

PRESS RELEASE

## **Meet the latest recruits to help shape the future of some of Norfolk's green spaces**

Pensthorpe Natural Park, near Fakenham, has unveiled the team of young nature-lovers who have been selected to help the reserve motivate the next generation to connect with nature and look after the environment.

The 12-strong group, aged between nine and 11, are the latest recruits for Pensthorpe's Junior Board, an initiative which has been in place since 2015 to offer passionate young people an opportunity to help influence ways in which the Norfolk attraction can better engage with young people.

The latest intake, which will be in place until June 2020, has been selected from a host of entries submitted by budding nature lovers from across the county.

The final 12 include Gareth Nunn, from Loddon, who runs a school bird-watching club, Hannah Hall, from Norwich, who organises local litter picks and Niamph Down, from Dereham, who builds bug mansions in her gardens.

Other members of the group are avid bird and bat watchers, while some volunteer at local nature reserves or are members of their school's eco council. The group also includes Keira Neave, from Beetley, the winner of a nature photography competition, and Keiran Walpole, from Fakenham, who was hailed a local hero for rescuing 130 toads off a busy road near Dereham earlier this year.

The first meeting of the 2018/19 Junior Board took place in July at which they discussed new event ideas, their favourite things about nature, and ways to encourage more families to spend time outdoors. They agreed that the more people got to understand the natural world, the more likely they would be to protect it.

Deb Jordan, owner of Pensthorpe Natural Park, comments: "It's a delight to see so many passionate and enthusiastic young nature-lovers get together to share ideas and talk about ways to protect the environment.

“At this age these inspiring young people are already making positive changes in their local communities. Encouraging others to see the merits of the natural world is high on their agenda, as is the desire to get more children outside to explore what nature has to offer. We share these values with the group and are excited to see where our future brainstorming sessions will take us!”

The group will next meet in October 2018.

For more information about Pensthorpe visit [pensthorpe.com](http://pensthorpe.com) or call 01328 851465.

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### **Editors Notes**

Pensthorpe Natural Park is on the A1067, one mile from Fakenham and just over 20 miles from the city of Norwich. Open all year (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day):-

1st January – 28th February, 10am – 4pm

1st March – 24<sup>th</sup> July, 10am – 5pm

25<sup>th</sup> July – 5<sup>th</sup> September, 10am – 6pm

6<sup>th</sup> September – 31<sup>st</sup> December, 10am – 5pm

Entry prices: Adults £11.95, Seniors £10.95, Children £10.95, Under 3's free. Annual Members are free. Parking is free.

Online booking discount of £1 per person applies to tickets booked in advance.

**For more information, images or press passes please contact Rachael Shakespeare on [rachael@rs-pr.co.uk](mailto:rachael@rs-pr.co.uk) or 07833 940 000.**