



PRESS RELEASE:

100 gardens to celebrate the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival in 2022

Fresh air and the beautiful, faithful first signs of spring epitomised by drifts of glorious snowdrops are a reminder of the changing seasons and the promise of what's to come. What better way to shake off the winter and to celebrate the exciting gardening visiting year ahead than with the National Garden Scheme's 2022 Snowdrop Festival. These glorious harbingers of the wonderful life of gardens to come can be viewed in 100 National Garden Scheme gardens throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland during January, February and March.

On a wintry day there is nothing better than visiting a garden gleaming with one of the earliest flowering plants of the year. 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.

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

“Following the restrictions of 2020 and 2021 there has never been a greater need to start the new year with the beautiful freshness of the first blooms of spring. 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 100 Snowdrop Festival gardens is the ideal opportunity to get outside and enjoy some spectacular scenes at an otherwise gloomy time of year.”

Here are the gardens opening to showcase their snowdrops and spring bulbs in Nottinghamshire:

Sunday 6th February.

60 High Street, Sutton on Trent. NG23 6QA. 10.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Mature half acre garden on the site of a Victorian flower nursery, now a series of well planted areas, each with its own character: over 400 snowdrop varieties in early spring for the galanthophiles. Dog friendly, plants for sale, refreshments.

Saturday 12th February.

1 Highfield Road, Nuthall, Nottingham. NG126 1BQ. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Visit us in February to see our collection of 500+ snowdrop varieties, 280 in the garden and many others in show benches. Our spring garden has lots of colour with many rare and unusual plants, miniature narcissus, acers, aconites and magnolias. A good selection of unusual pots and garden ornaments. Plants for sale, refreshments.

Sunday 13th February.

Church Farm, West Drayton, Retford. DN22 8EB. 10.30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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. Visitors please bring your own refreshments to enjoy in the church adjoining Church Farm. Wheelchair access, dog friendly, plants for sale.

Visit by arrangement, February to September.

Bolham Manor, Bolham Way, Bolham, Retford. Contact pamandbutch@hotmail.co.uk, tel: 07790896022.

This 3 acre mature garden provides year round interest. In February, 'Dancing' willow Ladies greet you amongst swathes of snowdrops, narcissus and early bulbs. Topiary features and sculptures guide you through the different parts of the garden with its well planted terraced and herbaceous borders, ponds and orchard. Visitors are welcome to bring their own refreshments and picnic. Partial wheelchair access, plants for sale.

Hi-Res snowdrop images are available here – please always use the photographers’ credit and only use in association with the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival

[National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival 2022 \(smugmug.com\)](https://www.smugmug.com)

For more information and snowdrop garden videos see: [Snowdrops Archives - National Garden Scheme \(ngs.org.uk\)](https://www.ngs.org.uk)

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Notes to editors

More about snowdrops by National Garden Scheme Chief Executive, George Plumptre

What is it about snowdrops? Every year they reappear with unfailing regularity, popping up just as winter has got to the stage when we all long for it to end, to tell us that there really is something cheerful about February. And despite their apparent delicacy, small white flowers on short slender stems, they are unfailingly robust; often pushing through inches of snow and flowering for weeks on end, showing none of the weather-affected temperamentality that makes growing so many plants a nail-biting exercise.

They also provide one of the most memorable links between gardens and our natural landscape. Because of their ability to spread or ‘naturalise’ over large areas if left undisturbed, especially in favourable sites such as typical native English woodland, they can produce spectacular carpets of white that are made all the more enthralling by the starkness that surrounds them.

With such enticement, it is not surprising that people will put on hats, gloves and wellies and head out to enjoy such heart-warming pleasure at a time of year when often they have been confined indoors for weeks on end. And over the coming weeks there are gardens opening all over England and Wales, more than 95 in all, which will welcome you and enable you to enjoy one of our great garden-visiting treats.

Some of the gardens also cater for that particular group of devoted specialists, the galanthophiles. It’s all in the name...Galanthus is the Latin name for snowdrop and virtually all snowdrops originate from a small number of wild species of which the most common is *Galanthus nivalis*. But snowdrops are also adept at producing numerous variants and so there are now literally hundreds of different ones, many of them rare and these are the treasures that a galanthophile will travel for hundreds of miles to see – sometimes paying hundreds of pounds to buy a single plant.

Whether you are a committed galanthophile or someone looking for the simpler pleasure of enjoying a gardening treasure-trove that just lifts this otherwise dead time of year, the gardens in the National Garden Scheme Snowdrop Festival offer the best array of snowdrops anywhere and many of them are only open to visitors for a day or so now to support the National Garden Scheme.

About the National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique, affordable access to over 3,500 exceptional private gardens 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 over £63 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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For more information or to arrange to speak to an expert or spokesperson please contact:
Julie.davison@ngs.org.uk or telephone on 07979 700979.