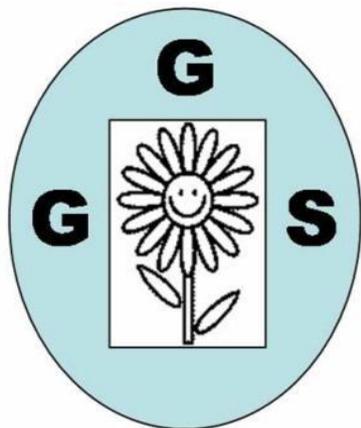


MARCH NEWSLETTER 2026



Girton Garden Society



Iris unguicularis

Dear Member,

Will it ever stop raining? (I am writing in February) Hopefully the spring bulbs are now fully here and bringing some joy.

MEETINGS have been well attended so far this year. The AGM and social evening was an enjoyable event. Many thanks go to Mary, who stood down from the committee, and to the rest of the members who were re-elected. Our first talk of the year was by Steve Coghill, Head Gardener at Kings' College, telling us about the creation of the now iconic wildflower meadow behind the chapel. Anyone living within 10 miles of the college can get a yearly pass for £20 to walk through the gardens and visit the chapel from shop@kings.cam.ac.uk. On 11th March, Jenny Marks, the Cambridge County Organiser for the National Garden Scheme will give us a brief history of the NGS and show us some of the best local gardens to visit. On April 8th, Kim O'Brien will give us a master class on growing dahlias and in May Keith Jordan, Deputy Head Gardener at Murray Edwards College, will talk about changes in the garden there with an emphasis on sustainability, biodiversity and wellbeing plus answering some of our questions. We will ask you to submit these before the session.

THE PLANT SALE Saturday 2nd May from 2pm, at 46, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, GIRTON.

Janet has kindly offered to host it yet again. It is a great way to publicise our society, boost our finances 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. **Last year we used some of the money raised to donate to the NGS which supports many charities and hope to do so again this year.**

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. It will be **CASH ONLY** so please remind any friends who may come.

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.

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 10th JUNE. We will visit **Helmingham Hall Gardens**, Stowmarket IP14 6EF www.helmingham.com.

We will leave Girton Church bus stop at 9.30 am and arrive back at about 5.00 pm. **The cost**, including coach, entry fee (£9.50) and driver's tip, will be **£23** per person. The wonderful gardens, created by the current Lady Tollemache, a Chelsea gold medal winner, surround a moated hall that was completed in 1510 for the family. The gardens include herbaceous borders, and walled kitchen, herb, rose and wildflower gardens. There is also a 400 acre deer park.

Facilities: These include the Coach House Tearoom, Ice cream parlour and Coffee shop plus the Stables Shops with gifts, Suffolk crafts and plants from the Helmingham Nursery.

Accessibility: The site is wheelchair accessible and staff will point out alternative routes for those with wheelchairs or walking aids.

VISIT WEDNESDAY 15th JULY. We will visit **East Ruston Old Vicarage Gardens**, Norfolk NR12 9HN. www.eastrustonoldvicarage.co.uk.

We will leave Girton Church bus stop at 9.45 am to arrive at 12, when they open and arrive back at about 6.30 pm. **The cost**, including coach, driver's tip and entry fee (£15.50 - expensive but less than Hyde Hall or Anglesey Abbey), is **£34** per person.

The gardens were established in 1973 by Alan Gray and Graham Robeson as a 32 acre garden close to the North Sea surrounded by arable prairie. It incorporates exuberant and innovative planting as well as more traditional formal designs.

Facilities: There are two Tea Rooms with plenty of indoor and outdoor seating in sun and shade. Light lunches and locally sourced cakes are available. The Plant Sales and Nursery contains plants that are propagated from those grown in the garden.

Accessibility: There are woodlands, meadows and lawns which may be difficult for those with mobility problems.

Booking forms containing full details are being emailed with this newsletter. They will also be available as hard copies at the March meeting on Wednesday 11th or can be obtained from Chris Pittock (tel.01223 277381) or by email at girtongardensociety@outlook.com. **You can pay by cash or bank transfer; the details are on the booking forms.**

GIRTON OPEN GARDENS will be held on Sunday 14th June with half the village in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. More details at the next meeting.

GIRTON FEAST FETE. More information about this in the next newsletter but put the date in your diary now for **Saturday 11th 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. 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

