

1 Front Drive



2 Girton Column



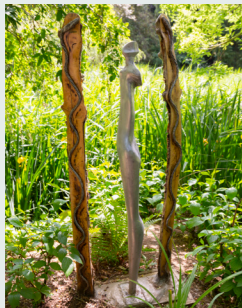
3 Cloister Court and Eliza Baker Court



4 Woodlands Court



5 Christine Fox



6 Campbell Court



7 Chapel Lawn



8 Mare's Run



9 The Working Garden and the Sports Ground



15 Emily Davies Court



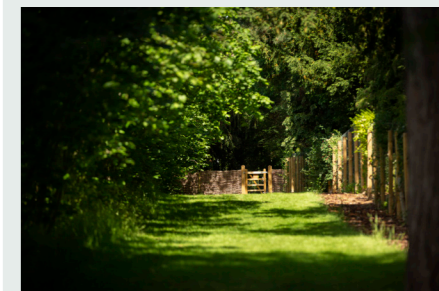
14 Orchard Drive



13 Old Orchard



12 Honeysuckle Walk



11 Ash Court and Yew Walk



10 Fellows' Garden and Pond



GIRTON COLLEGE



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Huntingdon Road

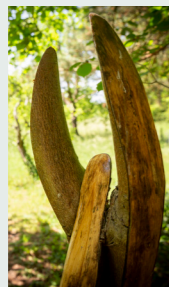
Introduction

'...with gardens and grounds and everything that is good for body, soul and spirit'
Emily Davies 1866

Girton occupies one of the largest sites (55 acres) of any College of Cambridge University and its pastoral setting is unique, a green and spacious gateway into the city. The garden, established early in the College's history and still retaining much of its original structure and design, is a delightful combination of wild woodland, formal spaces, meadows, sports fields and orchard, all enclosed in a fine shelter belt of mature trees filtering views in and out. The spirit of Girton, thriving and flourishing, is as much embodied in its lovely and inspiring gardens as in the ambitious architecture of the buildings they surround.

5 Christine Fox

Christine Fox (1922–2012) was a local sculptor whose work can be seen in several Cambridge Colleges (including Clare Hall and Jesus, as well as Girton). The first work acquired by Girton was *The Sentinel*, which stands in Woodlands Court. This figure in Welsh slate was bought to commemorate Professor Alison Fairlie, the money being contributed by friends and former students. The other pieces were gifts from Fox's daughter, Alison Mitchell, after her mother's death. A silvery *Goddess*, with attendant serpents, stands beside the pond, while two wooden *Gazelles* guard the entrance to the Honeysuckle and Cobnut Walk.



11 Ash Court (2013) and Yew Walk (1893)

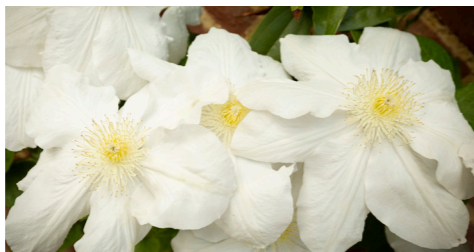
Through the gap in the yew hedge, turn right along Orchard drive and then left for a glimpse into Ash Court, the planting designed by landscape architect Brita von Schoenaich, featuring several snowy mespilus trees (*Amelanchier lamarckii*), grasses, fennel, Japanese anemones and shade loving viburnums under Old and Orchard wings. Refreshments are available in the Social Hub, accessed via the Ash Court colonnade and through the colonnade door. Turn round and back to Orchard Drive and enter the sheltered Yew Walk, an early feature of the historic garden, and turn left arriving at Honeysuckle Walk.

1 Front Drive

The Founders' vision thrives and is remembered in the Girton gardens. Standing in front of the Tower archway you hear the rooks chattering in the Horse Chestnut trees, given as seedlings in 1876 by Lady Stanley of Alderley from her garden in Wales. To your left, looking towards the Stanley Library is Emily Davies Court, where this circular tour begins and ends. The artistic influence of Barbara Bodichon is notable in the early realised aspirations for the Girton landscape. A trio of flowering cherry trees and the snowdrops, crocuses and aconites planted all along the drive herald spring at Girton. To your right is the Chapel Lawn, with the maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), wisteria and magnolia along the front walls and the rusted COR-TEN steel sculpture called *Girton Column*.

