



NEWS RELEASE

Snowdrop Festival welcomes the first signs of spring in Nottinghamshire



Image courtesy of Leigh Clapp in association with the National Garden Scheme

Shake off the winter and welcome the first signs of spring with the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival. These glorious harbingers of the wonderful life of gardens to come can be viewed in over 100 National Garden Scheme gardens throughout England and Wales during January, February and March.

On a wintry day there is nothing better than visiting a garden teeming with one of the earliest flowering plants of the year –and the National Garden Scheme’s fourth annual Snowdrop Festival welcomes the first signs of spring to everyone with 3 snowdrop gardens open in Nottinghamshire

Whether you enjoy carpets of naturalised white in woodlands, meticulously grown rare varieties of snowdrops or gardens boasting a colourful mix of snowdrops, hellebores and other early spring flowers – there is something for galanthophiles and garden enthusiasts alike throughout January and February.

George Plumptre, Chief Executive of The National Garden Scheme, says:

“Over the last few years the National Garden Scheme’s Snowdrop Festival has attracted tens of thousands of visitors to gardens throughout January and February. But garden visiting at this time of year isn’t just for galanthophiles who are looking to discover a rare variety of snowdrop in gardens they may never otherwise find. Snowdrops are the perfect antidote to the winter blues and spending the afternoon at one of our Snowdrop Festival gardens is the ideal opportunity to get outside and enjoy some spectacular scenes at an otherwise gloomy time of year.”

Snowdrop garden highlights in Nottinghamshire include:

Sunday 23rd February.

Church Farm, Church Lane, West Drayton, Retford. DN22 8EB. Sunday 23rd February, 10.30 – 4 pm

The garden is essentially a spring garden with a small woodland area which is carpeted with many snowdrops, aconites and cyclamen which have seeded into the adjoining churchyard, with approximately 180 named snowdrops growing in island beds, along with hellebores and daffodils. Limited numbers of snowdrops and miniature iris for sale. Parking, wheelchair accessible, dogs welcome, plants for sale, refreshments.

Holmes Villa, Holmes Lane, Walkeringham, Gainsborough. DN10 4JP. Sunday 23rd February, 12 – 4 pm

Large plantsman’s garden offering year round interest and inspiration, starting with carpets of snowdrops, mini daffodils, hellebores and spring bulbs. Unusual collection of plants and shrubs for winter. Come and be surprised at the different fragrant and interesting plants in early spring. Parking, plants for sale, wheelchair accessible, refreshments.

Sunday 1st March.

Bolham Manor, Bolham Way, Bolham, Retford, Nottinghamshire. DN22 9JG. Sunday 1st March, 11 am – 3 pm.

As you enter this 3 acre mature garden, you are greeted by the ‘Dancing willow Ladies’ amidst swathes of snowdrops and narcissus. Your eyes are drawn to the occasional well positioned sculpture or topiary feature guiding you through to other areas of the garden and orchard, where even more carpets of snowdrops and early bulbs will greet you. Parking, partial wheelchair access, plants for sale, refreshments.

To find your perfect snowdrop garden, visit ngs.org.uk/snowdrops or download the National Garden Scheme app.

A selection of hi-res snowdrop images are available here – please use the photographer’s credit at all times and only use in association with the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival <http://bit.ly/NGSSnowdropFestival>

- Ends -

For more information, high resolution images or to interview a spokesperson, please contact Julie Davison by emailing Julie.Davison@ngs.org.uk or calling 07979700979

Notes to editors

Snowdrop Festival Facts

- 115 gardens are opening for the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival in 2020
- Many of the gardens feature gallanthus, hellbores and other early spring flowers
- 40 of the snowdrop gardens are also open and open by arrangement for groups
- Among the gardens opening a few are owned by snowdrop experts including: **add your local expert garden** or use: Higher Cerubeer, Devon; Knowle Hill Farm, Kent; Pembury House, East Sussex
- A list of all snowdrop gardens, by region, is available via www.ngs.org.uk/snowdrops
- The festival runs between 1st-28th February, however a few gardens are open for snowdrops in late January and early March too
- Originally launched in 2016 to mark the Year of the English Garden, the National Garden Scheme has been championing the Snowdrop Festival ever since, creating a wonderful taster for the garden visiting year to come
- The snowdrop gardens attract high visitor numbers. The uncomplicated visitor experience - often accompanied by a warming bowl of soup or hot drinks - fresh air and the beautiful, faithful first signs of spring are a reminder of the changing seasons and the promise of what’s to come

About National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,600 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake.

Thanks to the generosity of garden owners, volunteers and visitors we have donated a total of £58 million to nursing and health charities. Founded in 1927 to support district nurses, we are now the most significant charitable funder of nursing in the UK and our beneficiaries include Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK and The Queen’s Nursing Institute.

The National Garden Scheme doesn’t just open beautiful gardens for charity – we are passionate about the physical and mental health benefits of gardens too. We fund projects which promote gardens and gardening as therapy, and in 2017, we launched our annual Gardens and Health Week to raise awareness of the topic.

To find your perfect garden, visit **ngs.org.uk**, download the National Garden Scheme app or purchase the National Garden Scheme's *Garden Visitor's Handbook*, which is published annually and available via **ngs.org.uk/shop** and at all good book retailers.

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