcaster and author Caroline Holmes will be talking about Herbs for Gourmet Gardener and will bring items for sale. April 12<sup>th</sup> sees Andrew Sankey explaining Making a Garden from Scratch. Our May 10<sup>th</sup> speaker has changed and we now welcome George Thorpe talking about Herbaceous Perennials. Don't forget our monthly competitions; do try to bring something to brighten up the room. We look forward to seeing you and your friends.

The AGM and social evening was very successful with over half our members attending and very positive feedback. The committee was re-elected unchanged with Janet as acting chair. We will be delighted to welcome new members onto the committee to spread the load, so please do volunteer.

### **THE PLANT SALE SATURDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MAY from 2pm, at 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 villagers a wide variety of plants, (tomatoes, courgettes, herbs, salad seedlings and annual bedding are always very popular). Now is a good time to split some of those perennials and sow some surplus seeds.

**Please** donate whatever plants you feel you can, but also cakes, biscuits, jam and other garden related products.

**Helping:** If you can help on the day, please phone **Janet on 01223 276393** or sign the list at the meetings. Help is needed in the morning to label, price and arrange 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, height and flowers.

**NGS GARDENS OPEN FOR CHARITY 2018** The new yellow booklet is now available online, and at Garden Centres. There are many wonderful gardens and groups of gardens open throughout the year and all raising money for well known charities. Look out for college gardens and group openings as these are often gardens on a smaller, more personal scale.

## SUMMER VISITS

**MADINGLEY HALL GARDENS - TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2.30pm** Following up his talk last month, Head Gardener Richard Gant will take us on a 1.5 hour tour round these historic and accessible gardens. For members and their friends only. Lifts can be arranged for members without transport. Cost £7 (non members £8) to include tea or coffee and cake afterwards. Book at the Spring meetings or contact **Chris Pittock on 01223 277182. Bookings close on 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

**COACH TRIPS** Our coach trips are open to everyone, with non members paying £3 extra. Do ask your friends, relatives, members of Club 55 or other Girton villagers if they would like to come. Both gardens have a range of lovely features, tea rooms and plants for sale, many of which will be seen in the gardens and raised on site. Booking forms with full details of coach trips will go to all members, be available at the Spring meetings and can also be obtained from **Janet on 01223 276393** or by emailing [girtongardensociety@outlook.com](mailto:girtongardensociety@outlook.com) Early booking is advised to ensure a place. **All booking forms must go to Janet with a separate cheque or cash for each visit.**

**EAST RUSTON OLD VICARAGE GARDENS, NORFOLK - WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE** A contemporary 32 acre garden, having been created from 1973 with exotic and unusual plants in stunning combinations. There are rose gardens, a Mediterranean border, wildflower meadow, vegetable and cutting gardens, lawns and topiary, woodlands and much more. Including coach & entry, cost is £24, non members £27. With 9.45am start from Girton Church. **Bookings close 10<sup>th</sup> May.**

**HELMINGHAM HALL GARDENS, SUFFOLK - WEDNESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> JULY** Surrounding a historic moated manor house, there are two modern rose gardens - one in 'Tudor style', with herbaceous borders, plus walled kitchen, knot, herb and wild gardens. Including coach & entry, cost is £19, non members £22. With 10am start from Girton Church. **Bookings close 13<sup>th</sup> June.**

**GIRTON OPEN GARDENS** Kicking off **Feast Week on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> July**, 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**. It doesn't have to be perfect!!

**GIRTON FEAST WEEK FETE SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JULY.** More information will be in the next newsletter but put the date in your diary now. We hope members will provide some lovely pots again, for us to sell. With the Allotment Society we're organising a very informal **MINI SHOW** in the main marquee. There will be competitions for children and adults (cut flowers and vegetables). Full details will be in the May GPN, the Feast Week Programme and on the Events page of our website at [girtongardensociety.co.uk](http://girtongardensociety.co.uk)

**CLUB 55 CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** - On 21<sup>st</sup> November Sam Clift is organising a coach trip with a Christmas dinner at Fakenham Racecourse followed by a matinee performance at the Thursford Christmas Spectacular. Cost £75. All welcome. More details in GPN or from Sam on 01223 564808.

The committee hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. If you can, please come and help at the Plant Sale and don't forget, more information will be available at our meetings and on the website. In the meantime, be thankful the snow has gone and enjoy the first taste of spring and get planting!