



PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE

5th April 2019

NATIONAL TREE CHAMPION SIR WILLIAM WORSLEY OPENS 'CELEBRATING OUR OAKS' EXHIBITION AT THE YORKSHIRE ARBORETUM

On Thursday 4th April, the Government's National Tree Champion Sir William Worsley visited the Yorkshire Arboretum to launch the International Garden Photographer of the Year: 'Celebrating Our Oaks' exhibition. The exhibition category was developed in partnership between the International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) and Action Oak – a major initiative to protect the UK's oak trees – and the outdoor display showcases the magnificence of our oaks and demonstrates why they hold such a special place in our hearts.

Sir William was joined by Action Oak Project Officer Sarah Jeffery, Yorkshire Arboretum Director Dr John Grimshaw, arboretum Chair of Trustees Prof Alastair Fitter, and Life Members, Friends and Trustees of the arboretum, who were invited to view the exhibition and enjoy a spot of afternoon tea. Sir William said "The stunning images in this exhibition demonstrate why oaks are so vital to us, and what we stand to lose if they are not properly cared for."

The exhibition is supported by HSBC and Action Oak, and displays the competition finalists' photographs. A companion photo book is also available to purchase, with entries by a number of celebrities including Joanna Lumley and Alan Titchmarsh, and a foreword by Dame Judi Dench. Yorkshire Arboretum director Dr John Grimshaw says "We're delighted to host 'Celebrating Our Oaks', which is located near some of our own finest oaks, planted in the mid-1700s. Just a short walk from our Visitor Centre, visitors will be able to enjoy the exhibition at their leisure."

The touring exhibition is on display until May 7th, when it will make its way to Northern Ireland and then Edinburgh.

ENDS

PHOTOS

Attached - copyright Mathew Harrison

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.

The Yorkshire Arboretum is located opposite the entrance to Castle Howard and is open from 10am – 4pm every day from March – November, with extended opening at weekends from May – October. In addition to the 120 acre garden of trees there's a children's woodland playground, a café offering delicious home-cooked seasonal food and drink and a gift shop. Well-behaved dogs are welcome. Admission is £7 for adults, £3.50 for juniors (12-16) and £17.50 for families. Under 12s are admitted free. Find out more at www.yorkshirearboretum.org

The arboretum's annual event programme includes a wide range of family and outdoor activities, botanical and horticultural education, and arts and crafts workshops. Full details are available at www.yorkshirearboretum.org

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Jonathan Cridford, Communications Assistant

The Yorkshire Arboretum, Castle Howard, York, YO60 7BY

Tel: 01653 648598

Email: marketing@yorkshirearboretum.org