



Girton Garden Society

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2026



Mini Show flower entries

Dear Member,

As I write there has been a little significant rain but the cracks in the garden are still both deep and wide. It has certainly been the most challenging summer so far. The winter prediction is for a strong El Nino which will bring heavy rain and fierce winds plus a new set of problems. We gardeners are becoming a resilient force and adapting as best we can to the changing patterns of weather and climate. It isn't easy but it is necessary.

Girton Feast Week and Mini Show These were very successful as usual. Our stall with the Allotment Society sold a range of small plants, herbs and succulents, which raised another £82.80. In addition we jointly organised the Mini Show which was well supported with many entries despite the weather. You can find the Mini Show results at <https://girtongardensociety.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/girton-mini-show-20261.pdf> and photos are in the website's 'gallery'.

As always we would like to thank all those who helped on the day.

We will also give a donation of £200 to the National Garden Scheme to support all their worthwhile charities.

Summer visits to Helmingham Hall and The Old Vicarage, East Ruston

These both went well thanks to the excellent organisation by Janet and Chris. Both gardens were suffering from the drought conditions but the borders at Helmingham were still spectacular and, though rain threatened, the thunderstorm waited until we were in the coach home with plants safely stowed away. Our trip to The Old Vicarage was eventful but our young driver managed to get a replacement coach with air conditioning for the return journey. Everyone enjoyed its unique gardens with so many inspiring combinations of plants and different environments that it made up for the long journey there and back.



Helmingham Hall



The Old Vicarage



Summer Garden Meetings

August

September

August brought a hot sunny day for the meeting in Chris's garden which was enjoyed by all. A cooler day in September resulted in another good turnout and an enjoyable afternoon.



The Autumn Programme Our meetings resume at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday of every month at the William Collyn Community Centre. Our first talk on October 14th will be by Nigel Start whose subject is 'Getting to grips with pruning in a changing climate' which I am sure we will all find very useful.

Tea rota We have helpers for the October meeting but need volunteers for November and December. Please contact Karen at k.m.richardson.1157@gmail.com or on 01223 520584 to offer your services or sign up at the October meeting. It is quite an easy task and if we have enough volunteers you only need to do it once a year.

The raffle will be organised by Janet as usual so do bring some change.

After such a difficult summer of heat and drought, some cooler weather is very welcome and our meetings provide an opportunity to meet and discuss how we deal with all the environmental challenges.

If anyone has difficulty travelling to meetings please get in touch with us as I am sure there are members who would be willing to pick up an extra person on the way.

Plant Heritage is having its annual Max Walters Memorial Lecture on Saturday 21st November 2026 at 2.30pm at the William Collyn Community Centre. 'The centenary of The National Garden Scheme' Tickets are £17 (£12 for PH members) from Rosemary Buisseret on ppsrjb@gmail.com or for more information.

One note of caution I'd like to continue to make is that Covid has not disappeared. If you feel at all unwell please do not come to meetings.

I hope everyone is now feeling more positive about their gardens and enjoying the new season. If you have a particularly lovely flower or plant that you would like to share then do bring it along to the meeting for us all to see.

With very best wishes from Kay and all the committee

Kay Green, Chris Pittock, Corinna Tabor, Felicia Moor, Ruth Reynolds and Margaret Creighton

Contact us at girtongardensociety@outlook.com or phone Kay on 01223 276819