

## HADS Trip to Kent

After a delay of 2 years and much soul-searching members of HADS finally made it to Kent in April 2022. Known as the Garden of England, it certainly lived up to its reputation as one of the most glorious areas of the country. We were sorry that Paul and Gill were prevented from joining the trip, but hope that Paul will continue his recovery and be back with us soon.

We departed from Sally's house in an Angela Coaches minibus, calling at Winchester on the way to pick up Julia and Carol. Don was very happily installed in the jump seat and the scene was set for our trip.



Our first stop was Hever Castle which had been home to Anne Boleyn. Beautiful gardens surround this fabulous castle and we had plenty of time to admire them.

The next day we went to Knole House and Ightham Mote which are both managed by the National Trust. The grandeur of Knole contrasted with the humbler Ightham Mote with the beautiful moat surrounding it.

On Wednesday we began by exploring Tonbridge Castle and climbing up to the top. From there we had a marvellous view of the town. Next stop was the romantic Scotney Castle, again surrounded by a moat and beautiful gardens. From there we went to the High Rocks, which are outside Tunbridge Wells. Some of us climbed to the top and braved the bridges waving to members who chose to stay on *terra firma*!

On Thursday we had the opportunity to explore The Pantiles in Tunbridge Wells. One disappointment was that the church was closed, but we were able to stroll amongst the shops and enjoy coffee and hot chocolate! From there, it was on to Penshurst Place, another huge house surrounded by fantastic gardens.

Our last day saw us going to Lullingstone Roman Villa and then on to Lullingstone Castle and the extraordinary World Garden, the brainchild of Tom Hart Dyke. There is an amazing story behind this garden - it's worth a Google search!



Scotney Castle

We arrived back on the Friday afternoon after a fantastic tour. Thanks to the Premier Inn, our drivers and of course Don who masterminded the whole trip.

Ed Cole May 2022