



Girton Garden Society

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2015



JULY Family Fun Day Stall

Dear Member,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer in the garden, despite the rather unreliable weather, and are looking forward to an interesting series of meetings over the winter months.

Winter programme

Our winter programme at St Vincent's Close Community Centre, Girton is as follows:

Thursday October 8th 7.30pm David White 'A Packet of Parsley'

(A talk on his time gardening in London Parks)

Thursday November 12th 7.30pm Gardeners' Question Time

(There will be a box at the October meeting for you to submit some questions that you would like answered or send them by email or phone to one of the committee and we hope to have a fun evening answering them to the best of our ability)

Thursday December 10th Peter Walker 'Winter Wonders and December Delights'

Thursday January 14th AGM and wine and cheese social evening

Competitions The first competition is 5 stems of one autumn flower and/or a plate of apples or pears (dessert or cooking). Others are detailed on your programme. Please have a go, the more entries there are the more cheerful and welcoming the room looks and, after all, we ARE gardeners so displaying some of our efforts shouldn't be embarrassing!

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 can join for the rest of the year up to the AGM for only £5.

Membership Thanks again to the plant sale and 'Fun Day' stall our funds are healthy. The committee welcomes suggestions from all members for talks and activities that would be of interest to everyone. Felicia has already put together a really interesting and varied programme for 2016. Membership renewal forms will be distributed in November and we hope everyone will rejoin. Our annual membership fee is very low and we would like to keep it low but the committee is very aware of rising costs for insurance, room hire and speakers' expenses. At present the extra we make from the plant sale, raffles and the 'Fun Day' just about cover this but all of these activities really depend on the support of all members so please think about this when you are tidying the garden this autumn and pot up a few cuttings or divisions for the plant sale next year or donate a useful prize for the monthly raffle.

Summer events This summer saw our first outing for a while to the RHS garden at Hyde Hall on 17th June. Many thanks to Janet Sheard for organising and co-ordinating this. We had wonderful weather and everyone enjoyed the various parts of the gardens with their different planting styles. Despite offering

the trip to other Garden Societies in the region we still struggled to fill the coach which meant that the Society lost money on the outing. I think all local societies have similar problems so combining forces seems the only way forward if we want to continue offering trips. Comments and opinions from members would be welcome on this.

Family Fun Day on Saturday July 11th the stall we shared with the Allotment Society was very successful. Thanks must go to all members who donated magnificent pots of flowers and plants for sale and those who helped to decorate and man the stall with its 'Dig for Victory' theme. We managed to raise £127 which helps to offset the rising costs I mentioned earlier. Entries to the Competition/ mini show were modest in number but added a delightful feel to both parts of the stall. Peter Seaber kindly judged both the flower entries and the vegetables for the Allotment Society. 'A bunch of summer flowers in a jam jar' was won by Rod Mathie with Rosemary Jones gaining highly commended. 'Three stems of one type of flower' was won by Kay Green with Hilary Duncan gaining highly commended. We hope to build on this next year as Rod (below left), who had never entered anything like it before, was thoroughly delighted with his rosette!



On 22nd July a group visited **Clare College gardens** for a tour with the head gardener Steve Elstub. This was very popular and with easy access from the backs it was suitable for all members. Thanks go to Chris Pittock for organising this.

The last summer event saw Chris and I measuring the sunflowers for the **Girton Sunflower Trail** in early September. The winning entry was 2.9 metres tall and grown by Del Cull and his granddaughter Beth. Many more could be seen around the village which gave a cheery feel to late summer.

Lastly, many of you will have seen in the GPN that Janet's daughter Elly is undergoing immunotherapy treatment funded by the 'Pass it on' Cancer Charity. Janet is having a plant sale on her drive at 46 Cambridge Road on Saturday 26th September from 2-4pm. If you have any spare plants, seeds or bulbs that you are willing to donate then please drop them off to Janet that morning. Otherwise keep an eye open for other events or donate as detailed in the GPN.

We hope to have a new, simple to use PA system in use by the October meeting so that the guest speaker at each meeting will be clearly audible.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to our first meeting in October,

Kay Green, Chris Pittock, Corinna Tabor, Felicia Moor, Janet Sheard and Marion Neville

Contact us at girtongardensociety@outlook.com or phone Kay on 01223276819