

# Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

## Visit to Eagle Heights: Kent's Bird of Prey Centre, Eynsford DA4 0JB. & Lullingstone Castle, Lullingstone Kent, DA4 0JA. Wednesday 7 June 2006

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This visit has been organised by Geoff Cockett

### Eagle Heights

Eagle Heights is now one of the UK's largest bird of prey centres and was established to further the awareness of birds of prey and, to show the importance of their environment and conservation. The current collection has 150 raptors e.g. eagles, vultures, falcons, owls, covering about 50 species, some of which are part of the centre's breeding programme.. Many of the others take part in the daily outdoor flying displays. The centre provides sanctuary for wild, injured raptors and regularly releases rehabilitated birds back to the wild. It also gives a safe home for reptiles rescued either as escapees, unwanted pets or victims of cruelty cases and a place to live out their lives. We will see the outdoor flying displays against the background of outstanding panoramic scenery. [[www.eagleheights.co.uk](http://www.eagleheights.co.uk)]

### Lullingstone Castle

This is less than a mile from Eagle Heights. with ample parking outside the property on grass verges. Our exclusive guided tour begins at the church of St Botolph, on the front lawn of the castle. The structure is still as it was when restored six centuries ago. The 16<sup>th</sup> century magnificent rood screen, the finest examples of late Gothic tomb architecture and the range of window glass from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century, are outstanding features.

Set within 120 acres of beautiful Kent countryside, Lullingstone Castle is one of England's oldest estates, dating back to the time of the Domesday. The present manor house and gate house, which overlook a stunning 15 acre lake, were built in 1497 and have been home to the same family ever since. Both Henry VIII and Queen Anne are known to have been regular visitors. Our tour will cover seven rooms including the impressive and finely proportioned Great Hall, constructed during Queen Anne's time, the Library panelled in that era, and the State Drawing Room. The latter was first constructed during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and to which period the magnificent decorated barrel-ceiling belongs. The many paintings provide the historic link to the family's occupation of Lullingstone Castle.

The visit ends with a tour of the UK's first ever "World Garden of Plants". Set within a 2 acre walled garden, it will take us in horticultural terms, to the countries from which the thousands of plant species originated. It is the vision of modern day plant hunter Tom Hart Dyke kidnapped by terrorists in Columbia in 2000 and who could well be our garden guide. [[www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk](http://www.lullingstonecastle.co.uk)] [[www.thecloudgarden.com](http://www.thecloudgarden.com)]

### Programme

11:25 – 11:50 Meet at the entrance to Eagle Heights facility. Tea/coffee etc in their Tea room. (loos).

11:55 – 13:00 Raptors Flying Display.

13:05 - 14:20. Lunch in Tea Room. See page 2 for details.

14:20 - 14:30 Drive less than 1 mile to Lullingstone Castle.

