

SUMMER OUTING

Wednesday 9th July 2025

Haslemere
Gardening
Society

Hole Park, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JA

Hole Park is a privately owned, 16-acre historic garden located on the Rolvenden–Benenden road near Cranbrook. Recognized as one of Kent’s most distinguished seasonal gardens, it is noted for its prominent displays of bluebells, a valley of wild garlic, yew topiary, a walled garden, and extensive herbaceous borders. While the house remains private, the gardens are open to the public from spring through autumn.

The gardens at **Hole Park** in Cranbrook, Kent, are regarded as an exceptional example of diverse horticultural design and offer a wide variety of plantings. The residence was substantially reconstructed in 1959 and now occupies less than a quarter of its original size.

Hole Park stands as a distinguished garden in Kent, honoured with the Kent’s Garden of the Year award in 2016. Developed over four generations by the Barham family, the estate comprises 16 acres of meticulously designed gardens situated within an expansive parkland setting. The long borders feature a wide variety of herbaceous plants, complemented by an exotic border that is at its most impressive in late summer. The gardens artfully combine formal design with areas of naturalised planting, providing seasonal diversity in both colour and visual interest. Set within over 200 acres of traditional parkland, Hole Park offers sweeping views across the hills, woodlands, and fields of the Kentish Weald. Visitors can enjoy homemade teas and light lunches in the Coach House tearoom.



Garden Highlights

Spring

- Bluebell Wood — one of the finest in Kent, peaking late April–early May.
- Wild Garlic Valley — carpets of white following the bluebells.
- Rhododendrons & Azaleas in the woodland garden.

Summer

- Standard wisteria in the Vineyard (blooms twice: May & July).
- Long herbaceous borders (renovated 2023).
- Agapanthus ‘Hole Park Blue’ — a cultivar unique to the estate.

Autumn

- Strong autumn colour from maples, liquidambar, and selected shrubs.

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