

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**From:** Liz Gordon for Furzey Gardens  
**Date:** 13<sup>TH</sup> August 2016  
**Subject:** Free Guided Walks at Furzey Gardens

Visitors to Furzey Gardens are being offered free guided walks on the first Tuesdays of September and October to help with their enjoyment and understanding of the gardens.

Set in the heart of the New Forest at Minstead in Hampshire, these delightful informal gardens, which are a designated Conservation Area, were established in 1922 and have developed an all year round beauty.

Furzey Gardens offers stunning views in the Autumn. A native plant of South America, the Eucryphia, thrives at Furzey Gardens and there are six different varieties, both deciduous and evergreen, which are covered with fragrant flowers in August and September. The cottage garden also comes alive with fruit and vegetables later in the season.

The Gardens now form a social enterprise, providing work experience opportunities for people with learning disabilities who learn horticulture skills in the Gardens and Plant Nursery, and work in the Coffee Shop. In 2012 a learning disabled team created a garden for the Chelsea Flower Show for which they won a Gold medal. The Chelsea Garden was replanted at Furzey and is a popular attraction with visitors.

The walk starts at 11.15am on Tuesdays 6<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October. There is no need to book and normal garden entrance donation applies. Visitors on other days can download a guide to the Plants of Interest from the Furzey Gardens website [www.furzey-gardens.org](http://www.furzey-gardens.org) before their visit to help them identify what they can see.

In addition, on 18<sup>th</sup> November, there will an Autumn Colour Walk led by Head Gardener, Pete White. Tickets cost £5 per person and 10% discount is offered on an afternoon tea, if booked in advance with the Autumn Colour Walk. To book, email [Sally.Derrick@furzey-gardens.org](mailto:Sally.Derrick@furzey-gardens.org) or call 023 8081 2464.

**ENDS**

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