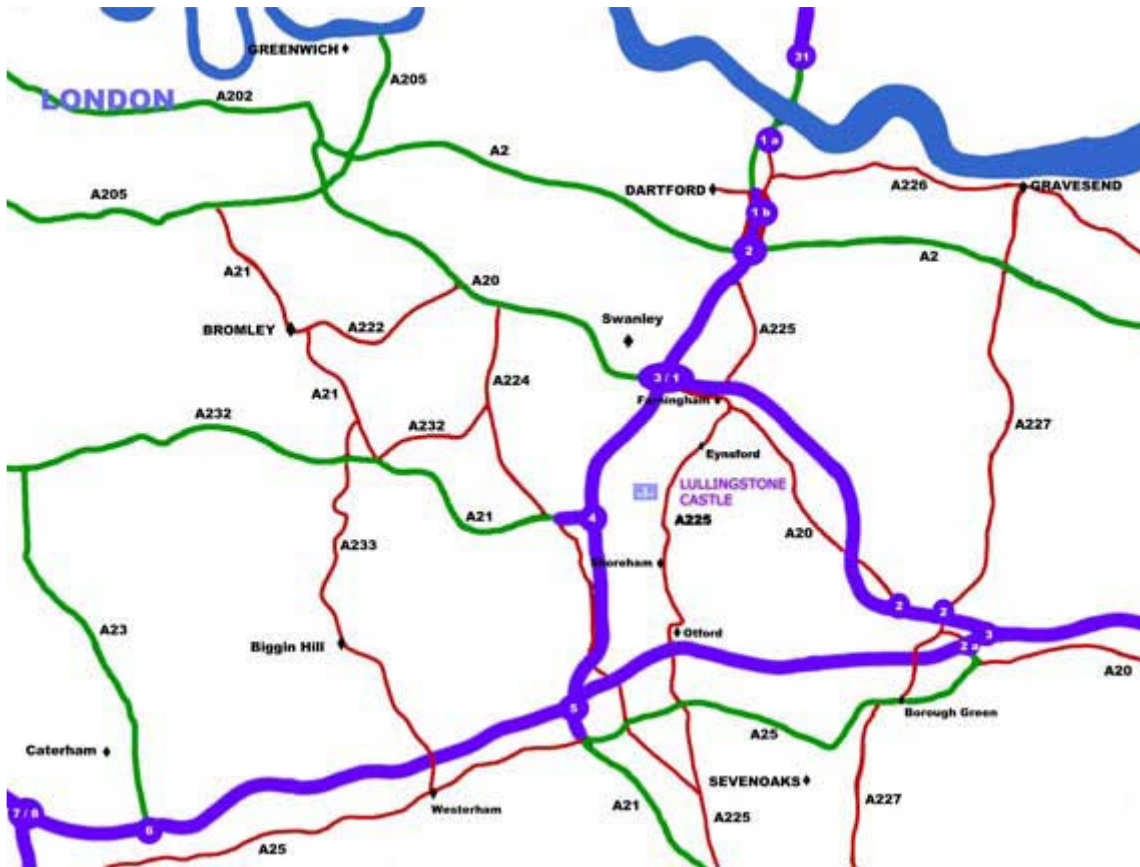
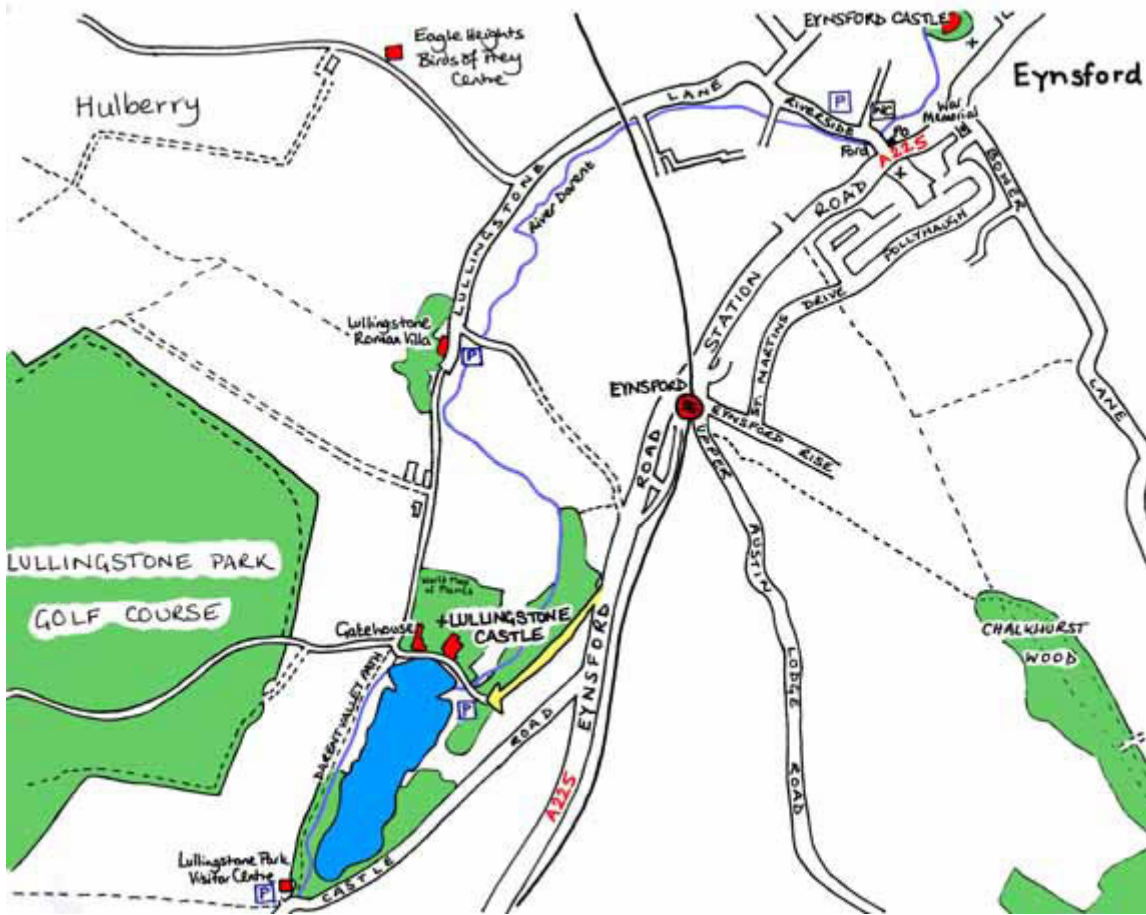
14:30 - 15:40 Guided tour of the Castle.

