



North Norfolk's stunning Springwatch setting can be yours for the day

For three years it provided a stunning backdrop for millions of TV viewers who watched entranced as BBC TV's Springwatch showpiece provided a 'through-the-keyhole' view of nature.

Now Pensthorpe Natural Park's spectacular setting, with its glorious window onto the Wensum Valley's wildlife wonderland, is available for hire to individuals, families, training groups or business enterprises.

A two-year restoration project has transformed the former Springwatch recording studio into an intimate new venue for weddings, events, conferences, and corporate functions.

Corporate clients and service suppliers joined Pensthorpe Natural Park's annual members at the official opening last week.

Versatility has been the keyword in the development of the Garden Room and Water Court facility, developed within an exquisite collection of Grade II listed flint cottages, originally built in the 18th and 19th centuries to house families of five Pensthorpe Estate workers.

The cottages have been magnificently restored to retain and enhance their character, while providing state-of-the-art facilities. Stained glass windows, porticos and water features all add to tranquillity of the indoor-outdoor provision.

"When we first came to Pensthorpe we were immediately struck by the amazing sun trap that the water court was – it always seemed to be ten times warmer there than anywhere else in the Park," said Deb Jordan who, with her husband Bill, has owned Pensthorpe for the last 14 years. **"It was a favourite sunbathing spot for the ducks!"**

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She continued: **"There was a small waterfall and the music of the spilling water gave me a sense of immense peace and calm. For years I would go there to think and always left feeling rejuvenated and inspired – but most especially it made me realise the incredible healing properties of nature and a feeling of wellness from being close to and hearing falling water."**

The elegance of the Garden Room is enhanced by three 10ft high panels of beautiful blue marble, imported from Italy, that enrich the Mediterranean atmosphere. Finding the right marble brought a long and exhaustive search to an end.

"The team were fed up of hearing about stone and we were looking at wall tile alternatives when one London supplier sent me an email with photos of pieces of incredibly beautiful and mesmerising watery blue stone piled up in a heap at a quarry in Italy," said Deb. **"The goosebumps instantly told me I had found what I was looking for!"**

The garden areas have been designed by Verity Hanson Smith, whose artistic flair and expertise is stamped on other parts of the Park, as well as the Jordans' private gardens. Her designs have been brought to life by head gardener Jonathan Pearce and his team.

The special qualities of the Garden Room and Water Court are uniquely enhanced by their idyllic location, overlooking a vast and ecologically diverse 700-acre nature reserve with its expansive woodlands, picturesque wildflower meadows and beautiful scenic lakes.

"We wanted to create one of Norfolk's most inspirational settings on which to base the perfect wedding photo album," said Deb. **"I'm delighted to say our team has achieved that vision in gorgeous style. As a venue, it has got the ultimate wow factor."**

Quiet corners, with soothing water features and artistic architectural forms, offer opportunities for relaxation and contemplation. Such features are a central plank in the visionary project, in keeping with the owners' firm belief in the holistic healing power of nature.

"It is not just a wedding venue. We want it to be an inspirational setting for all manner of occasions, including corporate events, functions and workshops that need a stimulating environment," said Deb.

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The venue has capacity for up to 65 guests. Room hire rates for retreats, conferences, meetings, seminars and product launches start from as little as £75 for a half-day, up to £1250 for exclusive hire of the complete Garden Room and Water Court suite, including use of the Civil Ceremony Room.

Hirers have the added bonus of priceless photographic opportunities in Pensthorpe's amazing award-winning Piet Oudolf-designed public gardens and picturesque grounds.

"Pensthorpe has a passionate and experienced events team, skilled in the art of transforming visions into beautiful reality. They also work with experienced wedding planner Julia Messenger," said Deb Jordan. **"Please give them a call for a chat about what they can do for you."**

The events team can be contacted on 01328 851465.

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Editor Notes

About Us

[Pensthorpe Natural Park](#), near Fakenham in North Norfolk, is a 700-acre natural park combining stunning areas of wetland, gardens, meadows, farmland and a conservation centre. It is owned by Bill and Deb Jordan.

The Park provides a unique haven for some of the UK's rarest and most endangered wildlife. It attracts families, walkers, gardeners and bird spotters, all keen to see the beautiful surroundings and the very special selection of species that either live there permanently or migrate to the expansive wetland area throughout the year.

Pensthorpe Natural Park also has nature-themed indoor and outdoor adventure play areas, designed to inspire and engage the next generation of nature lovers and conservationists.

In keeping with the owners' conviction in the healing power of nature, the Pensthorpe complex provides a location for two holistic treatment practices, **Creative Chiropractic** and **Verbatim Therapy**, a business providing psycho-therapeutic services, education assessments, consultancy and training.