

Café Monet



Our licensed restaurant, with views over the water gardens, is a great place to meet for lunch whether you are visiting the gardens or just stopping by to browse in the shop.

Serving a selection of homemade cakes, hot and cold lunches and our ever popular Dorset Cream Teas. You can also enjoy a glass of wine or local beer with your meal on the sunny terrace.

All lunches are freshly made to order. Only the finest ingredients are used and where possible with local produce from Dorset and the Westcountry.



The café is ideal for private functions, wedding receptions, Christmas parties and other special occasions.

View from the café



Visitor Information 2009

Opening times

Gardens open 16th March to 30th October 10am to 5pm.
Café open all year, please call for winter opening times.
We are closed every Saturday for private functions.

How to get here

Car: We are 2 miles west of Weymouth on the B3157 at Chickerell. Follow the brown road signs for 'Water Gardens' from the A354.

Bus: Nearest stop is the Army Camp at Chickerell, the gardens are a short walk down the road. Bus service 8: Weymouth to Chickerell, or service X53: Exeter to Bournemouth.

Train: Nearest station is Weymouth. Trains operate from London Waterloo via Basingstoke, Southampton, Bournemouth & Poole and from Bristol Temple Meads via Bath, Westbury & Yeovil.



- Free parking for cars & coaches on site.
- Discounted admission rates for groups & coaches.
- Disabled toilets & baby changing facilities.
- Sorry, no dogs allowed.

Disabled access. There is partial wheelchair access available around the gardens, however during periods of wet weather the gardens may be closed to wheelchair users. To avoid any disappointment please contact us in advance for further advice.

For latest info & events visit www.waterlily.co.uk

BENNETTS WATER GARDENS
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Phone: 01305 785150 Email: info@waterlily.co.uk

BENNETTS WATER GARDENS & LAKESIDE CAFÉ

On the World Heritage Jurassic Coast



50th Anniversary Year

The 8 acres of gardens here hold National & International Collections of Water Lilies, flowering from late spring through to autumn, creating one of the most outstanding displays of water lilies in Britain with a Monet style Japanese Bridge as the centrepiece.

Grass pathways lead you through the series of ponds and lakes surrounded by wetland plants, native trees, palms, wil plants and flowers. The gardens are a 'Site of Nature Conservation Interest' and home to abundant wildlife. There are scenic places to sit and unwind and shaded woodland walks to explore. The Tropical House contains exotic plants including a cacti collection and a Family Nature Trail keeps young visitors interested.

The Museum contains local history of Chickerell village (mentioned in the Domesday Book), Chesil Beach & Fleet lagoon, plus the fascinating history of this site from the Brickworks & Clay Pits of 1859 through to the gardens of today.



The Claude Monet connection

Many of the original water lilies planted here by the Bennett family in 1959 came from the same nursery in France that supplied Monet's garden in Giverny. These same varieties that Monet painted are among the collections held here today. The Monet style Japanese Bridge was commissioned here in 1999 to commemorate 100 years since Monet's painting 'Water Lily pond 1899' and recreates the painting of a bridge over a water lily pond.



One of Europe's oldest water lily nurseries

Browse the shop for an unusual gift or a plant for your garden. A wide selection of quality plants and water lilies grown onsite are available from our nursery, or for those that can't visit you can order online at www.waterlily.co.uk.



The Imperial Gazebo

Weddings & Functions

We have three rooms licensed for civil ceremonies including the beautiful Imperial Gazebo within the heart of the gardens. Also available as a unique venue for Private Functions and Corporate Events, please contact us for more information.



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Marquee Wedding Reception