

Daffodils celebrated on Collessie estate

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Daffodils produce a chemical used in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

One of the first signs that spring has sprung is being celebrated in Fife this weekend - for the first time ever in Scotland.

The festival of daffodils is being held on the Rossie Estate in Collessie by the 6th generation of a family that has been breeding the flowers since the mid-1800s.

As well as its bright yellow colour, the daffodil is known to produce a chemical used in drugs to treat Alzheimers disease.

Caroline Thomson, who is a 6th generation daffodil breeder, said: "Thanks to support from Business Gateway and Fife Council we are delighted to stage Scotland's first Daffodil Festival and hope this will become an annual event.

"This weekend we will have all aspects of the daffodil industry present with heritage, modern and field grown daffodils as well as activities including horticulture education and floristry as well as gardening opportunities.

"We hope this will be a real family event as we have a daffodil trail, Backhouse Bear Walk, an Easter egg hunts, a secret grotto and putting on the lawn."

The event is being launched today by Fife MP Stephen Gethins.

He said: "I am delighted that North East Fife is home to Scotland's first Daffodil Festival and with the work Backhouse Rossie Estate is doing to ensure that its world-class collections are accessible to the public.

"In addition to beautiful gardens, the Backhouse Centre provides an excellent facility for horticultural education and I congratulate Caroline and Andrew Thomson on their hard-work and dedication to nurturing and ensuring the future of some very important species of daffodil.

"Not only are these flowers visually attractive but they are also important to medicine with heir alkaloid chains used as the basis of Alzheimers drugs and other mental health medicines.

"It's also great to see the Estate being so family friendly with activities of interest to all ages."