

# Edgworth and District Horticultural Society

## *4-Day Holiday 2019*

### **GARDENS OF HAMPSHIRE**

Please note that Aviemore Garden (originally planned as our last visit on Sunday) has decided to close indefinitely. We will instead visit a superb garden of similar small size. Rotherfield Greys and have rearranged the order of visits.



This year we are heading south, eventually nearly to the coast. With so many wonderful gardens to choose from, the itinerary has again taken several evenings of planning. The plan of visits may need adjustment if any garden / owner has a problem (usually a smaller garden). If this happens there are many beautiful substitutes.

As usual we will meet our coach in Edgworth / Bromley Cross and this will take us all the way to our destinations (hotel and gardens).

We will be based at the 4-star rated Holiday Inn in Winchester. This is situated about 3km (2 miles) outside the town. Our hotel has a "Fitness Centre" (no pool) in case any of us feel like a work-out each day!!

On Saturday we break our journey at the little known Witley Court where we can lunch and which we think you will find amazing.

On Sunday we travel to the west of Southampton (in about an hour) for 3 fascinating gardens and on Monday stay quite close to Winchester and include a visit to the famous Sir Harold Hillier Garden.

Please bear in mind that visits to beautiful and varied gardens may include uneven surfaces, slopes and steps. We have planned an itinerary with 3 visits (one of which is a small garden) on both of our full days. We try to achieve a good balance between visiting an interesting variety of gardens whilst having sufficient time at each to explore and enjoy them. A super garden may leave us wanting to stay longer but tastes vary and who knows what we'd miss if we did?

*Phil Broughton and Jean Turner*

Edgworth Horticultural Society

## Gardens of Hampshire

27 – 30 July 2019 from £459.00



### Itinerary

#### Saturday 27 July 2019

We depart by coach from our local area and head for our first visit to **Witley Court and Gardens**, one of England's great country houses that played host to many extravagant parties. In 1937 a major fire caused great damage but today you can explore the ruins and learn the stories behind the people who once lived and partied here from servants to royal visitors. There will also be an opportunity to wander through the glorious gardens with vibrant flower beds, ornate terraces and pavilions and of course see the spectacular Perseus and Andromeda fountain.



We will also visit **Witley Parish Church**. Untouched by the fire this delightful church with its amazing Italianate Baroque interior is a must-see. Lunch will be available in the nearby **Garden Tea Rooms** (not included).

We then continue to our hotel at the **Holiday Inn Winchester**. Dinner will be served in the evening.

#### Sunday 28 July 2019

Following breakfast our first visit today is to Rotherfield Greys at New Milton. This 1 acre garden features vibrant borders of Sanguisorba, salvia, lobelia, dahlia, canna and helenium. There are stunning ancient olive trees; a large oak pergola; bog gardens oozing with interest; a romantic white garden; a hosta and begonia gazebo; gushing water features, a wildflower meadow and woodland walk with spotting trail. The owners have kindly agreed that we can visit before a National Gardens Scheme opening in the afternoon and have offered to open their tea room for our morning refreshments.

We continue to near-by **Apple Court Garden** which was created over 30 years ago, in the abandoned walled kitchen garden of Yeatton House, by horticulturalists Diana Grenfell and Roger Grounds. The formal garden is just over one acre and is situated less than a mile from the sea. Mature oak and

ash trees surround the perimeter to shelter the plants from the coastal winds. The garden is a plant lovers paradise with many unusual and mature flowers, shrubs and trees from around the world. There are also grass borders, a fern walk, woodland borders and sub-tropical gardens.



Our final visit today is to **Exbury Gardens**, where we will be able to buy lunch. These contain some of the finest collections of trees and shrubs in the British Isles. There is much to enjoy here, especially a very large collection of ornamental trees. Some of these are superb old specimens; a group of cedars of Lebanon are among the most beautiful in England. For an additional cost (payable on

the day) you may wish to take a trip on the miniature steam railway which follows a one and a quarter mile circular route and is a wonderful way to see the garden. We return to our hotel in time for dinner.

### **Monday 29 July 2019**

Following breakfast we travel to **Mottisfont Abbey (NT)**, a romantic house set in riverside gardens. Maud Russell made Mottisfont her home in the 1930s, bringing artists to the house to relax and create works inspired by the history of the house. There is a top-floor gallery in the house today with an art collection and exhibitions. Ancient trees, rolling lawns and bubbling brooks surround the house.



Next we visit **Sir Harold's Hillier Garden & Arboretum**. The unique collection of plants, make this arguably the best Arboretum and nursery in Britain. Several National Collections of plants are held, including cotoneaster, dogwoods, hazels and hornbeams, but every genus of hardy woody plants in the British Isles is represented, and it is a great delight to see so many fine plants in close proximity. The nursery offers an excellent collection of plants for sale. Lunch is available here (not included).

Our last visit today is to **Little Court**, Crawley, a 3-acre walled country garden with a Victorian apple orchard, woodland planting and a traditional walled kitchen garden.

We return to our hotel for our final dinner.

## Tuesday 30 July 2019

Following breakfast we check out of our hotel. This morning we visit **Longstock Water Garden and Nursery**. With its varied habitats, the garden provides the ideal environment for cultivating a great diversity of water-loving plants. Aquatics like the water violet, shallow-water marginal plants like flowering rushes, bog plants like primulas: you'll often find numerous varieties of a



single species, as well as some very rare specimens. There are over eighty different types of water lily alone. The nursery is also home to the NCCPG National Collection of Buddleia, over 100 different varieties, many of which are displayed for sale in the nursery's beds. Refreshments are available here (not included).

Our final visit is to **Birmingham Botanical Gardens**, a 15-acre Botanical Garden situated near the city centre. The gardens have been opened to the public since 1832. The highlight of your visit will be the four Glasshouses where you will find many exotic and unusual plants not usually found in the UK. Within the gardens, which are also home to the British National Bonsai Collection, there are over 7,000 different plants to be found in the gardens. The gardens have a Café at which lunch is possible (not included).

We continue our journey back to our original departure point where we expect to arrive early evening.

### Included in the price

- 3 nights' dinner, bed and breakfast at the Holiday Inn Winchester. All rooms have private facilities
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to Witley Court and Gardens including the church, Exbury Gardens, Apple Court Garden, Aviemore Garden, Mottisfont Abbey, Sir Harold Hillier Garden, Little Court Garden, Longstock Water Garden and Birmingham Botanic Garden
- Services of a Brightwater Holidays Tour Manager

### Not included (per person)

- Single room supplement £120.00
- Insurance On request