



## Girton Garden Society

### MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023



Spring cyclamen and snowdrops

Dear Member,

At last it finally feels as though spring is coming and the aconites, snowdrops, cyclamen and iris reticulata are really putting on a show before the daffodils arrive.

**MEETINGS** have been well attended so far this year. The AGM and social evening was very successful with well over 30 members attending. The committee was re-elected, with Kay as chair again. New members of the committee are always welcome to so do feel free to volunteer, especially if you would enjoy being involved in choosing the speakers for our talks each year.

We have three meetings left before the summer. This month George Lockwood will talk about spring flowering bulbs. In April Simon White from Peter Beales Roses will explain the work that goes into producing gold medal blooms for flower shows and in May we will be able to get up close and personal with the many herbs brought by Zsuzsa Serer in her interactive talk on herbs.

#### **THE PLANT SALE Saturday 13th May from 2pm, at 46, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, GIRTON.**

Janet has kindly offered to host it yet again. It is a great way to publicise the society, boost our finances (to help offset rising speaker expenses) and offer people in the village locally grown plants, seeds and surplus seedlings (tomatoes, herbs, salad seedlings and annual bedding are always very popular). It also showcases the enthusiasm for gardening in our village. We are very aware that this has been a difficult winter with people losing many much loved plants but now is the time to start sowing seeds.. **Please** donate if you feel you can, including cakes, biscuits, jam or garden related products.

**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 look after the plants and deal with money.

**Contributions** 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.

**50% DISCOUNT CARD for entry to RHS GARDENS.** The RHS has provided GGS with a card for members to borrow. It must be booked with Corinna at [girtongardensociety@outlook.com](mailto:girtongardensociety@outlook.com)

**SUMMER VISITS.** There will be two garden visits by coach this year. As with so many things the cost has gone up but we feel they are still good value. Members have priority to book in March; bookings open to non members in April. Posters and notices in the GPN will give prices for non members only.

**VISIT WEDNESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE.** We will go to **Pensthorpe Nature Reserve and Gardens** near Fakenham in Norfolk. This has something for everyone, woodland walks, habitats packed with flora and fauna, a Piet Oudolf garden, a Chelsea garden and much more. (See more details on the booking form or at [www.pensthorpe.com](http://www.pensthorpe.com)) the trip will cost £28 including the coach and entry fee. We will leave Girton Church bus stop at 9.15am and arrive back at about 5pm.

**VISIT WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY.** We will go to **Beth Chatto's Garden** near Colchester in Essex. ([www.bethchatto.co.uk](http://www.bethchatto.co.uk)) This beautiful garden is world famous with a wonderful gravel dry garden and immaculately landscaped lawns, dells and damp woodland areas. All have interesting and unusual plant combinations. The trip will cost £28 including the coach and entry fee. We will leave at 9.15am from the Girton Church bus stop, returning around 5.00pm.

Booking forms containing full details will be sent out with this newsletter. They will also be available as hard copies at the March meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> or be obtained from Wendy Cattell (tel.01223 277534) or by email at [girtongardensociety@outlook.com](mailto:girtongardensociety@outlook.com)

All booking forms must be returned to Wendy as hard copy with a separate cheque for each visit (or cash if necessary). As we expect to sell out, early booking is recommended.

**LOCAL VISIT Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2.30-4.00pm.**

We have been lucky enough to book a visit to Childerley Hall, near Dry Drayton. This will start with a short talk and then a guided tour of the gardens and King Charles Room followed by refreshments in the Chapel. This is a short drive from Girton and we hope that people will share cars to get there. There is a maximum of 25 people for the trip so please book early with Chris. The cost will be £15.

**GIRTON OPEN GARDENS** will be held on Sunday 18th June from 2-5pm. It is now part of an extended Girton Feast Summer Festival. If you feel able to open your garden to raise money to improve the flower displays in the phone box then please contact **Mary Rodger** on 01223 277316. She would certainly appreciate some new gardens to offer visitors. It doesn't have to be perfect and people really do appreciate the opportunity to look at what others grow in their gardens.

**GIRTON FEAST FETE.** More information about this in the next newsletter but put the date in your diary now for **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July**. We will have **A STALL** and hope to have some late summer plants and small succulents for sale. The **MINI SHOW** in conjunction with the Allotment Society will be in the main marquee. There will be competitions for children, (including vegetable monsters), and adults (cut flowers and vegetables). Full details will be in the May GPN and the Feast Summer Festival programme and are already on the Events page of our website at [girtongardensociety.co.uk](http://girtongardensociety.co.uk)

I hope you have found this newsletter useful and informative. 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 and the Committee