



Snowdrops and spring at Forde Abbey

When was the last time you heard someone say that winters were getting milder and spring is getting earlier?! This winter has certainly been a challenge with both prolonged cold snaps and torrential rain. At Forde Abbey near Chard however, spring is definitely here with snowdrops blooming all over the garden. To celebrate this Forde Abbey is holding its very first Snowdrop Weekend from Friday 6th to Sunday 8th February to give visitors a chance to see these harbingers of spring.

Owner Mark Roper is especially pleased to see them. “Just before Christmas the heavy rains flooded the house and gardens. We had muddy water everywhere and the chapel particularly suffered. So to see signs that the winter is over and that warmer, and hopefully drier, weather is on the way is quite a relief. The early part of the year is my favourite time in the garden and the snowdrops are a big part of that.”

Visitors to the 30 acre garden will be able to admire the snowdrops as well as other early blooming flowers like the Coum cyclamen and the hellebores. The tearoom and gift shop will also be open for this special long weekend beginning on Friday 6th. Adult entry to the garden for the Snowdrop Weekend is £4 with children under 15 free. The Gardens are open from 10am-4.30pm (last entry). The Gift Shop opens at 10am with the Tearoom opening at 11am.

End

26th January 2009

For Editors

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Forde Abbey & Gardens

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The gardens are open daily throughout the year from 10am to 4.30pm (Last admission). The house reopens on the 1st April and will be open from 12noon-4pm (last admission) on Tuesdays-Fridays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays. The Tearoom and Gift Shop will open again for the new season from the 1st March

Signposted from A358 Chard/Axminster, A3066 Bridport/Crewkerne, A30 Chard/Crewkerne.



The water mark on the altar cloth shows how far the water rose in the chapel on the 13th December. The organ is still drying out before repairs can take place. This cold snap followed the wet weather with the ponds partially frozen.



Thanks to the Snowdrops we know that spring is now definitely on the way!