

SUMMER OUTING

On Wednesday 6th July 2016

The Haslemere Gardening Society visited

Sissinghurst Castle, Kent

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Sissinghurst Castle - The garden is in the Weald of Kent and is owned and maintained by the National Trust. Sackville-West, the poet and writer began transforming Sissinghurst Castle in the 1930s with her diplomat and author husband, Harold Nicolson. Harold's architectural planning of the garden rooms, and the colourful, abundant planting in the gardens by Vita, reflect the romance and intimacy of her poems and writings.



Vita envisaged the Rose Garden as a 'tumble of roses and honeysuckle, figs and vines'. Whereas Harold's keenness for strict geometry is evident in the circular shaped hedge, or Rondel, at the west end of the garden. Until 1950, the White Garden had been filled with roses but as they outgrew their space they were transferred to what was to become the Rose Garden. Warm reds and gold mark out the South Cottage Garden, which is a riot of colour in late summer and autumn.

Against the wall of the South Cottage, the early-summer-flowering rose Mme Alfred Carriere was the first thing planted at Sissinghurst. Set beyond the Nuttery, the Herb Garden looks and smells wonderful. 'Only the beautiful, the pungent and the elegant are allowed here'. Kentish cobnuts, a variety of hazelnut, create a shady haven for birds and visitors alike in the Nuttery.



The Lime Walk also known as the Spring Garden. Long beds of tulips, fritillaries and hyacinths are marked out by an avenue of pleached limes, punctuated by generous terracotta pots, every inch bursting with colour for about four weeks. The Moat Walk is defined on one side by the remains of an Elizabethan wall, and on the other by a bank of bright yellow azaleas planted in 1946.



Website

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden

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