

PRESS RELEASE



TV Naturalists Simon King and Mike Dilger to appear at Pensthorpe Bird and Wildlife Fair

Nature and wildlife experts Simon King OBE and Mike Dilger have been confirmed for guest appearances at the new **Pensthorpe Bird and Wildlife Fair**, held at Pensthorpe Natural Park, near Fakenham, on Saturday 18 and Sunday 19 May 2019.

Simon and Mike will appear on both days and give insightful talks and guided walks at an event which aims to highlight the county's credentials as a birding and wildlife hotspot and shine a light on the myriad of extraordinary species attracted to the area.

Renowned for his presenting work on popular series such as *Big Cat Diary*, *Springwatch* and *Autumnwatch*, as well as his series Simon King's *Shetland Dairies*, Simon is a passionate conservationist and has been creating natural history films for more than 30 years, including as cameraman on *The Blue Planet* and *Planet Earth*. The BAFTA and Emmy Award winner is also a skilful writer, with books including *Wild Life*, *Nature Watch* and *Shetland Diaries*. In 2015 he launched the Simon King Wildlife Project, which is a registered charity dedicated to land restoration, education and engagement in the natural world.

Simon comments: "I've been to Pensthorpe a few times now, including visits to take footage of wading birds, so I am really looking forward to coming back, courtesy of Zeiss, and attending this new event. I love the North Norfolk area as it is buzzing with wildlife and the timing of the event is perfect as May is a busy time for migrating species. I will be giving a talk on both days, as well as hosting some guided walks, and I look forward to seeing everyone then!"

The One Show wildlife reporter Mike Dilger, who first became a household name on *Britain's Wild Invaders* in 2000, is an ecologist, natural history presenter and writer. TV work has

included *Nature's Top 40*, *Wild Gardens*, *The Nature of Britain* and *Nature's Calendar*. He is the author and co-author of numerous books, including *Nature's Babies*, and his most recent book, *Wildlife in your Garden*.

Mike says: "I can't wait to come to Pensthorpe, courtesy of Swarovski Optik, to attend the Pensthorpe Bird and Wildlife Fair this May. Norfolk is rightly famed for its calibre of both birds and habitats, and what better time to visit than the middle of the breeding season when the birds are at their most showy. With the Norfolk Wildlife Trust being the nominated charity, the event will support conservation in the county, so your visit to the fair should be the ultimate win-win scenario. I hope to see you there!"

Bill Jordan, owner of Pensthorpe Natural Park comments: "We are delighted that Simon and Mike are appearing at the Fair and giving visitors a glimpse into their extraordinary careers and helping us showcase the abundance of wildlife and birds that we have here on our doorstep in Norfolk. Of course, May is also a busy migratory period, giving us the perfect opportunity to celebrate our birds. We are looking forward to showing Mike around the Reserve and welcoming back Simon, following on from Pensthorpe hosting BBC Springwatch for three years."

The event will bring together experts in the fields of optic equipment, wildlife-inspired arts and crafts, books and nature holidays.

The event will be hosted by Pensthorpe Conservation Trust (PCT), a charity dedicated to creating a centre of excellence in ecological restoration, promoting sustainable farming and researching, breeding and protecting threatened species. PCT counts environmental heavyweights Professor David Bellamy OBE as its Honorary Vice President, Dr George Archibald CM as Trustee and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh as its patron.

A full schedule of walks and talks will be announced nearer the time via pensthorpe.com/birdfair

Tickets cost £8 per person. Under 3's and Pensthorpe Annual Members are free. Parking is free. Dogs, except guide dogs, are not allowed in the main reserve.

For more information about the Pensthorpe Bird and Wildlife Fair or to book tickets visit pensthorpe.com/birdfair or call 01328 851465.

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Editors Notes

Mike Dilger

TV Presenter Mike was first seen on our television screens on 'Britain's Wild Invaders' on Five in 2000 and has quickly moved onto other projects both on television and radio. Mike is a very popular and knowledgeable TV presenter and is regularly seen on mainstream television.

He is the author and co-author of numerous books, to name a few, *Nature's Top 40: Britain's Best Wildlife* and *Natures Calendar* to complement both TV Series, and *Nature's Babies*. His most recent book *Wildlife in your Garden* was released in April 2016. Mike also regularly writes magazine articles for numerous different publications.

Being a keen traveller, Mike 'Tour-Leads' at different locations worldwide for Wildlife Holiday companies. He picks up languages easily and is fluent in Spanish and basic Swahili and Vietnamese. He also attends as many British bird and wildlife fairs as he is committed to bringing the beauty of the natural world to a broader audience.

Simon King OBE

Naturalist, Conservationist, Author, Artist and Broadcaster.

As a passionate conservationist Simon specialises in wildlife documentaries and his extensive knowledge and expertise behind a camera has seen his work included in many programmes including *Planet Earth* and *Blue Planet*.

Simon is involved with many wildlife charities – The Wildlife Trust, The Tusk Trust, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and The Woodland Trust.

In 2015 he launched the Simon King Wildlife Project which is a registered charity dedicated to land restoration, education and engagement in the natural world. His book *Nature Watch* is the ultimate guide to tracking and watching Wildlife in Britain and Europe.

Pensthorpe Natural Park

[Pensthorpe Natural Park](#) (PNP) is a 700-acre modern nature reserve. It is situated 11 miles inland from the north Norfolk coast, just outside Fakenham, and has the beautiful River Wensum winding through it.

Pensthorpe comprises wetlands, farmland, ancient woodlands, gardens, outdoor/indoor play and one of the largest wildflower meadows in Norfolk. It is home to hundreds of bird, plant and wildlife species.

**For more information, images or press passes please contact Danielle Sparks on
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