



BETH CHATTO: A LIFE WITH PLANTS

*by Catherine Horwood
(Pimpernel Press, £30)*

The late Beth Chatto is held in high horticultural regard - for the Essex garden and nursery she founded in 1967 and the 10 Gold Medals she won at RHS Chelsea Flower Show. This impeccably researched biography by Catherine Horwood focuses on Beth's personal life, chronicling her childhood, the motivations behind the garden she created at White Barn House and the process behind her books. It is also about her friendships - with painter Cedric Morris (her 'spiritual father') and the Great Dixter gardener Christopher Lloyd, whom she taught how to use a Magimix, so he could make sorrel soup. **Elizabeth Metcalfe**