

We're delighted to offer a 6-day, 5-night garden tour of beautiful Hampshire this summer. Based in historic Winchester city centre we have planned visits to attractive and fascinating nearby gardens large and small and will see many of them at their best in mid-June.

The group will visit a selection from the following:

Mottisfont Abbey - 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.

Hinton Ampner – Widely acknowledged as a masterpiece of 20th-century garden design it mixes formal and informal planting with fine vistas throughout. The walled garden is lined with 19th-century espalier apple and pear trees and is once again being used to grow a rich variety of organic fruits and vegetables.

Sir Harold Hillier's Garden & Arboretum - The unique collection of plants, set in 180 acres with over 42,000 trees 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.

West Green House Garden - A delightful series of walled gardens surrounds the charming 18th-century house. The garden has many original features including a grand water staircase providing the focal point to the Nymphaeum fountain. A small topiary garden has water lilies in small water tanks sunk in the ground. The aviary houses unusual breeds of bantams and chickens. Plus a Persian water garden in a woodland glade, a restored lake, follies and fancies.

The Down House - A 2 acre garden laid out in rooms overlooking the Itchen Valley, adjoining the Pilgrim's Way with walks to the river. A garden of structure with pleached hornbeams, a rope-lined fountain garden and yew lined avenues, plus a pruned vineyard and a warm tea room!

Bramdean House - Beautiful 5 acre garden best known for its mirror image herbaceous borders. The one acre walled garden featuring prize-winning vegetables, fruit and flowers. Small arboretum. Many hardy Nerine cultivars, post recent trial in association with RHS. A real plantsman's garden.

Little Court, Crawley - Dating from the 19th century, three-acre walled country garden with a Victorian apple orchard, woodland planting and a traditional walled kitchen garden.

Paige Cottage, Crawley - One acre traditional English country garden surrounding a period thatched cottage with a two-level pond with waterfall, small orchard with rare anemones and a small vegetable garden. Herbaceous border and old varieties of climbing roses in summer.

Tanglefoot, Crawley - This half-acre garden is a blend of influences, from Monet-inspired rose arch and small wildlife pond to Victorian boundary wall with trained fruit trees. Highlights include a raised lily pond, herbaceous bed, herb wheel, large productive kitchen garden and unusual flowering plants. In contrast to the garden, a 2 acre field with views over the Hampshire countryside has recently been converted into wildflower meadows, with mostly native trees and shrubs.

As well as the fascinating garden visits we'll have one free afternoon to explore Winchester, such as the cathedral (4 mins walk), restored city mill (5 mins walk) and many independent shops and eateries just a short stroll away.

Our hotel will be the 4* Mercure Winchester Wessex. All rooms are non-smoking, have en-suite facilities, WiFi access and 24-hour room service. They are equipped with a hair dryer, ironing facilities, flatscreen TV with international channels, complimentary toiletries and tea and coffee making facilities. This hotel has a lift and facilities for disabled guests.

The tour is open to Caley and non-Caley members. The cost of the trip is £559 per person and includes coach travel, all arranged garden visits, 5 night's accommodation at the 4* Mercure Winchester Wessex hotel, breakfast and dinner, and holiday insurance. There is a single occupancy supplement of £42.50 per night so we encourage you to room share to keep costs down.

The coach will depart Edinburgh on Sunday, 16th June and return on Friday, 21st June.

Winchester is just 30 minutes from Southampton Airport and if you prefer to arrange your own transport you could fly direct from Edinburgh with FlyBe and join the tour in Winchester.

Please confirm your booking by 31st March 2019. We need 25 people on the tour to make it viable and regret the tour will not go ahead if we don't reach that number. You can book by completing the attached booking form or online on the website.