



# Media Release

*Lynne Mee*

**Direct line 01423 556022**

**Communications and Media Manager** Direct fax 01423 561154 not 24 hrs

**24 hour fax “ 556010  
Mobile 07884 226409**

Email [lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk](mailto:lynne.mee@harrogate.gov.uk)

[www.harrogate.gov.uk](http://www.harrogate.gov.uk)

pr993.Pinewoods - RHS Harlow Carr.doc

DATE: 10 June 2004

**photo opportunity – see below**

## **VALLEY GARDENS AND RHS GARDEN HARLOW CARR JOIN FORCES**

Whilst always closely connected geographically, the links between Harrogate’s two most famous historical and horticultural landmarks have now been further secured.

Following major improvements to the Pinewoods, Harrogate Borough Council and the Royal Horticultural Society are jointly promoting the beautiful link walk between the Valley Gardens and RHS Garden Harlow Carr. A new information leaflet has been produced and is available from the Harrogate Tourist Information Office, Harlow Carr and other selected outlets. The walk will enable visitors to enjoy a leisurely stroll between these two magnificent gardens, via the Pinewoods, and get the most from their day out.

Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces for Harrogate Borough Council, said: “This gentle walk of just over one and half miles will take visitors through formal gardens and peaceful woodland. And thanks to the Pinewood Conservation Group, the Army Foundation College and the Harrogate Rotarians, whose support for this project has been endless, new all-weather footpaths through the Pinewoods were constructed this winter and further minor improvements will be undertaken this summer to encourage people to take advantage of not one but three renowned beauty spots. These paths also increase accessibility for disabled people.

“Both the Valley Gardens and RHS Garden Harlow Carr are undergoing ongoing major improvements and although the Pinewoods is a horticulture feature in its own right, it also provides an important link between the two gardens. Our ultimate plan is to develop such things as a sculpture trail, an arboretum walk with species trees and nature trails to identify the various flora and fauna. This is all going to provide one long and delightful horticultural experience and the perfect family day out for all seasons.”

The Valley Gardens are an English Heritage Grade II listed garden. They have played a major role in Harrogate’s success as a ‘floral resort’. The gardens cover 17 acres along with the Pinewoods. They contain the greatest number of mineral wells, more than any other place in the world – 36 of Harrogate’s 88 mineral wells are found within the Valley Gardens of which no two are alike.

Matthew Wilson, Curator and Head of Site at Harlow Carr comments: "Harlow Carr and the Valley Gardens are synonymous with Harrogate, and recognised around the country as gardens of excellence. Linking them together in this way, by a walk that will become part of the visiting experience in its own right, is a great step forward which is sure be appreciated by local residents and visitors to the town."

Harlow Carr offers the perfect setting to demonstrate a wide range of plants and planting combinations that will inspire, educate and delight visitors. Education, sustainability and the enhancement of biodiversity are at the heart of the work of the Royal Horticultural Society and Harlow Carr has a comprehensive education programme for all ages, along with many examples of sustainable and biodiverse horticulture, from formal flower borders to wildflower meadows. The local climate and geology also play a key role in the garden, with examples of Limestone and Sandstone rock gardens that are being redeveloped to reflect similar features in the local landscape, and Harlow Carr has a long established tradition of plant hardiness trials. Harlow Carr is a garden with interest for all seasons, and with exciting developments such as the new 'Gardens through Time' (due to open from 1 July this year), and a 'Bettys Garden Cafe' opening at Harlow Carr this autumn, the garden is 'growing to inspire'. ENDS

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces and Matthew Wilson and Matthew Wilson, Curator of Head of Site at Harlow Carr will launch the walk at 12 noon on Tuesday, 15 June 2003 on Harlow Moor Road – meet at the entrance to Valley Gardens, which is on the right if you are travelling from Otley Road immediately past the right turn to Harlow Moor Drive.**

**FURTHER INFORMATION: is available from Mr Patrick Kilburn, Head of Parks and Open Spaces on 01423 556704 and Allison Williams, PR Manager at RHS Garden Harlow Carr on 01423 565418.**