

# Queen of

## want to go?

### Godinton House and Gardens

Godinton Lane  
Ashford TN23 3BP

For further details  
visit the website

[www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk](http://www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk) or  
tel: Godinton on  
01233 620 773.

### Opening times and directions

Godinton Gardens are  
just a few minutes drive  
from Junction 9 off the  
M20 or a short drive  
from Westerden.

**Gardens:** open Thu-  
Mon, 2pm-5.30pm  
from 25 Mar-29 Oct

**House:** open Fri-Sun  
2-5.30pm from 7 Apr  
to 8 Oct (last tour  
of the house leaves  
at 4.30pm.)

Admission prices

**Gardens only:** adults  
£3 children free

**House and gardens:**  
adults £6 children free  
Refreshment and  
home-made cakes are  
available on house  
opening days (Fri-Sun)  
and cream teas can be  
ordered in advance.  
Refreshments can  
be organised at  
other times for  
group bookings.

**Children accompanying  
adults:** free entry.



The magnificent park and gardens at Godinton House and Gardens near Ashford in Kent will delight visitors yet again this summer with its remarkable border of colourful delphiniums which grow in the walled garden, the perfect setting for these magnificent tall and stately flowers.

The beautifully restored gardens include a rose garden which fills the air with a heavenly scent at this time of year. Medieval in origin, the history of the house and gardens can be traced in two 17th-century documents that give detailed accounts and maps of the layout.

In 1896, Sir Reginald Blomfield, noted architect and garden writer, was employed to remodel the mansion and formal gardens. Blomfield's surviving plans for the gardens are of particular note as they are amongst the earliest of his garden works.

Today you can enjoy many of the original features from Blomfield's designs

including the yew hedges, neat topiary, ponds and lawns. The famous yew hedge is thought to be the longest in the country and encloses the 12 acres of garden that surround the house. There are wonderful views from the lawns and terraces over the Great Stour valley to Great Chart church on the horizon beyond.

the perfect backdrop to the pretty gardens and terraces and gives the overall impression of a calm, intimate and timeless stately home.

Through the 1900s, the gardens were softened and enhanced by further plantings of the Italianate, walled and wildflower gardens and topiary-terraces. The wide

*The herbaceous borders are dominated by the soft blues and pinks of nepeta, perovskia, lavender, penstomen and bordered by box and yew topiary*

The enchanting combination of parkland, gardens and heritage at Godinton House and Gardens provide visitors with the chance to discover one of the most important and fascinating Jacobean houses in Kent. The mellow brick house with its distinctive gables is

gravel paths give easy access to wheelchair users over most of the gardens.

The herbaceous borders were replanted in 1997 and are dominated by the soft blues and pinks of nepeta, perovskia, lavender, penstomen and bordered by box and yew topiary. ■

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For more gorgeous gardens in Kent

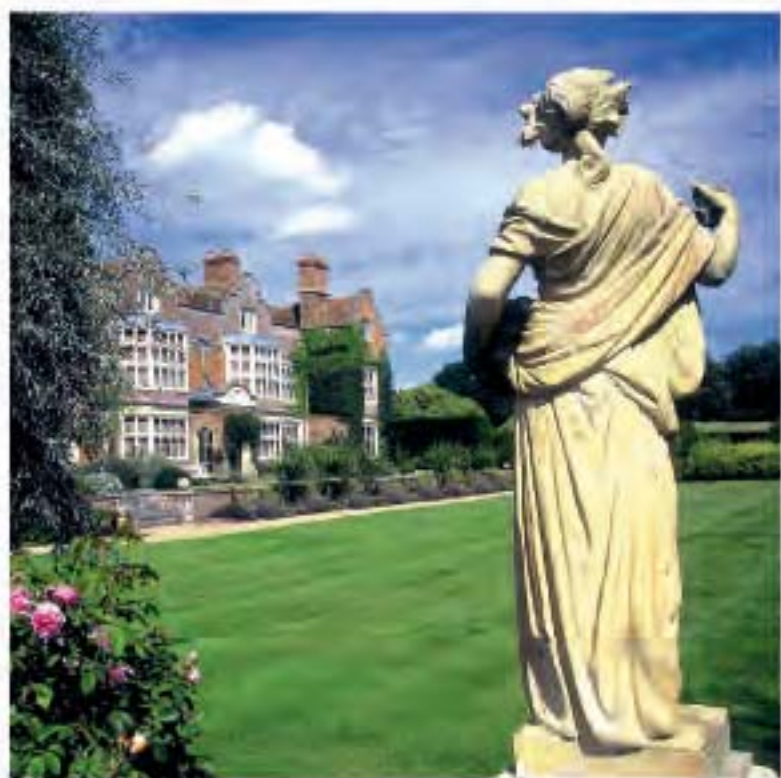
# the *border*



Stately delphiniums grace the gardens at Godinton, where open-air theatre this summer adds to the appeal of this fascinating Jacobean house

Words by Caroline Edmunds

pictures by Darryl Curcher



## summer events

Special events this summer including two open-air theatre productions from touring theatre company Heartbreak Productions.

- **17 August** *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Starts at 7.30pm. gardens open at 6pm. Adults £15, children under 16 £5.
  - **9 August** *The Railway Children*. Starts at 6.30pm, gardens open at 5pm. Adults £10, children under 16 £5. There is a 20 per cent discount for both productions for group bookings of 10 or more.
  - **27 June** Guided tour around the gardens at Godinton with the senior horticultural lecturer at Hadlow College, Keith Mexter, and Godinton's head gardener, Vivien Hunt. Takes place between 6.30 and 8.30pm. £10 per person, places limited to 20 and booking is essential.
  - **24 June** the Delphinium Society will be at the gardens to show off its National Collection
  - **25 June** the 50th Anniversary of Gardeners' Sunday, the first time the gardens opened for the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society.
  - **4 July** National Art Collections Fund Valuation Afternoon, 1.30pm. A team of experts from Bonhams will be available to value antiques or interesting objects. 4.30pm talk by John Sandon, director of International Ceramics and Glass at Bonhams and Antique Roadshow regular, expert on Worcester porcelain, on the Godinton Worcester collection.
- To buy tickets, please apply in writing enclosing a cheque and SAE to:  
**Mary Husband, Park House, Chevening, Sevenoaks TN14 6HG.**  
**Optional tour of Godinton House:**  
 £17.50 including tea, £22.50 including tour of the house and tea.  
**16 July** gardens are open in aid of the NGS  
 (National Gardens Scheme)  
**30 July** gardens are open in aid of the Red Cross.
- To buy open-air theatre tickets, contact Ticketweb's 24-hour booking line: 08700 600 100 or log onto: [www.ticketweb.co.uk](http://www.ticketweb.co.uk)  
 To buy lecture evening tickets, tel: 01233 620 773 or email [ghpt@godinton.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ghpt@godinton.fsnet.co.uk)