6 Campbell Court

Pass through the Hyphen Gate to Campbell Court, established and recently replanted by the generosity of former Mistress, Juliet Campbell. Along the wall are climbers, including *Clematis* 'Marie Boisselot' transplanted from Wolfson Court. *Photinia* standard trees and laurel hedges provide shade and structure and beds of lavender and rosemary, geraniums and day lilies make this a tranquil spot for exam term revision.



12 Honeysuckle Walk (1884)

Established under Mistress Marianne Bernard In 1884 Honeysuckle Walk was renovated by the garden team as their contribution to the 2019 anniversary, and by the generous gift of Baroness Higgins. There is a wide variety of honeysuckles on the right hand border, to the left, a stretch of Cobnut trees underplanted with spring bulbs. The Nut Walk is a rare garden feature and nationally significant. At the end of the grassed walk, the Artist's Studio is on your right, with its water tower and in the distance the Grange, purchased by the College in 1936. Go through the Christine Fox *Gazelle* gateway on the left, into Old Orchard.

2 Girton Column

'From the earliest sacred trees & standing stones through to ancient Egypt & classical antiquity onwards, the column has acted as a powerful symbol of life; ...The two main column types of classical Greece, the Doric & the Ionic, were assigned genders, with the Doric as male & the Ionic as female: the Doric was plain, heavy and unadorned; the Ionic was more slender & had a capital of plant-like volutes. The body metaphor rooted the buildings in the landscape, helping to make them seem more at one with nature. The geometry of the sculpture has a plain & perhaps 'Doric' side set at right angles to an 'Ionic' side with traces of volute shapes. As you move around the sculpture the two interlocked motifs appear to merge as equals...'
Paul de Monchaux 2012

7 Chapel Lawn

Pass through the gate far right, to Chapel lawn. The weeping purple beech, (*Fagus sylvatica purpurea pendula*) known as the Visitor's tree was planted by HRH the Queen Mother for the 1969 centenary celebration. Other specimen trees here include the tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), the tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Monkey Puzzle, (*Araucaria araucana*), European larch (*Larix decidua*) and several medlars. Growing on the end Chapel wall is a Turkey fig, with apricot along the Duke Building. Narcissi are massed under the trees in spring. Turn left, past the sundial on the Library wall dedicated to the memory of Dr Caroline Bammel, and head towards Mare's Run.

13 Old Orchard (1893)

Covering two acres, the Orchard was established by Elizabeth Welsh to provide fruit for the College kitchens. With more than 40 rare varieties of plum, pear and apple, it is stewarded by Life Fellow Dr Roland Randall, and managed and conserved as an historic orchard of national significance. Windfalls are deliberately left for wildlife and the grass with wildflowers kept long to encourage biodiversity. It is a haven for birds, insects, mammals and rare mosses and lichens. Surveys in the 1980s recorded more than 60 bird species and 100 varieties of moth. Undergraduate Stewart Rosell is repeating the moth surveys throughout the anniversary year. Follow the mown paths to the clearing where new trees have been planted for the 2019 anniversary. Exit to Orchard drive.

3 Cloister Court (1901)

Passing under the Tower, climbed, it is said, by Elizabeth Welsh (Mistress 1885–1903) to design the borders and paths of the historic garden, enter Cloister Court, where an original walnut tree still stands in front of the Dining Hall, among the limes and a large bay tree. On your left, silk tassel bush (*Garrya elliptica*) is planted along the walls and to the right a hedge of sweet box (*Sarcococca sp.*). Head towards the Elephants' Ears doors in the far-right corner, enter the building, turn right and then left.

Eliza Baker Court (1932)

Through the window is Eliza Baker Court, a gift to the College from Oswald Lewis and named for his mother who matriculated in 1872. It was designed by Michael Waterhouse as a garden for the Fellows' Rooms and completed in 1932. The central pool is surrounded by York paving and Westmorland slate and the garden is planted with hydrangea, Photinia, lavender, catmint, rosemary and magnolia. Agapanthus does well here in summer.

