



THE BRITISH IRIS SOCIETY

The British Iris Society is a Registered Charity No. 261896
Membership Secretary Mr Jake Croft
Lampport Hall, Lampport, Northamptonshire, NN6 9HD
e-mail: membership@britishirissociety.org.uk

Lecture Day & AGM Saturday 16th September 2023



This year we are having our 100th AGM in the grade 1 listed Lampport Hall in the Northamptonshire countryside it will be a pleasure to welcome you here to my work and home. This fine setting which was originally a Tudor manor house but now boasts a John Webb classical frontage is set within 10 acres of gardens and enclosed by protected parkland which you will

drive through upon arrival. The day will begin at 10am with Coffee and biscuits inside the Hall which interestingly is also home to the oldest garden gnome in the world. Following the morning coffee we will have the AGM which will be achieved as briefly as possible at 11am. We then move on to our first speaker of the day at 11:30am.

Jos Smit who I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years, he knows all there is to know about the bulb industry and the company he works for is in my opinion the best in the world for quality and innovation. He is travelling over from Holland to give his talk on bulbs and all the wonderful work he gets up too. He supplies lots of famous gardens all over the UK and can usually be found at flower shows and trade shows. If timings go to plan there may also be some bulb planting happening on the day with a new machine that Jos's company is using now in the UK.



We will then have a buffet lunch in the Hall provided by Sauls of Spratton who have an award winning bakehouse here on the Lamport estate and use lots of local produce. At around 2pm we then have our next speaker.

Kit Strange many of you will know Kit from her involvement in the Alpine Garden Society and her work in the Alpine department at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew. Kit has travelled extensively in her search for plants and has a passionate interest in the Iridaceae. Her talk will include some of the Iris she has seen growing in Turkey, including several Juno irises.



After all that there is time for a cup of tea and I will be doing a tour of the gardens here at Lamport for anyone that would like to hear a little bit of the history and what we are getting up to in the gardens including the BIS trials. Also for the rest of the afternoon you can just explore the gardens at your leisure. There is also a small rural life museum and the Summer Open Exhibition for Northants Open Studios for you to explore local artwork from talented artists in the stableyard from 10am – 4pm all weekend.

In the evening there is an optional (not included in the ticket price) evening meal in The Swan at Lamport pub at 7pm, please let Jill or myself know if you would like to join us, you will be most welcome. The menu can be found on the website.

www.theswanatlamport.co.uk



Here is a list of local B&B's for anyone wanting to stop over. They are not recommendations as I have never stopped in any of them myself so please also do your own checks to make sure they are suitable.

The Stag, Maidwell Harborough Rd, Northampton, Northamptonshire NN6 9JA
<https://www.the-stag-maidwell.co.uk/>

The Coach & Horses, Brixworth Harborough Rd, Brixworth, Northampton NN6 9BX
<https://www.coachandhorsesbrixworth.co.uk/>

Church Farm Lodge, High St, Harrington, Northampton NN6 9NT
<https://www.churchfarmlodge.com/>

The Bulls Head, 6 Kelmars Rd, Arthingworth, Market Harborough LE16 8JZ
<https://bullsheedarthingworth.co.uk/>

There is also a Premier Inn in Kettering and Market Harborough along with other hotels. I would suggest staying in the lovely market town of Market Harborough it is only 15min drive from Lamport.

There is also a holiday cottage on the Lamport estate which can be found on the website. I would suggest emailing the estate office if you would like to enquire about renting it for the weekend.

