

## **GROUP VISITS TO THE BETH CHATTO GARDENS**

Coach parties are always welcome, provided that prior arrangements are made. We can also offer free pre-visits for organisers planning to bring groups to the gardens

### ***How to Book***

Please telephone the office to make a provisional booking, and when you have completed and returned our booking form we can then confirm your visit. We can post or email the form to you or you can download it from our website: [www.bethchatto.co.uk](http://www.bethchatto.co.uk)

Due to demand it is advisable to make a booking well in advance for either a morning or an afternoon. You are welcome to stay all day if you arrive in the morning, but we would ask coaches to be ready to leave the gardens by 4.30pm.

Our admission fee is **£6.00** per head for groups of fewer than 25 in number, and **£5.50** per head for groups of over 25. The discounted rate applies when one payment is made for the entire group, it does not apply if individual payments are made. There is free entry for coach drivers, blue and green badge guides, carers accompanying disabled visitors, and accompanied children of fourteen and under.

A Garden Guide can be purchased at the garden entrance and we can also offer half hour and one hour introductory tours to the gardens (see separate sheet).

Payment for admission and garden tours can be made in advance or on the day of the visit by cash, cheque or credit card, and please note that we do not operate a voucher system.

### **Opening Times:**

The Gardens and Nursery are open as follows:

**1 March - 31st October, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 5pm, including Bank Holidays, Sundays, 10am – 5pm**

**1 November - 28 February, Monday to Saturday, 9am to 4pm, Sundays, 10am – 4pm**

### **Directions**

The gardens are situated just east of the village of Elmstead Market on the A133, which is the Colchester to Clacton road.

If travelling on the A12 take the 'Colchester North' exit, then take the A120 towards Harwich and then the A133 turn-off for Clacton and Elmstead Market. Follow the signs for Elmstead Market. We are on the left-hand -side as you enter the village. **Sat. Nav. Postcode reference: CO7 7DB**

### ***Refreshments***

We have a self-service tea room which serves light lunches, hot and cold drinks, as well as locally made cakes and ice creams. We can also offer a limited range of gluten free foods. Coach drivers are offered a complimentary coffee and piece of cake, or can have the cost of this deducted from a lunch if they prefer. Last orders for the Tea Room is 4.30pm. You are welcome to bring a picnic to eat in the picnic area of the car park if you wish.

### ***Toilets***

Toilet facilities, including one for the disabled/ baby changing room are located by the entrance from the car park

### ***Accessibility***

**The garden surfaces are mainly gravel and grass, with steps, and an access ramp for disabled visitors, at the entrance to the main gardens. We do not provide wheelchairs but the gardens are wheelchair accessible. There are also a few seats positioned throughout the gardens**

### ***Nursery/gift shop***

We have an extensive plant nursery and a small gift shop stocked with Mrs Chatto's books, garden related gifts, greetings cards, postcards and local made pottery. It is helpful if plant purchases are made well before it is time for you to go, thus avoiding long queues and delayed departures for coach groups

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the office.  
We wish you fair weather and an enjoyable visit

## Introductory Tours

We are pleased to be able to offer visitors a fascinating guided tour around The Beth Chatto Gardens. The full tour, which lasts approximately one hour, costs £50.00, and a short half-hour tour costs £25.00.

Tours start in the famous Gravel Garden and proceed through all areas including the water gardens, reservoir garden, woodland and scree gardens. The guides discuss the history of the garden, give help with plant identification and will also happily answer any questions the group may have. As the talk is very informal groups are encouraged to suggest any particular areas of interest they have.

Led by experienced full time members of staff, with over 38 years of working with Beth Chatto between them, the talks are packed full of interesting facts, gardening knowledge and personal insights into life at the Gardens. It is an enthralling way to view the Gardens for both new and regular guests. A transcript of the talk is also available for hard-of-hearing visitors.

Group leaders are asked to indicate on their booking form if they require a tour, and if you have a preferred time for the tour please let us know. Leaders are asked to pay for the group's entrance fee, plus the tour fee at the garden entrance. The group should then congregate at the required time by the entrance where their guide will meet them.

All tours must be booked in advance and we are sorry but we are **unable to offer the tours on a Saturday or a Sunday**. Please note that tours are for a maximum of thirty people, if you expect more people to be interested please book and pay for a second tour.

**GROUP BOOKING FORM - PLEASE  
RETURN AS CONFIRMATION**

**Name of Organisation / Group**

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**Contact Name.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Address.** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Contact Telephone Number.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day and Date of Visit.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please show approx. time of arrival and departure** \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate whether your party will be having lunch  
in our tearoom

Yes      Yes      No      No

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**Approx Number in Party**

£6.00 each if below 25. If 25 or more = £5.50 each (discounted rate does not apply if individual payments are made)

*There is free entry for coach drivers, blue and green badge guides, carers accompanying disabled visitors,  
and children of 14 and under*

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**Introductory Tour - NOT SATURDAYS OR SUNDAYS**

(£50 fee per one hour tour for a group of up to 30)      one hour tour

(£25 fee per half hour tour for a group of up to 30)

half hour tour

Please indicate by ticking box

**Time of tour**

**No tour**