

PRESS RELEASE

TV Naturalist to Headline ‘Wild About the Wensum’

TV presenter, author and naturalist, Nick Baker, is set to open The Pensthorpe Conservation Trust’s* annual community event **Wild About the Wensum** on Saturday 12th May 2018.

Intrepid explorer and natural history expert Nick, who has famously presented *Weird Creatures* (C5), *The Really Wild Show* (BBC One) and *Springwatch Unsprung* (BBC Two), will officially open the event, meet members of the public and even host a bug hunt for kids!

Wild About the Wensum, now in its twelfth year, is a special one-day event held by the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust with the sole focus on encouraging people of all ages, especially families who often don’t get the chance to be outdoors, to enjoy the beautiful Wensum Valley, within which Pensthorpe Natural Park is located.

This year’s theme ‘Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow’ takes a look at the plight of the Hare in the English landscape and celebrates Norfolk as one of the last strongholds for Hares in Britain.

Local wildlife groups and nature charities such as the Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Wensum Alliance and Norfolk Bee Keepers Association will be in attendance plus there will be a special trail to follow and free ‘hands-on’ nature activities to try.

Deb Jordan, co-owner of Pensthorpe Natural Park comments: “We are thrilled that Nick Baker, someone as passionate about the natural world as we are, will be joining us for our community day. Nick shares our enthusiasm for re-engaging with nature and nothing encapsulates our desire to inspire our visitors more than Wild About the Wensum.

“We want to encourage all generations to get outdoors and embrace the delights of nature – it’s accessible to all!”

Nick Baker comments: “Pensthorpe not only boasts a fabulous location within Norfolk’s environment-rich Wensum Valley but it is a great example of an attraction with a cause - keen to do nothing more than encourage visitors to reconnect with the outdoors. It’s an ethos which is very close to my heart and I look forward to joining them and being part of the event.”

Nick will be hosting a meet and greet in the picnic area at 10am, officially open Wild About the Wensum at 11am, run an interactive bug hunt for children at 2pm, and at 3pm will host a book signing and talk entitled 'how to make a naturalist'.

As part of his day at Pensthorpe, Nick will also be invited to judge an art and photography competition, which 39 local primary and junior schools have been invited to take part in.

As the event is aimed at families and those in the local community, Pensthorpe reduce admission prices to a nominal fee of £2 per person for tickets booked online in advance, and £3 per person on the day. Under 3's are free. Please note there will be an additional charge to access indoor play area Hootz House.

To book tickets or for more information about Pensthorpe visit pensthorpe.com.

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Editors Notes

*** The Pensthorpe Conservation Trust (PCT)**

The Pensthorpe Conservation Trust was formed in January 2003 with its founding trustees being Professor David Bellamy, Bill Jordan, Deb Jordan and Tim Nevard and its Patron HRH the Duke of Edinburgh to carry forward the work of the Pensthorpe Waterfowl Trust, with its key aims being to create a centre of excellence in ecological restoration, promote sustainable farming and to research, breed and protect threatened species.

Pensthorpe Natural Park is on the A1067, one mile from Fakenham and just over 20 miles from the city of Norwich. Open all year, 1st January – 28th February 10am – 4pm, and 1st March – 31st December 10am to 5pm. Closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

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

£3 off per person during Winter (until 25th March).

Online booking discount of £1 per person applies to tickets booked in advance (except during winter pricing).

**For more information, images or press passes please contact Rachael Shakespeare
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