



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

18th June 2020

YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM REOPENS – OFFERS SPACIOUS, SAFE DAYS OUT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Yorkshire Arboretum reopened on 8th June, offering 120 acres of peace and tranquillity on the historic Castle Howard estate. With COVID-19 lockdown restrictions easing, the arboretum is a perfect place to escape to and experience outstanding natural beauty safely. With sweeping vistas, wildflower meadows and peace hidden glades to explore, the Yorkshire Arboretum offers visitors a taste of the natural world away from these uncertain and troubling times.

The arboretum has adapted to the necessity of restricting the spread of Covid-19 by introducing new visiting times and an online booking system, as well as a new reception cabin and a one-way flow system to ensure social distancing; sadly the Visitor Centre and Arboretum Café are still closed. General admission is from 12-4pm daily; exclusive entry for arboretum members is 10am-12pm. Booking visits in advance is easy using the arboretum's new online booking facility, which is available at: www.yorkshirearboretum.org/admission-booking

Yorkshire Arboretum Director, Dr John Grimshaw, said: "I am delighted to see the arboretum open and full of life again after the strange quiet of the past few months. It's lovely to chat to returning visitors and members, and to hear how much they're enjoying being here in such a safe and secure environment. Our vast lawns are perfect for picnicking with your family, and at the moment the wildflower meadows are at their peak, full of flowers including lots of wild orchids – or look for the huge numbers of tiny baby toads emerging from the lake. There's something to inspire everyone here- and plenty of space to explore."

CHANGING CHAIRS

After nine years, Professor Alastair Fitter CBE, FRS, has stood down as Chair of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust at a recent board meeting held by Zoom. Following tributes and thanks for his

dedicated service to the Trust Alastair was presented with a painting of an arboretum scene by artist-in-residence Meg Huby. Following an advertising and application process, the Trust has appointed Greville Worthington as new Chair. Until recently Greville was Chair of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park, but he has a keen interest in trees, growing many maples and bamboos at his home near Catterick.

ENDS

PHOTOS

WeTransfer link:

© Frank Dwyer, John Grimshaw, Mathew Harrison, Melissa Hartshorne – all photos are labelled

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Yorkshire Arboretum and Ray Wood are gardens of the Castle Howard Arboretum Trust, an independent charity (registration number 1044931) established to maintain and protect these unique collections. Founded in 1997 as a partnership between the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Castle Howard, the Trust's patron is HRH The Prince of Wales.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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