



National Trust Press Release
Date: 2 August and 16 August 2018





Images attached: 1. Rescued Hedgehogs © Hedgehog Friendly Town
2. Children participating in Science Event © Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

Headline: Upton connects children with the natural world around them

Fill the long summer holidays by visiting Upton House this August. Thursdays 2 and 16 August will see Upton hosting wildlife and nature charities. Keep youngsters entertained with pop-up stands filled with fun activities and get some fresh air on our outdoor nature trails. A great way to spend quality time together and help children connect with the natural world around them.

Discover more about Hedgehogs by meeting two young Hedgehog rescuers! Kyra and Sophie are both 12 years old from Hedgehog Friendly Town (part of Warwickshire Hedgehog Rescue). What began three years ago as a summer project to raise awareness, has expanded beyond all expectations. At the latest count they have cared for over 165 hedgehogs! These two inspiring girls are passionate about sharing their ideas on hedgehog conservation. Their hard work and enthusiasm hasn't gone unnoticed – they won the Pride of Stratford-upon-Avon award and have been featured on BBC Countryfile, Midlands Today and The One Show. They recently received some very special letters from David Attenborough, Noel Fitzpatrick (TV's Supervet) and one on behalf of HM the Queen! Meet the girls and enjoy their fun activities including: check out real hedgehog spines, guess the footprints, listen to hedgehog sounds and work out what they are telling you. As you wander around Upton, collect some small twigs and use them to make your very own clay hedgehog to take home with you! Enjoy the girls' interactive talk as they tell you about their work and show some adorably cute films and photos of the hedgehogs they have had in their care. This fun talk is aimed at all ages

and gives everyone an idea of why the humble hedgehog is in decline and how we can all make small changes to help them.

Make your own bottle bird-feeders with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust a local charity whose vision is 'people close to nature, with land rich in wildlife'. A perfect way to recycle a used plastic bottle and provide some extra food for birds.

For those who are brave enough, do an Owl pellet analysis with Warwickshire Mammal Group and see if you can identify what that owl enjoyed for its dinner! Find out how to spot other small mammals by identifying their footprints on the animal track walk and learn about this charity who work to raise awareness and promote conservation of wild mammals.

Meet Warwickshire Badger Group and get up close with their friendly stuffed badger – we promise he doesn't bite! Have a go at some fun nature and art activities and learn about badger ecology and behaviours. Find out more about their work on rescue, rehabilitation, conservation and what to do if you come across an injured badger. They will also be showing a film with delightful footage of badger cubs at play.

Have fun with GIVE IT A GROW and one of our Garden Volunteers. Discover the magic of compost, the creatures who live in it and how to make your own mini composter. Then have a go at the Compost Game. Sowing and growing helps us to connect with the food we eat, as well as to experience the joys of mud!

Discover bumblebees and find out how these iconic insects play a vital role in our lives by pollinating our crops and wildflowers. The Bumblebee Conservation Trust works to address the declining bumblebee population and stop the extinction of our very rarest bumblebees. What's the difference between a honeybee and a bumblebee? Visit their stand to find out! Play Bumblebee Bingo and other games that will help you learn more about this captivating insect.

Little ones who love rocks and fossils can go on our fossil trail around the outside of the house. Specially created for Upton by the Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group; see how many fossils are hidden in the outside walls and learn the prehistoric secrets that Upton holds - including a Jurassic sea bed! Visit their stand and have fun with interactive activities, look at fossils and find out more about these buried 'treasures'.

Could you identify a 'Ringlet', a 'Meadow Brown' or a 'Gatekeeper'? Try the Butterfly trail and see how many species you can spot on this trail created for us by Warwickshire Butterfly Conservation. The trail map will show you the best places to look for a variety of species and tell you more about them and their fascinating behaviour!

After all that running around outside visit the Squash Court for some indoor activities and make a nature-themed craft item to take home. Warwickshire Bat Trust will be giving a short talk on 'Bats – the real stars of the night'. Come along and hear what makes these elusive little creatures so special.

Complete your day with a visit to our lovely Pavilion Restaurant or cool down with an ice cream treat from Iris's Tea Window.

Before your visit remember to check our website www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house-and-garden for details of which charity will be visiting us on which date to help plan your day.

Normal admission prices apply, all additional activities are FREE to enjoy.

- ENDS -

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Notes to editors:

Upton House and Gardens

In 1927 Lord and Lady Bearsted viewed Upton House with 'the eye of imagination' and soon set about creating their made-to-measure country home. This year you are invited to a very special house viewing. Purchased in 1927 by the 2nd Viscount Bearsted, Upton had great potential, but needed modernisation. You can follow the renovations and witness the 'before' and 'after', as the Bearsteds fashioned a made-to-measure family home, fit to showcase a world-class art collection, including works by Bosch, Stubbs, El Greco, as well as fine porcelain. Every ideal home needs a spectacular garden, and Lady Bearsted certainly created one. Her passion for plants bloomed, with early spring bulbs, lavish herbaceous planting and thriving kitchen garden, all reflecting in the Mirror Pool.

Whole site open every day in July and August. November to March: gardens open by winter walk only. 11 February to 29 October: themed tours 11-1pm, timed tickets available on arrival. House timed tickets operate daily. Gardens open at 11am, House at 1pm, closing at 5pm.

For more information visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house-and-gardens

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National Trust

The National Trust is a conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people who saw the importance of our nation's heritage and open spaces, and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. More than 120 years later, these values are still at the heart of everything the charity does.

Entirely independent of Government, the National Trust looks after more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 775 miles of coastline and hundreds of special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

More than 20 million people visit every year, and together with 4.5 million members and over 62,000 volunteers, they help to support the charity in its work to care for special places forever, for everyone.