

Huttons at *Hylands*

The splendid 18th century Hylands House in Chelmsford is a venue with something for everyone. Stroll through acres of rolling parkland, visit the formal gardens and wooded areas, lakes, rills, pergolas and an adventure play area.

At the heart of the estate are the original Georgian stables, which have been restored and converted into The Stables Visitor Centre with craft and artists' studios, book and gift shops, together with Huttons Courtyard Café.

Huttons buzzes with visitors seven days a week, from 8.30am to 5pm in the summer months. A large outdoor seating area occupies one side of the attractive enclosed courtyard – this is designated a 'dog-free zone'. But fear not – dog walkers are well catered for, with an equally spacious garden especially created for people with their pooches. Both outdoor areas and the large airy café interior are non-smoking.

When asked which was the most popular dish on the menu, Lisa, who has worked at Huttons for ten years, replied without hesitation: 'All of them!' The homemade cakes – many of



which are made on the premises, regularly sell out. Pistachio and lime, chocolate and coconut, plus coffee and walnut cakes were among the delicious bakes on offer the day we visited.

The paninis and oven-baked jacket potatoes are a great lunchtime favourite, while daily specials include dishes such as a prawn, avocado and sweet chilli wrap, aubergine curry – suitable for vegans – and traditional scampi, chips and peas. The children's menu features an array of sandwiches such as the Rooster Booster and the Humpty Dumpty, plus kids' size main meals. Senior citizens are also catered for with a 10% discount off the lunch menu on Thursdays.

Huttons is licensed for a cold beer or chilled prosecco or wine to enjoy as a summer lunchtime treat. Those with a really sweet tooth

can sample the Mars Bar Massive ice cream sundae!

There is a whole programme of events at Hylands throughout the summer. Combine a visit to Huttons with one of the regular Farmers Markets, Tuesday Toddles for parents with pre-school children and Scrapbook Safaris for primary age children.

**Huttons Courtyard Café,
Hylands Park, Chelmsford
CM2 8WQ. Tel: 01245 346765
For Hylands House: Tel: 01245
605500. (The park will be closed
during the V Festival – check for
dates.) Ample parking. Disabled
access. [www.chelmsford.gov.uk/
hylands-park](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/hylands-park)**