



— Tim Saunders and family visit RHS Garden Wisley

RHS WISLEY

As we sit on a rustic wooden bench eating our picnic of tuna and sweetcorn sandwiches at RHS Wisley in Surrey, the ducks come to greet us. They are such a welcome sight.

In common with many attractions these days it's necessary to book a slot when you expect to arrive in order to help the venue with crowd control. As it is only an hour or so away from home we anticipate arriving at 11am and get there for twenty past due to roadworks. An extremely popular attraction all ages and abilities are visiting. Hardly surprising when gardens are so good for us all, for our mental well being and all round general happiness. Social distancing is a bit of an issue at times though but the grounds are so vast it is easy to avoid people when outside. Funnily enough the day before we arrive, BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time came from here so it is a privilege to be able to visit what has become a national treasure. Speaking of national treasures, we spot a plant that was actually planted by Her Majesty.

It's a hot day, too and Heidi (7) and Henry (4) quickly tire. We've been quite busy of late with kayaking, cycling and camping and it's catching up on them. Not half an hour into our visit and Henry asks, "When can we go home?" Really frustrating but that's children for you. An hour later and he has to sit on my shoulders to save his aching little legs, bless him. So Caroline takes my rucksack. "I'm hungry," he moans. "Have you brought sweets?" He's a joker. Caroline and I will have to make sure that when we go on such jaunts again that we take the pushchair and a trailer of provisions for our hungry little children. Thank goodness Harriett (9) is more grown up. She's mesmerised by the beauty that surrounds her. It's lovely to see.

Before long the children find a wooden building that they call the witch's lair and instantly run to it. Inside

there is not a witch in sight but we do learn that this stunning garden was started by George Wilson, who offered it to the RHS in around 1870. Since then it has been packed with such a wide variety of flowers, shrubs and plants and there's so much vibrant colour.

For more information visit:

www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley

Watch the videos:

www.travelwriter.biz

