

MID SUMMER OUTING

Tuesday 13th June 2023

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Sudeley Castle & Gardens, Gloucestershire, GL54 5LP



Sudeley Castle is a Grade I listed castle in the parish of Sudeley, in the Cotswolds, near the medieval market town of Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, England. The castle has 10 notable gardens covering some 15 acres within a 1,200-acre estate nestled within the Cotswold Hills. Set against the stunning backdrop of the majestic castle, and surrounded by striking views of the Cotswold Hills, the magnificent, award-winning gardens sweep around the castle and grounds.

The castle has a history dating back to the 12th century. It was built in its current form in 1443 by Ralph Boteler, Lord High Treasurer of England. Notable historical figures such as King Richard III and Catherine Parr, the sixth wife of King Henry VIII, have connections to the castle.

The estate itself is made up of a mix of open pasture fields and woodland, and is crisscrossed by a number of public footpaths, most notably, the Cotswold Way, a 102-mile (164 km) long-distance footpath. These footpaths have connected Sudeley with other historic towns and monuments, such as Hailes Abbey, Broadway, Belas Knap and Stanway House.



The garden is split into ten separate gardens, the centrepiece being the Queens' Garden. The Queens' Garden is the Victorian replanting of an original Elizabethan parterre garden that had been discovered in the same location, the large yew hedges surrounding it date back to 1860. Celebrated rosarian Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall is responsible for the current rose display in the Queens' Garden, which is now home to over 80 different varieties of rose

A comparison of the Queens' Garden in the Victorian Age and today

Another garden at Sudeley is The Knot Garden, made up of more than 1,200 box hedges, its intricate design drew inspiration from the pattern of the dress worn by Elizabeth I in *An Allegory of the Tudor Succession*, a painting that hangs in the castle.

St Mary's Church, in which Catherine Parr is buried, is bordered by the White Garden, which includes peonies, clematis, roses and tulips, where Catherine and her companion, Lady Jane Grey, would have entered the church for daily prayers.

Sudeley is also home to one of the largest public collections of endangered pheasants in the world and works closely with the World Pheasant Association. The pheasantry, which has been operating at the castle for over 30 years, is part of a wider breeding programme, which has been set up in the hope of increasing the numbers of critically endangered birds before hopefully reintroducing them into their natural habitats.