

SUMMER OUTING

Wednesday 10th July 2024

RHS Hyde Hall, Essex, CM3 8ET

RHS Hyde Hall, a 360-acre garden in Essex, features bold planting, distinct garden rooms, and panoramic hilltop views. Once a windswept farm, it is now a diverse landscape showcasing ornamental horticulture, meadows, woodlands, and modern garden designs. Highlights include the Dry Garden with drought-resistant plants and the Hilltop Garden, known for its roses. Visitors can enjoy tranquil surroundings and a mix of traditional and contemporary styles across varied attractions.

Hyde Hall's iconic **Dry Garden** highlights plants that tolerate drought, drawing inspiration from Mediterranean and arid regions. The garden is filled with agaves, yuccas, succulent varieties resembling cacti, euphorbias, ornamental grasses, and shrubs with silvery foliage. It is designed to flourish with little irrigation, serving as a prime example of gardening that suits changing climates. Distinctive plant shapes and gravel ground-cover create lasting visual interest throughout the year. Late summer is especially impressive, with grasses and flowering perennials at their best.

The **Hilltop Garden** serves as the historic core of Hyde Hall, first established by Dr and Mrs Robinson in the 1950s. It features extensive herbaceous borders, rose plantings, and mixed perennial arrangements. The garden provides expansive views of the Essex countryside, while mature shelterbelts of Lawson and Leyland cypress, planted during the 1960s, offer protection from the previously exposed winds.

Opened in 2017, the **Global Growth Vegetable Garden** showcases edible plants sourced from across the globe organised into themed beds that represent various global regions. The garden highlights unusual crops, heritage varieties, and contemporary cultivars. It is designed to be both educational and visually appealing.

Completed in 2018, the **Winter Garden** provides off-season interest, hosting an RHS **Cornus (dogwood) trial** for vivid winter stem colour. It features evergreens, bark-interest trees, winter-flowering shrubs, and structural grasses—demonstrating cold-season beauty.

The **Woodland Garden** was created from 60 trees bought in the 1950s, this mature, sheltered area features shade-tolerant plants and connects the hilltop with the broader grounds.

