

# The Butterfly Garden



In order to ensure a safe environment for all visitors to The Butterfly Garden, it is important to keep emergency contact information for all students and support staff. This information will be held by the project and will only be available to key staff (and then only in the event of there being an urgent need for contact). Please fill out as much of the form as you can and return it as soon as possible.

We also ask that **you sign\* an acknowledgement of our operational practices** recognising that if your student requires guaranteed constant support you will need to provide it. Students can attend for free as often as they wish, but we rely **totally on volunteer support and this can be slightly unpredictable.**

**\*We are accepting of and happy with your arrangements for the person named below.**

Signed :

Relationship:

<b>Group/School/Organisation Independent.</b>	
<b>STUDENT / VOLUNTEER OR SUPPORT</b>	
<b>Name (of individual)*</b>	
<b>Age</b>	
<b>Address*</b>	
<b>Contact Telephone number</b>	
<b>Emergency contact name* Or Care Coordinator</b>	
<b>Emergency contact number</b>	
<b>Contact relationship Contact relationship</b>	
<b>E-mail:</b>	
<b>Any other information that you want us to have</b>	

**PUBLICITY. We are happy for this attendee to feature in T.V or Photo Opportunities in support of the project, should they arise.**

**Please answer **yes or no** in the box.**

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\*Essential details. Our contacts: 01452-713068 or [info@thebutterflygarden.org](mailto:info@thebutterflygarden.org)

## The Butterfly Garden Introduction.

Bamfurlong Lane, Cheltenham. GL51 6SL



**Welcome to The Butterfly Garden, a free community-resource charity for anyone of any age dealing with issues that they find disabling. On a day to day basis, the project is run by a team of volunteers, who with a group of trustees oversee the management of the charity. The provision is free.**

We have a strong emphasis on building a welcoming community in which every person is recognised as someone who has their own special contribution to make. Lead volunteers, with experience in working with those with disabilities, are on site every day and other volunteers, not necessarily with backgrounds in this field, are also present to support, encourage and engage students in the activities available.

**The Butterfly Garden is charity located to the rear of a small Garden centre called Dundry Nurseries (Which is an independent business). It should be stressed that the students neither work for, or on behalf of, this business and that this business has its own paid staff.**

The site has an open door policy and students, customers and visitors are likely to cross paths during the course of the day.

### New Students

We don't require anyone to sign up or register, but **We will ask you to sign an acknowledgement of our operational practices, as detailed , recognising that if your student requires guaranteed constant support you will need to provide it. We will also ask you to fill out an emergency contact form, detailing any relevant medical information and other important personal information that you feel we should know.**

**Before for signing, we ask that you consider carefully the needs of your charge, particularly in respect of their medicinal and toileting needs. We do not have medical or care professionals and therefore are not able to take responsibility for toileting or the distribution of medicines.**

Students can attend for free as often as they wish, but we rely totally on volunteer support and this can be somewhat unpredictable.

Please do come and visit us, if you haven't already had the chance. This will give you a much better feel for the place and enable you to decide whether this setting is appropriate for your student(s).

## The Gardens

The project covers a 4-acre site and consists of a diverse range of spaces. These include gardens, classrooms, a kitchen, glasshouses, a wildlife garden with bird hide, an observation hide, an outdoor theatre, a 2-acre area of wheelchair accessible countryside, a woodwork room, recycling areas, allotments and other spaces for socialising in. Ducks and chickens range freely across the site.

**Activities** There are no structured groupings and, as such, students are free to dip in and out of activities as they wish.

The following gives a rough outline of a regular weeks activities. Please note that, due to the volunteer led nature of these sometimes personal issues can interrupt a plan. Equally new opportunities often arrive unexpectedly. Timings are also flexible, but 10.00 am. and 1.00 pm. are typical start times.

## The Cabin and Art room are home to (classrooms at the back of the site)

<b>Day</b>	<b>Morning</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Baking	Art Painting
<b>Tuesday</b>	Baking and Aerobics	<b>Music Club</b> and Zumba
<b>Wednesday</b>	Baking	Drama
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Cooking Lunch</b> and Sewing and craft	Puppet Club
<b>Friday</b>	Move and Groove Group	<b>Art</b>

### PLUS....

**EVERYDAY....**We are also Recycling: video tapes, cardboard, cans, horticultural plastic – and we are gardening across the site both indoors and out.

On Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays we run Woodwork sessions, run a kindling project and are developing a museum.

We also have a charity shop, pound shop and cafe on site which run in support of us. There may be opportunities to help with these; please ask if you're interested.

Often, other activities, such as arts and crafts, creative writing, walks, bingo, karaoke etc start up spontaneously\* as and when people want to do them or when new volunteers arrive bringing different areas of expertise. Socialising is also a massive part of the project.

Frequently, students find their own niche and discover tasks around the site that they want to take ownership of. They take real pride in their work and gain great satisfaction from

carrying out these tasks.



### **Daily timings**

Although there is no formal timetable, the project is open on weekdays from 9am-3pm, with most students arriving around 10am. However, there is no requirement for anyone to be on site at a given time or commit to any particular day(s). Most people tend to have tea break at 11am and then lunch at about 12:30pm (12 noon on Fridays). **Please be aware of our closing time and recognise that we are unable to guarantee volunteer support beyond 3pm.**

### **Refreshments**

Tea and coffee are available free of charge throughout the day but students are required to bring their own food with them, although on thursday a free dinner is available in the Cabin. There is also a privately run cafe on site at which food can be purchased.

### **Bus**

A regular bus is run into the area by Stagecoach and is the 94 service between Cheltenham and Gloucester. The service runs every ten minutes but our nearest stop is a mile away, so visitors using the service will have a walk. Visitors should disembark at **The White Lion stop** and travel via Bamfurlong Lane using the footpath. Other routes do not have a pavement. Regretably we are not able to guarantee support to students in their travel to and from the site.

Further details on us, more can be found on our website: [www.thebutterflygarden.org](http://www.thebutterflygarden.org).

If you have any questions, please contact **Chris Evans** on **07821 415195** or by e-mail : [info@thebutterflygarden.org](mailto:info@thebutterflygarden.org).

Before for signing, we ask that you consider carefully the needs of your charge, particularly in respect of their medicinal and toileting needs. We **do not** have medical or care professionals and therefore are not able to take responsibility for toileting or the distribution of medicines.

**Thank you for taking the time to read this document.**