



Girton Garden Society

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024



Early bumblebee covered in pollen

Dear Member,

Well it has certainly been warmer for the last few weeks but the relentless rain has made it very difficult to get going in the garden. Spring flowers, though, have been looking wonderful at Anglesey, the Botanic Gardens, the church yard and many other places.

MEETINGS have been well attended so far this year. The AGM and social evening was very successful with well over 40 members attending. The committee was re-elected again and we all enjoyed the light buffet afterwards. Our first talk of the year by Margaret Nimmo-Smith had us thinking about how plants and garden design go in and out of fashion.

This month, on 13th March, Barry Gayton will be our guest at a Question and Answer session. This will work best if you submit some questions in advance (to our email address) and/or bring questions, plants or photos on the night for identification or concerns about pests and diseases.

In April Paula Dyason from Strictly Day Lilies in Histon will talk us through everything we need to know about growing these popular plants and hopefully we will be able to visit on her open day. In May Sharka Baxter will offer us ideas and solutions to improve our least loved parts of our gardens.

THE PLANT SALE Saturday 4th 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. **Please** donate plants and seeds if you feel you can, or even 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 affiliated societies' members to borrow. Book with Corinna at girtongardensociety@outlook.com

SUMMER VISITS. There will be two garden visits by coach this year. **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 26th JUNE. We will go to **Easton Walled Garden** Grantham NG33 5AP www.visiteaston.co.uk The gardens have been developed over centuries and cover 2 acres with many different areas including meadows, alpine, a cottage garden, a white garden and, of course, their famous sweet peas which should be at their best when we go. The trip will cost £23 including the coach and entry fee. We will leave Girton Church bus stop at 9.30 am and arrive back at about 5pm.

VISIT WEDNESDAY 17th JULY. We will go to **Wrest Park** near Silsoe MK45 4HR www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wrest-park . This is a 90 acre historic park with parterres and borders reflecting French, Dutch, Italian and English landscaping design. Expect to walk quite long distances to explore the whole park. The mansion House, Orangery and Drawing Room may also be open. The trip will cost £23 including the coach and entry fee. If you are an English Heritage member then entry with your card is free and you will only pay the coach fare of £13. We will leave at 9.15 am 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 13th or can be obtained from Wendy Cattell (tel.01223 277534) or by email at 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 5th JUNE 2.30-4.00pm. We have booked a visit to Pippa and Steve Temple's lovely garden at The Windmill, 10 Cambridge Rd, Impington, CB24 9NU. We will start with an introduction and refreshments followed by tours of the extensive garden and hopefully the windmill for those brave enough to climb the ladders! The cost, including tea, will be £10 per person and will go to the charities supported by the NGS.

GIRTON OPEN GARDENS will be held on Sunday 16th June from 2-5pm. 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 13th 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 are already on the Events page of our website at girtongardensociety.co.uk

In the meantime enjoy the first taste of spring and get planting!

Kay and all the Committee