

PRESS RELEASE

Leading Norfolk Growers Congregate for Specialist Plant Day

Gardening enthusiasts can take advantage of the expertise of many of the county's top nurseries and growers at the **Specialist Plant Day** at Pensthorpe Natural Park, near Fakenham, on Sunday 9 September 2018.

Organised in partnership with the Norfolk Nursery Network (NNN), the event will see 16 Norfolk nurseries selling a range of plants from exotic and rare species to traditional favourites.

The participating nurseries will also have experts on hand to answer gardening questions and solve green-fingered dilemmas.

Deb Jordan, owner of Pensthorpe Natural Park comments: "This is a rare opportunity to find many of the county's finest independent nurseries showcasing their plants and produce. The event, which is now in its eighth year, is proving a mainstay on gardeners' calendars and provides a source of great inspiration, as well as an opportunity to see our own gardens at a special discounted price."

Entry to the Specialist Plant Day costs £1 per adult, whilst children can attend for free or a small donation. All proceeds raised will go to The Escape Project – Family Action, a local charity which promotes wellbeing through community gardening.

To celebrate hosting the event, Pensthorpe is offering reduced entry to all visitors on 9th September 2018, enabling people to enjoy the wider nature reserve and its collection of five stunning gardens for just £8.95 per person, whilst children under 3 remain free.

Trevor Harrison from the Norfolk Nursery Network comments: "We are proud to assemble some of the area's most experienced growers for this event, who are passionate about their products and keen to share their expertise, tips and stunning varieties. And where better to

be inspired with new ideas than at Pensthorpe, where their own beautiful gardens have been designed by some of the best in the world?"

Participating nurseries include NNN members Creake Nursery, Dover Farm Plants, Mandy Plants, Natural Surroundings, Norfolk Herbs, Panache Plants, West Acre Gardens and Woodgate Nursery, along with guests Escape Project, Jelly Cottage Nursery, Norfolk Garden Trust, Predator Plants, Riverside Bulbs, Shrubland Park Nursery, Toby Winterbourn and Woottens of Wenhaston.

For more information about Pensthorpe Natural Park visit pensthorpe.com or call 01328 851465.

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Editors Notes

Gardens at Pensthorpe Natural Park

Pensthorpe boasts five spectacular gardens which attract those with green fingers all year round:-

The Millennium Garden is most notable for having been designed by world-renowned plantsman Piet Oudolf. Launched in 1999 it was the first public garden to be designed by an emerging Oudolf, still relatively unknown in the UK at that time. Ten years later, by which point he was recognised as one of the world's most foremost plantsman, Oudolf returned to oversee the redesign and planting of his original garden with a decade's more experience under his belt. The Millennium Garden notoriously shows off his famous perennial drifts of sub-alpine, steppe and prairie plants.

The serene and reflective **Wave Garden** is designed by Julie Toll, a six time Gold Medal Winner at Chelsea Flower Show and has a framework of gently rolling yew hedging. Its simple planting structure ensures that the Wave Garden enjoys lush foliage throughout the year.

Situated next-door is The **Wave Line Garden** which has been structured by semi-circular seating areas focusing on the sculpture 'Nest'. The garden encourages visitors to reflect while they nest in the serene surroundings. It's also home to several stunning sculptures which feature in the newly developed 2018 sculpture trail.

Meandering from the park entrance and leading out to the wetlands of the reserve is the **Wildlife Habitat Garden**, which is designed to demonstrate to visitors how wildlife corridors, thoughtful planting and garden structure can create wildlife-friendly outdoor space at home. This inspiring garden provides food and habitat for Dragonflies, Bats, Moths, Damselflies, Bees, Garden Birds, Butterflies and Amphibians.

The newest garden in the collection is the **Corten Infinity Garden**, which lines the walkways around eco play area, Hootz House. Structured by an impressive curved piece of Corten, which boasts its characteristic rusty colour, the garden is a natural attention grabber featuring the banana plant and ginger plant, both vibrant and colourful species. This beautifully manicured garden naturally entices visitors from the viewing gallery towards Hootz House and improves movement around the reserve.

Pensthorpe Natural Park

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 – 24th July, 10am – 5pm

25th July – 5th September, 10am – 6pm

6th September – 31st 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 or 07833 940 000.