

## GIRTON GARDEN SOCIETY AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2014

After a very successful summer we hope everyone is looking forward to an interesting series of meetings over the winter months.

There are several points to raise before the first meeting in October.

The first and most important is the reason why I am writing this newsletter. As many of you will know Janet has stepped down as chairman whilst her daughter Ellie is undergoing treatment for cancer. I am sure you will all join the committee in wishing Ellie a full and speedy recovery and look forward to welcoming Janet back when she feels able. In the meantime the existing committee members will try their best to fill the very considerable gap so please bear with us.

### Winter programme

The first meeting is on Thursday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm St Vincent's Close Community Centre when we welcome Richard Todd, the head gardener at Anglesey Abbey, for what I am sure will be a very enjoyable talk. The competition is 5 stems of one autumn flower and/or a plate of apples or pears (dessert or cooking).

We would like to encourage everyone to have a go at the competitions, the more entries we have the more attractive and varied the table looks. If you are unsure how things should be presented (which I often am) then ask a committee member!!

Don't forget there is a change to your printed programme and that the December meeting will be a quiz organised by Peter Seaber and Fred Northrop.

Finally, if you have friends, neighbours or family who might be interested in joining the Garden Society then please bring them along in October. Guests pay £2 per meeting or there is a reduced joining fee for the rest of this year.

### Membership

Thanks to the plant sale and 'Fun Day' our funds are healthy but any society is only as good as its members. The committee welcomes suggestions from members for talks and activities that would be of interest to everyone. Membership renewal forms will be distributed in November and we hope everyone will rejoin.

Our final meeting of the current programme will be the AGM and social evening on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2015. Last year there was a huge amount of food left over so it was decided that this year we would provide a simpler wine and cheese supper that would still provide a full meal for those who want one and a social occasion for those with smaller appetites!

### Summer successes

Following the very successful plant sale in the spring we surpassed ourselves again at the Family Fun Day on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July thanks to the very generous support of members who donated floral baskets for the raffle and plants for the stall that we shared with the Allotment Society. Not only did we raise £126.04 from the raffle and sale but we also won 'Best dressed stall' on the Tour de France theme. The bunting, decorated bicycle, balloons and of course the wonderful flowers, plants and vegetables did have a distinctly French feel. Thank you again to everyone whose contributions made the day such a success and also helped to raise awareness of the society's importance in our community.

### Best-dressed Stall!



### Visiting Gardens

Many gardens are still worth visiting in autumn. Anglesey Abbey has a spectacular display of dahlias and many of the college gardens can be visited at this time. In February next year we will have a talk from the head gardener at Clare College and hope to be able to follow this with a visit later in the year. Others of local interest include, Dowcra's Manor at Shepreth and The Manor at Hemingford Grey. Looking further ahead Anglesey Abbey has a spectacular festive light display, weekend evenings from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 14<sup>th</sup> December. These sold out last year so book early if you want to go. Scotsdales continue their weekly talks including, in October, 'Choosing the right tree for a small garden', 'Roses' and 'Colour in your garden from autumn through to spring.' Details - 01223 842777

Information on these and others of local interest will be on display at the October meeting.

### Miscellaneous

A reminder to those of you with apple trees. There is now an 'Apple Juice Club' in Girton and for an annual subscription of £7.50 juicing machines and tubs can be borrowed. See GNP for further details.

Finally a big 'thank you' to members who have written contributions to 'Girton Greenfingers' in the GPN. The articles always provide a different perspective on our gardens throughout the year.

Kay Green and the committee