Visitors’ Guide, Autumn-Winter
Welcome to the Gardens!

Christ’s College Gardens are open to members of the public free of charge. The College’s entrance is through the Great Gate on St Andrew’s Street. The Gardens include botanically important trees, shrubs, and borders, as well as sculptures and artwork.

**Opening times** (except during quiet periods around exams):

- **The College**: 9am - 4pm throughout the week
- **Fellows’ Garden**: 9am - 4pm Monday to Friday

Cover images from top left: Sorbus scalaris; Metasequoia glyptostroboides; Fellows’ Garden; Prunus lusitanica.

(All photographs courtesy of Gardening Team)
First Court:
The oldest part of the College built around 1505; it contains a circular lawn - the only one in any of the Cambridge Colleges. The enclosed nature of this court creates a microclimate allowing us to grow tender specimen plants. The court is bordered by a variety of shrubs. A magnificent *Wisteria sinensis* (1) covers the south facing wall. It is thought to be around 200 years old.

Second Court:
Second Court consists of formal lawns bordered by an informal planting scheme. There is a long herbaceous border on the western side of the court (2). The buildings that surround the court date to around 1640. They are bordered by lush summer bedding.
This court features an extensive collection of Irises (3). This collection began in 1946, when the college received a large number of Irises from Mrs Zeligman. Today, the garden contains more than 70 different Iris species, some of them recent additions since the court was redesigned in 2014.

The garden was redesigned by the Honorary Garden Steward, Dr. Ingham. The sketch on the left shows the early design, featuring cloud-pruned *Taxus baccata* hedge and borders around the Irises. *Malus trilobata* provides height and interest all year round.

The *Iris reticulata* (right) flowers in late January and February. We have created various situations in which different Iris can thrive, from highly acidic borders to boggy borders. Recently, we have been bringing in more pre-1940’s Irises - these are considered the most purely formed Bearded Iris.
The Darwin Garden was created in 2009 to commemorate Charles Darwin’s revolutionary contribution to the Natural Sciences. The Darwin Garden officially opened on 20 February 2009 as part of the Darwin Bicentenary celebrations. The garden features a statue of the naturalist (right), which was sculpted by Anthony Smith.

The garden is planted with a selection of plants that Darwin would have encountered in his botanical voyage on the HMS Beagle. Examples include Kniphofia uvaria ‘Nobilis’ and Acacia pravissima (pictured below).
In 1825 this two acre plot was structured with informal borders, shrubs, trees, and winding paths, reflecting the ideas of J.C. Loudon, whose intention was “to display the individual beauty of trees, shrubs and plants in a state of nature.”

Beside the path on the east side of the Fellows’ Garden stands *Platanus x hispanica* (5) (bottom left). This enormous tree is thought to be more than 200 years old. It is one of the largest specimens in Cambridge. The Malcolm Bowie Bathing Pool (bottom centre) is situated near the bottom of the garden (6). The pool is said to date to the mid-18th century, which would make it one of the oldest swimming pools in the country. The photo at the bottom right shows *Camassia cusickii* flowering in the Fellows’ Garden.
The Gardeners’ Yard (7) (right) is located in the north-eastern corner of the Fellows’ Garden. Here the gardeners propagate and store plants for the Garden. Notable features include the Victorian Greenhouse (bottom right) and a fine specimen of *Arbutus x andracnoides*.

West of the Gardeners’ Yard is Milton’s Mulberry Tree (*Morus nigra*) (8) (left). It was grown from a root of the original Mulberry Tree, which was planted in 1608. The tree has been propped up by large wooden posts since it was up-rooted during the storm of 1795. It provides a good crop of mulberries in the summer. The gardeners pick these and bring them to the kitchens, where they are used to make jam.

The Fellows’ Garden is home to five bee hives (9). The bees pollinate the plants and produce honey. Once the honey has been collected in the summer, the Fellows are given a jar each.
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Gardening Staff

Top row: Andy Pullin
Deputy Head Gardener
Sergio Ballarin
Head Gardener

Bottom row: Tania Pauley
Gardener
Jenny Allwood
Gardener
Martin Morris
Gardener