8 Mare's Run

Mare's Run is sown as a wildflower meadow and is mown twice annually, in spring and after flowering. The trees here are mainly mixed native woodland, with some giant redwoods (*Sequoiadendron giganteum*) and there are drifts of bluebells in spring. Bear left along New Wing, past a trio of walnut trees. Beyond the beech far to your right is a drystone wall sculpture by Tom Barnett, Girton's first Artist in Residence 2013–14 and entitled *The Thing Is In Tension With The Idea Of The Thing* (2013). His work is inspired by landscape, particularly that of West Yorkshire and the Calder Valley where he grew up. Turn left at the end of New Wing towards the Hockey Pitch, now home to grass tennis courts and volleyball in summer.

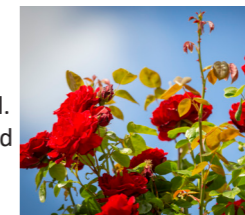
14 Orchard Drive

Pass the mature pines (*Pinus nigra*) and our only plane tree on your right, with views right to the new (2019) hard tennis courts and the practice pitches. The left hand border is planted with silver birch, spring bulbs and wildflowers, including drifts of cowslips in May. Turn left at the turret and enter Emily Davies Court.



4 Woodlands Court (1934)

Turn right and exit the buildings to Woodlands Court where students were first allowed to sunbathe (decorously) in the 1930s. The walls are planted with *Pyrocantha* and roses, including 'Gloire de Dijon' and the dramatic dark red 'Ena Harkness'. Five lime trees shelter the hellebores planted along the south wall. In the centre a paved area is planted with *Miscanthus* grasses.



9 The Working Garden and Sports Grounds

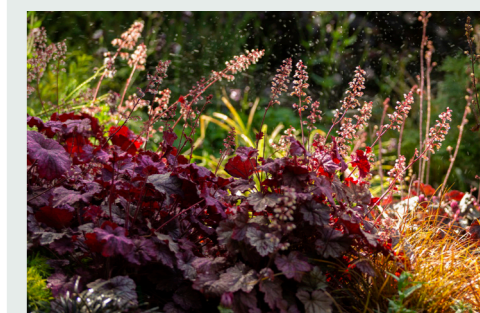
Passing along the Hockey Pitch, edged with mixed native woodland, laburnum and an ironwood tree (*Olneya tesota*), head towards the Maintenance building with its clock tower; behind it are the garden and grounds departments. Self sufficient in vegetables until just after World War II, home grown production peaked under Chrystabel Proctor's stewardship. The Pig Club, whose charges were housed in the Orchard, was wound up in 1955 and immortalised by the weathervane. Turn right towards the Crewdson Field sports grounds. Unlike most Cambridge Colleges, Girton has its football, rugby and cricket pitches on site. To the right is the John Marks Sports Pavilion, commemorating Girton's first male Fellow, Director of Studies in Medicine 1977–1991 and indefatigable supporter of College sport.

15 Emily Davies Court

The most formally planted of all the gardens was once home to 9 grass tennis courts. Construction works in the 1870–80s uncovered an Anglo Saxon cemetery (finds preserved in the Lawrence Room). Specimen cedars dominate the lawns. Gertrude Jekyll provided planting schemes for the borders, some of which survive. Fuschias, salvias, tree peonies, cotoneaster, hydrangea and mahonia provide year round colour and structure, with white and blue wisteria and clematis along the walls. The deep red 150th anniversary rose, *Emily Davies*, is planted where the path turns right from Hospital wing towards the Stanley Library. Follow the path to the Emily Davies door, where the first students were greeted on their arrival to the new buildings in 1873. Pass the Stanley Library to return to the Front Drive.

10 Fellows' Garden and Pond

About turn and bear right across the former croquet lawn to the Fellows' Garden, hedged with beech and yew. Established by Elizabeth Welsh, the garden was redesigned by alumna Penelope Hobhouse in 1992 and incorporates an outdoor theatre. The central pergola supports roses and crab apple, with ornamental pear trees at either end and is underplanted with dahlias, sedums and irises. In the far left hand corner go through the gate and follow the path around the pond. The Pond is the result of gravel excavations for the construction of the Stanley Library in 1884, and is planted with yellow flag irises, waterlilies, *Gunnera* and *Sedum spp.* It is home to roach, tench, moorhens and a legendary terrapin. To the right, at the end of the path is Miss Butler's Mound (Mistress 1942–49), a secluded spot, with *Buddleia*, Heuchera and Peony.



Comments and questions on the gardens are most welcome:
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Please follow us on Instagram
www.instagram.com/girtongardens

With many thanks to Girton's Gardens and Grounds Team.