15:40 - 16:15 Tour of the UK's first ever "World Garden of Plants" with Tom Hart Dyke.

When ready Disperse

**Directions:** At M25 J3/M20 J1, proceed to roundabout. Take exit marked West Kingsdown(A20)/Brands Hatch. Continue on A20 straight across at the next roundabout. After 1 mile take the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit(A20) off the roundabout, signed West Kingsdown/Eagle Heights. After about 0.4 mile take the 1<sup>st</sup> turning on the right (A225) signed Eynsford/Eagle Heights. At Eynsford church (1 mile), turn right and go over the bridge (NOT via ford) signed Eagle Heights. Go under the viaduct (0.4 mile), then take the 1<sup>st</sup> right, a cul-de-sac, to Eagle Heights.

The total cost for entry fees, flying display and guided tour is £9.50. Please complete and return the lunch menu form. Numbers are limited to 25. Photography is allowed at Eagle Heights and Lullingstone except inside the castle



LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS AT EAGLE HEIGHTS

In order to ensure that adequate supplies are available and to minimise the delay in serving our group, the tearoom staff wish to be advised of your choice of a main dish. Please indicate your selection below and return this page to David Pick. A variety of hot and cold drinks, cakes and ice cream will also be available.

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch menu

PRICE	ITEM	NUMBER
£3.50	Jacket Potato with Cheese	
	" " " Tuna	
	" " " Prawns	
	" " " Baked Beans	
£3.00	Toasted Sandwiches - Cheese	
	" " " - Ham	
	" " " - Ham & Cheese	
	" " " - Ham & Tomato	
	" " " - Cheese & Tomato	
£2.50	Sandwiches - Ham	
	" " - BLT	
	" " - Prawn & mayonnaise	
	" " - Beef	
	" " - Brie & Grapes	
	" " - Smoked Salmon & Cream Cheese	
	" " - Cheese	
	For sandwiches, please indicate Wh or Br bread	
£2.00	Soup & Roll	

Own Arrangements \_\_\_\_\_

**NB**

In summer, using either of the 2 pubs near the river for lunch is invariably impractical for a group visit. Not only can parking be very difficult but a 50 minute delay in getting food often occurs. Picnicking at Eagle Heights would only be possible in the congested car park.