

SUMMER OUTING

On Wednesday 13TH June 2018 The Haslemere Gardening Society visited

Sir Harold Hillier's Garden, Hampshire

Haslemere
Gardening
Society



In 1953 the distinguished plantsman, **Sir Harold Hillier**, established the gardens and arboretum. Over the many years he assembled a remarkable collection, bringing together the most comprehensive and unrivalled collection of trees, shrubs and hardy plants in the UK. The gardens are famous the world over and are now run as a charity under the remit of horticulture, conservation, education and recreation. Among its outstanding features are the splendour of the seasonal planting displays set in 180 acres.

Owned by Hampshire County Council under the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens charitable trust. Ignore the word 'gardens' – this is quite the most important modern arboretum in the UK. It is home to an amazing collection of more than 400 Champion Trees and 14 National Collections.

It has a collection of more than 12,000 taxa of wild and cultivated woody plants set in 73ha (180 acres), totalling 42,000 plants. The arboretum was established in 1953 by the late Sir Harold Hillier – Hillier's Nursery aimed at the time to offer for sale every cultivar of every tree or shrub that was hardy in the British Isles.

There are many features to be found in the garden that includes the collection of poplar trees called the Populetum; more than 100 pines (*Pinus* species), including the 'big cone' pine *P. coulteri* whose cones may weigh as much as two kilos; a maple valley; the largest winter garden of its kind in Europe and a Gurkha memorial garden. It is the sheer number of trees and shrubs here that make the most lasting impression every time you visit.



The long-established Winter Garden, now at four acres, is situated close to the Visitor Pavilion containing more than 650 different plants grown for their winter effect. It has been planted to show a wide range of plants that are at their best from November until March with a palette of dark, bold coloured stems, scent and foliage. The garden also contains one of the longest mixed double perennial borders in Europe, the Centenary Border with herbaceous plants, bulbs, shrubs and trees.

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