

# LATE SPRING OUTING

## Tuesday 17th June 2025

Haslemere  
Gardening  
Society

### Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst, Kent TN3 8JN



The gardens at Scotney Castle are one of the finest surviving examples of the 19th-century picturesque style—romantic, theatrical, and designed to reveal new vistas at every turn. They combine a moated medieval ruin, sweeping rhododendron banks, quarry-cut ravines, and a richly productive walled garden, all set within a wooded valley in Kent. Key Areas of the Garden are:

#### The Old Castle & Moat

A 14th-century ruin was partially dismantled in the 1830s to create a romantic focal point. Herb beds and borders soften the stonework.

#### The Quarry Garden

Carved from the stone excavated to build the Victorian mansion.

- Winding paths
- Acers, azaleas, and dramatic rock faces
- One of the most atmospheric parts of the estate

#### The West Glade

Home to specimen trees, including a **Sequoiadendron giganteum** planted in the 1850s.

#### The Walled Garden

A productive, octagonal Victorian garden with:

- Wall-trained fruit
- Vegetable beds
- Herbs and cut flowers

A window into the estate's working past.

#### Estate Walks

Over **770 acres** of woodland, hop farm, and parkland extend beyond the formal gardens.

The Moated Castle is breathtaking in all seasons, whereas the Quarry Garden is a sea of colour in spring and summer. The Walled Garden provides fresh fruit and vegetables for the Hussey household, and the Victorian Boathouse adds a charming touch to the garden's landscape. The Icehouse, thatched with heather, adds to the historical charm. The natural Chalybeate Spring gives a serene atmosphere while wild meadows buzz with bees and insects in the summer.

#### Spring

Sweeps of rhododendron, azalea, and kalmia cascade down the slopes toward the moat. Rare green-winged orchids bloom on the mansion terraces. Bluebells carpet the surrounding woodland.

#### Summer

Herbaceous borders around the Old Castle are at their best. The walled garden is full of fruit, vegetables, and cut flowers, giving a sense of the Hussey family's 19th-century estate life.

#### Autumn

Acers and woodland trees create dramatic colour in the Quarry Garden and West Glade. The picturesque design is especially striking as the ruin is framed by autumn foliage.

#### Winter

The moat and ruin offer atmospheric views. Snowdrops appear early in the year. The garden remains open even when the house is closed.

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