

COTSWOLD SUMMER OUTING

On Wednesday 28TH June 2017

the Haslemere Gardening Society visited

Kiftsgate Court Garden, Gloucestershire

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Kiftsgate Court Garden is situated above the village of Mickleton, Gloucestershire, in the far north of the county. This glorious garden has views to the Malvern Hills and beyond. The upper gardens around the house are planted with harmonious colour schemes. Sheltered gardens below recreate the atmosphere of warmer countries. An oasis of tranquillity is provided by the modern water garden.



The gardens, famed for its roses, are the creation of three generations of women gardeners. Started by Heather Muir in the 1920s, continued by Dian Binny from 1950 and now looked after by Anne Chambers and her husband. Kiftsgate Court is now the home of the Chambers family/

The Kiftsgate Hundred was the ancient area surrounding Chipping Campden. Today the 'Kiftsgate Hundred' stone, where the elders met to administer justice, stands in Weston Park Wood above Chipping Campden. Included in the Hundred was Mickleton, called Mycclantune, meaning 'big village'. It is a few hundred yards from the Hidcote Manor Garden owned by the National Trust.

In making the garden at Kiftsgate Heather Muir was greatly helped and inspired by her lifelong friend Major Lawrence Johnston, who created the garden next door. The flower picture in the tea-room at Hidcote was painted directly on the wall at Kiftsgate by Major Johnson and moved to Hidcote. Kiftsgate first became well known to the gardening public after Graham Stuart Thomas's article in the *Royal Horticultural Society Journal*, May 1951.



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