

# The Gardens of Suffolk & Essex

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016

£355.00 (plus single room supplement)



*Once again we have spent many enjoyable (though tiring!) hours choosing what we think is an exciting mix of visits and have chosen this area for it's abundance of wonderful gardens (some famous, some small) & because it is possibly less visited by EHS members.*



*Moat House, Little Saxon*

*We have returned to our more usual, Saturday start, and a week later than for the last two years..*

*We and Brightwater work hard to make the trip affordable and good value. The price of the holiday is a little higher this year which reflects the difficulty we have every year in finding a good hotel able to accommodate our large mixed group.*

*We hope you approve!*

Jean Turner & Phil Broughton

## Saturday 23 July 2016

We depart by coach from Edgworth/Bromley Cross and head for Suffolk, breaking our journey at the **Crowland Garden Centre** near Peterborough, where there will be an opportunity for lunch (not included).

We continue to our hotel, the **Holiday Inn Ipswich - Orwell**. Dinner will be served there in the evening and also on the evenings of Sunday and Monday..

## Sunday 24 July 2016

After breakfast we will visit the private garden of **Woodward's** in Coddham, an award-winning, south-facing gently sloping garden of one and a half acres, overlooking the rolling Suffolk countryside. Designed and maintained by owners for year-round colour and interest, there are lots of island beds, well-stocked with thousands of bulbs, shrubs and perennials; a vegetable plot and a display of over a hundred hanging baskets. There are also well-kept lawns, with some fine mature trees.

Later we visit **Helmingham Hall** gardens, near Stowmarket, where the house, parkland and gardens together create an exceptional work of art. The house overlooks a deer park with a double avenue of oaks and to one side a walled kitchen garden has been turned to ornamental purposes. At the entrance a box-edged parterre with Santolina is surrounded by borders of Hybrid Musk roses and hedges of lavender. Few great historic houses have gardens as attractive as Helmingham Hall. Lunch is available here (not included).

In the afternoon we travel to **Wyken Hall**, a four-acre garden which has been much developed recently. The garden comprises a knot and herb garden, an old fashioned rose garden; wild garden, nuttery, pond, gazebo and maze; herbaceous borders and an old orchard. We then depart for a guided tour of the adjoining **vineyards** with the vintner, which will conclude with a tasting of their award-winning white wine.

## Monday 25 July 2016

This morning, after breakfast, we depart for the private garden of **The Moat House** at Little Saxham. Set in a two-acre historic and partially moated site, this tranquil mature garden has been

developed by the present owners over 20 years. Bordered by mature trees, the garden is laid out in various sections including a sunken garden, rose and clematis arbours, herbaceous borders surrounded by box hedging and a small arboretum.

### **Monday 25 July 2016 (continued)**

We continue to the gardens of **Ickworth**, near Bury St. Edmunds. Created by the First Marquess of Bristol, the 19<sup>th</sup> century Italianate gardens are overlooked by the magnificent Rotunda house. The gardens include a Victorian Stumpery and the Temple Rose garden. The famous Capability Brown also helped to design Ickworth's extensive wood and parkland. A guided tour is included here.

We conclude today with a visit to the **Lucy Redman School of Garden Design** at Rushbrooke, where we will see the quirky 'maximalist' plantsman's garden, divided into compartments with impressive colour co-ordinated borders containing interesting combinations of unusual shrubs, grasses and perennials. Tea/coffee and cake are included here.

### **Tuesday 26 July 2016**

This morning after breakfast we check out of the hotel and travel to our final visit, the famous **Beth Chatto Gardens**, near Colchester. The garden was created in 1960 by Beth and Andrew Chatto from overgrown wasteland with poor gravel soil and boggy hollows. They have now transformed the area into an informal garden harmonising with the surrounding countryside and complemented by a large retail nursery with a wide range of plants. In the gravel garden, areas have been filled with drought loving plants, emulating a winding dried up river bed. The gentle descent of what was a soggy hollow has now been turned into dramatic water gardens.

We will break our homeward journey with a stop for refreshments (not included) at **Woolsthorpe Manor**, the birthplace in 1642 of Sir Isaac Newton and where he made many of his most important discoveries about light and gravity in the plague years of 1666-7 (entrance to the house/gardens is not included. This is a National Trust property so National Trust Members will be free of charge and non-members will be able to pay on the day).

Following this, we return to our original pick-up point, arriving home late afternoon/early evening.

### **Included in the price**

- 3 nights' dinner, bed and full breakfast at the Holiday Inn Ipswich - Orwell (or similar). All rooms have private facilities
- Comfortable coaching throughout
- Visits to the gardens of Woodward's, Helmingham Hall, Wyken Hall (including vineyard tour and tasting); Moat House, Ickworth, Lucy Redman School of Design and Beth Chatto
- Services of a Brightwater Holidays tour manager

### **Not included (per person)**

- Single room supplement                      £75.00
- Insurance    £18.50 (under 65); £37.00 (65-74); £55.50 (75-90)