

EARLY SUMMER OUTING

Monday 17th June 2019

The Haslemere Gardening Society visited

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Lullingstone Castle, Kent

Lullingstone Castle is one of England's oldest family estates, dating back to the time of Domesday. The World Garden combines plant heritage with cutting-edge horticulture. It contains rare and important botanical plants from around the globe planted in their respective continents of origin. The price includes a conducted tour by the Curator, Tom Hart Dyke.



On Monday 17th June members of the Haslemere Gardening Society headed off on the second coach outing of the summer. We were so lucky that the pre-arranged day was the one and only fine and sunny one sandwiched between 2 weeks of almost continuous rain. We drove to Kent and after a very nice, freshly prepared lunch at Great Comp Gardens we then headed for a very different garden at Lullingstone Castle, the Family Home of its designer Tom Hart Dyke. We were lucky enough to be shown around his creation by Tom and he started by telling us the story of how the idea for the garden had come to him when, as a young plant hunter in Colombia, he had been held captive for the best part of a year with a price on his head. Luckily, he survived this terrifying experience and lived to come home and put his ideas into practice. He guided us through the 19th century Moon Gate into an amazing walled area devised as the different continents and plant areas of the world and full of some the most unusual and exotic specimens collected by the renowned plant hunters of the past. Apart from the open beds there were polytunnels, one filled with cacti and succulents and another with rare orchids. His enthusiasm was so infectious. We were able, again, to purchase plants for our own gardens, which of course we did, and on the way back to the coach to look in the Church with family tombs dating back to the 15th century.



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