

WALKING WITH The Snowman™



AT HILLSBOROUGH
CASTLE AND GARDENS



TRAIL MAP

CHRISTMAS FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Discover a range of family-friendly activities:

Create your own arts and crafts, make your own Georgian chocolate treat, and listen to Christmas tales inspired by the Yuletide season.

All activities will take place in The Stable Yard/Clore Learning Centre.

GET CRAFTY: THE SNOWMAN

Saturday 18 November and
Saturday 25 November

10:30–11:00, 11:30–12:00, 12:30–13:00,
14:00–14:30, 15:00–15:30

Celebrate The Snowman trail by decorating Hillsborough Castle's very own snowman with our artist facilitator! The snowman will be displayed on site throughout the run of our Snowman Trail.

Suitable for families with children aged 5+.

GEORGIAN CHOCOLATE: MAKE & TAKE A CHOCOLATE DRUMSTICK

Saturday 02 December

10:30–11:15, 11:45–12:30, 13:30–14:15, 14:45–15:30.
Last entry 14:45

Find out all about Georgian chocolate and make your own festive chocolate treat to take home, with Hillsborough Castle's very own chocolatier, Jamie Penny!

*Suitable for families with children aged 5+.
Please note only children may make the
chocolate drumstick.*

CHRISTMAS STORYTELLING SESSIONS

Saturday 16 December

10:30–11:00, 11:30–12:00, 12:30–13:00,
14:00–14:30, 15:00–15:30

In this relaxed session for families, enjoy a wide range of cosy Christmas stories inspired by the festive season.

*Suitable for families with children aged 3+.
All children must be accompanied.*

SNOWMAN SCREENINGS

Screenings of The Snowman™ film will take place on selected dates in December:

The film lasts approximately 30 minutes, screenings begin at 12:00 and 15:00 in The Stable Yard/Clore Learning Centre.

Screening dates: 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 December.

Admission is included as part of a Gardens visit but space is limited; please register your interest at the admissions desk to guarantee a space.

Find out more about
The World of the
Snowman by visiting
www.thesnowman.co.uk

- 1** ***Partridge in a Pear Tree***
Hillsborough's Walled Garden is home to many traditional pear tree varieties, but you would be unlikely to see a partridge roosting in their branches because they are mainly ground-dwelling birds!
- 2** ***Turtle Doves***
The Hill family traditionally paid an annual rent of two white doves to the Crown allowing them to hold a market in Hillsborough.
- 3** ***French Hens***
As a child, Lady Alice Hill presented a cup at the Hillsborough Castle show every year for the 'best pen of fowls – 3 hens and a cockerel'.
- 4** ***Calling Birds***
Colly is an old English word for coal-black so the colly birds referred to in the original version of the 12 Days of Christmas song were black birds. In later versions this was changed to calling birds – which are songbirds.
- 5** ***Gold Rings***
In 1813, over 4000 guineas worth of jewels and money was stolen from the Hill family's house in London, including a gold ring bearing the family's crest. Ten years later the ring washed up on a Welsh beach following a shipwreck!
- 6** ***Geese a Laying***
Northern Ireland annually hosts migrating geese from Canada. Their first stop is Strangford Lough before dispersing across the island.

- 7** ***Swans a Swimming***
His Majesty the King holds the right to all swans in open water in England and Wales but only exercises this right in the Thames.
- 8** ***Maids a Milking***
Hillsborough Castle used to have its own dairy to supply milk, butter and cheese for the household. An accounts book from 1815 shows that the yearly wage of Mrs Harrison, the dairy maid, was just £17.
- 9** ***Ladies Dancing***
On 6th January 1828, the Marchioness of Downshire hosted a Twelfth Night Ball at Hillsborough Castle. This was to mark the last of the twelve days of festivity that had begun on Christmas Day. Guests arrived at 9pm for dancing and the feast was served at 2am!

- 10** ***Lords a Leaping***
On Christmas Eve 1849, the pantomime Tom Thumb was performed at the Castle to celebrate Lord Hillsborough's fifth birthday. The star of the show was a cow from the Castle's farm, which was led on stage to play the part of the cow who swallowed Tom Thumb!
- 11** ***Pipers Piping***
The gardeners at Hillsborough Castle sometimes find parts of clay smoking pipes while they are digging! They were probably discarded by gardeners who worked here in Victorian times.
- 12** ***Drummers Drumming***
The 12 drummers are the last gift given in The 12 Days of Christmas song. If you add up all the gifts given on each day during each round of the song, the total number of gifts is 364!



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AT HILLSBOROUGH CASTLE AND GARDENS

Q: Where do Snowmen like to visit when they come to N. Ireland?



A: Chillsborough Castle

Share your
photos with us:

Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

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Stable Yard
Clare Learning Centre



Toilets



Baby change



Step free



Snowman selfie

Hillsborough Castle Cafe