



Hodsock Priory Snowdrops, Blyth, Nottinghamshire S81 0TY
07970 984327 | www.hodsockpriory.com | @HodsockPriory

PRESS RELEASE FOR DISTRIBUTION 28 JANUARY 2019

Experience the natural beauty of Hodsock Priory's winter gardens and woodland walk

Excitement is growing around the 'back to basics' Snowdrops at Hodsock Priory event, due to open to visitors for just nine days next month. From **Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th February 2019** the historic North Nottinghamshire estate's winter gardens and snowdrop walk will open daily from 10am to 3pm. Visitors should note that only cash payments can be accepted at the entry kiosk and Woodland Café. Admission prices have been rolled back to the 1990s at £3 per adult, £2 for Friends of Hodsock and free entry for under 18s and wheelchair users. Tickets can also be purchased in advance online at www.snowdrops.co.uk.

The 2019 season is intended to be a quiet celebration of natural beauty and there will be no large coach parties, marquee tearoom, gift shop or plant sale. Dogs, with the exception of assistance dogs, are not permitted into the grounds.

The five acres of formal gardens are awakening with colour and fragrance. Winter flowering plants and shrubs including hellebores, winter flowering honeysuckle, dogwood, garrya elliptica, iris, butterbur, petasites and sarcococca are emerging from their winter slumber to bring joy, along with over 80 varieties of snowdrop, to visitors of all ages and interests.

Along the half-mile woodland walk, swathes of pristine white snowdrops will be emerging. Visitors can stop and warm themselves next to the roaring campfire, with hot drinks, bacon butties and other treats available for cash purchase at the Woodland Café. Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are situated at the entrance to Horse Pasture Wood.

Sir Andrew Buchanan said, *"Last season's prolonged snowfall resulted in an early closure so we are hoping for clement weather this February. We wish to offer a seasonal glimpse of nature at its best, with peace and quiet, birdsong and a gentle walk through the gardens and woods. We have many regular visitors who have come to see the Snowdrops at Hodsock every season for over 20 years. They still comment on the unhurried simplicity and beauty from those early years."*

Visitors are advised to check the weather forecast before setting off and to dress warmly with sturdy footwear as the estate will be open rain or shine! The main footpaths through the woodland and gardens, from the Tudor gatehouse to the replica Victorian beehives, are passable in most weather conditions with wheelchairs and buggies.

For further details, contact Sir Andrew Buchanan on andrew.buchanan@hodsockpriory.com or telephone 07970 984327. Card payments cannot be accepted at the entry kiosk or Woodland Café but advance tickets, redeemable any day throughout the season, can be purchased at www.snowdrops.co.uk.

Ends

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

Snowdrops 2019: Admission £3 for adults, £2 for Friends of Hodsock, under 18s and wheelchair users go FREE. Cash only, card payments not accepted. Snowdrops 2019 will open daily from Saturday 9th to Sunday 17th February 2019, from 10am to 3pm (last entry). The Estate will be closed at 6pm. Answers to FAQs can be found at www.snowdrops.co.uk

Not just Snowdrops: Aside from the breathtaking Snowdrop displays, expect to wander through banks of hellebores, carpets of cyclamen and ribbons of golden aconites. Blue irises and orange and red of the acers mixed with the heady scent of sarcococca make Hodsock a garden for the senses. The five acres of formal planted gardens were landscaped in the 1820s and are now overseen by Lady Belinda Buchanan, along with 12 acres of stunning snowdrop and beech covered woodland.

Family home: Hodsock Priory is a privately owned country house and 800 acre estate on the border of Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire. Run as a wedding venue the House is generally closed to the public. The gates to Hodsock are opened annually in February so the Buchanan family can share the spectacular snowdrop gardens with the public and again in April/May for Bluebells.

Highly rated: Hodsock is annually recommended by the Times and The Telegraph as one of the top 10 Snowdrop gardens to visit.

PRESS ENQUIRIES:

Helen Leach
Hodsock Priory
helenleachmarketing@outlook.com
07866 515111

www.hodsockpriory.com
www.twitter.com/HodsockPriory
www.facebook.com/SnowdropsHodsockPriory
www.instagram.com/hodsockprioryinnotts