



Birkbeck Garden History Group

Visit to Doddington Place Gardens
& Godinton House, Kent
Thursday 30th July 2026



<https://www.doddingtonplacegardens.co.uk>

Doddington Place Garden is a late-19th-century estate with a Grade II-listed garden of 10 acres. The gardens were designed c.1875 by Markham Nesfield, son and business partner of William Nesfield, and the garden still retains his terrace walls and formal south-front lawn. Early-20th-century additions by John Dyke Coleridge include the Italianate sunken garden and the celebrated rock garden (c.1909). Later 20th-century developments by the Oldfield family introduced the woodland garden, the Wellingtonia avenue, and the Pond Walk vista leading to a 1950s pond.

Godinton House



<https://godintonhouse.co.uk/>

Godinton House, a red-brick manor near Ashford with a medieval Great Hall (14th century) and a largely Jacobean house (early 17th century, Grade I listed), was long the seat of the Toke family. Its gardens are Grade II* listed, recognised for their early-20th-century formal gardens by Sir Reginald

Blomfield, surviving 17th-century features, and 18th- and 19th-century parkland, which retain evidence of the 1621 pond system and the expanded 18th-century park. The ornamental gardens close to the house comprise twelve acres enclosed by massive yew-hedged compartments and laid out as a sequence of “garden rooms”. These, together with grass-banked terraces, paths, vistas, and ponds, were designed and constructed by Sir Reginald Blomfield and completed by 1898. The present ornamental planting of Blomfield’s layout was largely begun in the 1950s by Mr Wyndham Green. Since 1996, the estate has been cared for by the Godinton House Preservation Trust, with ongoing restoration and seasonal planting.

Fitness Level

Expect two garden tours, each 1–1½ hours long, with little opportunity to sit down. The garden paths are mostly level or gently sloping (a mix of gravel, paving and grass). Sure-footedness will be needed in the rock garden Doddington Place especially after rain.

Costs:

The cost, which includes entry charges and guided tours at both gardens and afternoon tea is **£59.00**.

Optional lunch: quiche and salad (vegetarian options available). This must be pre-booked at a cost of **£14.00**.

Practicalities/Travel

We recommend travelling from St Pancras International station to Ashford International station on the 9.36 train, arriving in Ashford at 10.15, where a coach will pick us up and drive to Doddington Place Gardens (a 40-minute journey). For the return trip, we suggest the 17.16 train from Ashford station, arriving in London at 17.54. Advance tickets with a Senior Railcard are £10.55 for the outward journey and £11.25 for the return.

Itinerary for the Day

Depart 9.36 from St Pancras International station

Arrive **10.15** at Ashford International Railway Station

Arrive 11.00 am at Doddington Place Gardens

11.15 am Tour of the gardens

12.45 pm Lunch

1.30 pm Depart

Arrive at Godinton House

2.15–3.45 pm Arrive and tour

4.00 pm Tea (included) and free time

4.30 pm Depart for Ashford International Station

5.00 pm Arrive at Ashford station to catch the train to London St Pancras

Booking

Book via this link [Upcoming events - Booking by Bookwhen](#) You can pay online with a card (preferred method).

Payments can also be made by bank transfer to Account: Birkbeck Garden History Group, account nos: 01471228, sort code: 30-97-81, with the reference 'Kent Trip'.

Or pay by cheque, made payable to Birkbeck Garden History Group. Please write 'Kent Trip' on the back and send it direct to Barbara Deason, 20 Springfield, London E5 9EF. Please first check availability with **Sandra Pullen on email: spullen6@outlook.com**.

If you wish to bring a guest, please let Sandra know, and if numbers allow, she will confirm their place. The member will need to make payment for their guest and will be responsible for making sure they have all the information required. The cost is the same for members and guests.

Refunds are not issued unless a replacement can be found; please notify Sandra at once if you are unable to attend.

Images with kind permission from Doddington Place Gardens & Godinton House