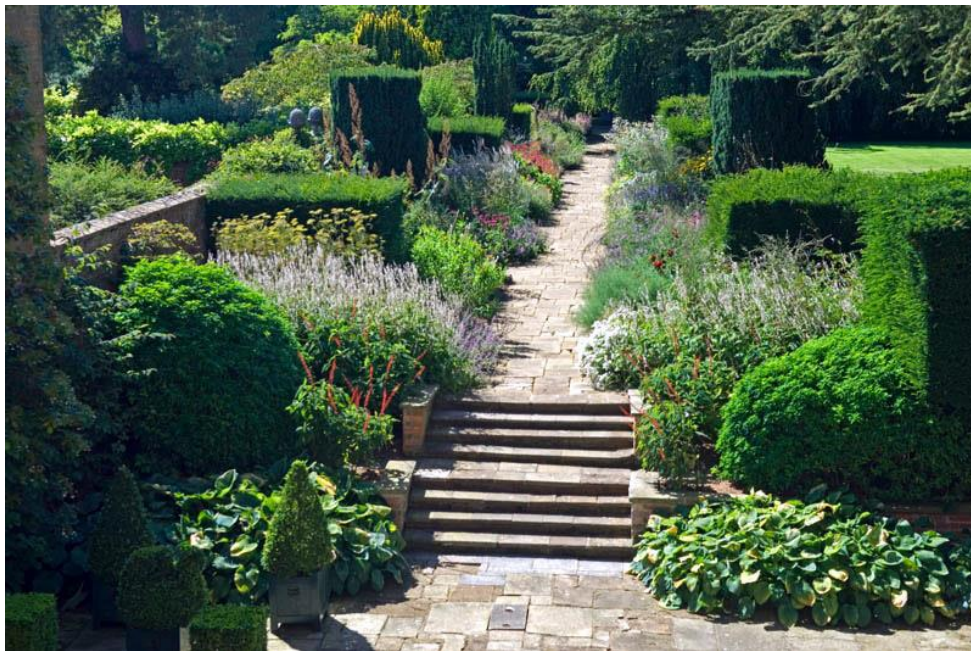
<https://www.lamporthall.co.uk/>



On **Sunday 17th** we have also arranged a very special visit to Cottesbrooke Hall which is one of the neighbouring estates to Lampport. The



gardens at Cottesbrooke are beautiful and it has to be one of my all-time favourites. We will have a guided tour of the garden by the head gardener Gráinne, who worked at Highgrove before taking the lead at Cottesbrooke. Also, tea and cake. We will meet at Cottesbrooke just before 10am, NN6 8PF.



In the tranquil Wild Garden, laid out around a stream, you can enjoy wildflowers, specimen acers, bamboos and gunneras. The more

formal gardens surrounding the Hall are a series of individually planted 'rooms'. There are pergolas, statues and rose borders, double herbaceous borders, pools and lily ponds and, on the south front, the formal parterre. The gardens run to 13 acres in total.

A number of distinguished designers have been involved in the development of the gardens: Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and Dame Sylvia Crowe in the middle of the 19th-century and more recently James Alexander Sinclair and Arne Maynard.

Costs

There is a small charge of £15 per member for the Lecture Day which includes all refreshments, the talks and the Lamport garden tour.

Friends, if they wish to join us would also be very welcome (£20). There will be no charge for members who wish to attend the AGM only.

Payment can be by cheque payable to The British Iris Society and sent to:

Chris Towers,
40 Willow Park,
Otford,
Sevenoaks,
Kent
TB14 5NF.

Or can be paid by direct bank transfer (Account No: 4036 7842 Sort Code 20-41-12 using your surname and 'AGM' as reference). However, it would also be helpful if you could email Jill if you wish to attend and also if you have any special dietary requirements. Email: info@britishirissociety.org.uk or 01568 720129

The optional Evening meal can be paid for on the night for those that wish to attend.

For the **Sunday** the cost is £30pp to include garden entrance, the tour and refreshments. Numbers are limited so please do book early as this is an exceptional garden with many different features to enjoy. Please use the same payment methods as above with the reference 'Sunday' and make sure to inform Jill or myself if you would like to attend.

Lastly, I am really looking forward to ending the summer in style with everyone having an enjoyable weekend.

All the best,

Jake