

Visit to Godinton House and Gardens nr Ashford, Kent on Wednesday 5 July 2023



A lovely, peaceful day was had at Godinton House; we arrived in time for coffee and biscuits in Tearooms and then split into two groups for a tour of the House; our most knowledgeable guides, explaining the history of the house, the estate, the family and the magnificent collection of porcelain. No photographs are permitted to be taken in the house so these come from the Godinton House website



The earliest history of the house is unknown, but it has certainly enjoyed continuous occupation by a succession of families for over 500 years. The longest occupancy of the house was that of the Toke family who inherited the property in 1499.

Captain Nicholas Toke (1588-1680) was a flamboyant man who married five times but failed to produce a male heir, made many improvements to the house, and for the next two hundred years the house prospered. The 'black sheep' of the family Col John Toke, encumbered with debt decided to sell Godinton in 1896 and this is when Mr & Mrs George Ashley Dodd employed the renowned architect Reginald Blomfield (who later designed The Menin Gate memorial) to carry out work on the house and redesign the gardens, all of which is there today.

George Ashley Dodd died in 1917 and the house was sold to Mr & Mrs Bruce Ward and unusually for the time the house was passed down the female line to their grandson Alan Wyndham Green.



In 1991 Alan set up The Godinton House Preservation Trust, securing the house and gardens to live on in perpetuity.

The house has a fabulous collection of the first English porcelain, hand painted wall paper, carved wood panelling, and a wonderful staircase and much, much more.

The gardens are just as stunning and boast the longest yew hedge in England, a romantic Italian garden, a walled kitchen garden, Victorian greenhouses and gentle views over the Kent countryside.

All of this topped off with a cream tea in the tearooms!



