

OAK LEAVES

*Mid-Warwickshire Association
of the National Trust*

Spring 2015



No. 85

in support of **National
Trust**



Baddesley Clinton has a number of Christmas cards sent to their Victorian Quartet.
The Mid-Warwickshire Association of the National Trust paid for the glass domes used to protect the cards.

Photo: National Trust

**THE NATIONAL TRUST
MID-WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION**

*A Voluntary Association of
National Trust Members*

PRESIDENT
Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy

VICE PRESIDENT
Graham E. Cooper

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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VICE CHAIRMAN Vacant

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gerry Rooney, Margaret Tomlinson, Richard Munday;

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My first pleasant duty as your Chairman, although somewhat belatedly, is to wish all members a very Happy and Fruitful New Year.

After reading the Autumn edition of the Oak Leaves in which the Vice President referred to the need for additional volunteers, and aware that my term as a District Councillor would end in May, I said I would help in any capacity. I was rather taken aback when Graham proposed I stand as Chairman, but I agreed to stand at the recent AGM .Possibly due to the lack of any other candidates I was elected, and that being so I will do my utmost to forward the aims and development of the Association.

In my relatively short time as an active member of the National Trust and the Association I have become aware of the tremendous amount of effort, expertise and ingenuity your Committee puts in to making the Association such a vibrant body. I would particularly like to express on your behalf a grateful thanks to your Vice Chairman who has served the Association for many years and in many capacities.

This year's programme of events started last October with an excellent talk by Jane Tapley on the city of Bath. A trip is proposed in April when Jane will escort members around the city's beautiful buildings and venues. A trip is also planned to visit Kew Gardens which it is hoped will be well supported .The remainder of the programme is also an interesting and informative one.

Our main thrust this year is to recruit new members to the Association, and I would hope we can encourage younger members to join, and continue to sustain and swell the current membership.

I look forward to meeting you in the forthcoming months.

NORMAN H PRATT

CHAIRMAN

VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was with much relief that I saw our Association entering calmer waters when, at the Annual General Meeting in November, I was pleased to see Norman Pratt elected Chairman. Since Patricia Dent moved away, we had survived without a Chairman, leaving me to bridge the gap on a temporary basis. Now at last, we have our own Chairman to present our monthly meetings and to lead the Committee Meetings. Norman Pratt is an excellent choice with his experience as a District Councillor and conducting public meetings: he was born and brought up in Leamington and he knows the district well.

Until, May, there is the possibility of other commitments preventing Norman from attending a meeting , and, if this happened, Richard Munday has very kindly agreed to step into the beech if he is able to. We should be grateful to Richard for his taking the chair so ably at the October and November meetings.

We still need a Distributions Officer, which is not an onerous task, especially since the main work is called for just twice a year.

Marianne Pitts shoulders three burdens - the Treasurership, arranging distributions and public relations. She carries out these duties excellently, but it would be wrong to continue to leave everything to her without attempting to share them. I have already mentioned the Distributions Officer; the Public Relations Officer, as a Committee Member, would submit press reports and arrange advertising.

Are you able to consider helping out?

Last year, we had no separate social event. Hopefully, the Committee will be able to arrange something during 2015.

This Association has prospered for over 44 years. Please continue to support it, attend our meetings, and interest your friends in joining.

GRAHAM E.COOPER
Vice-President.

OUR DONATIONS TO LOCAL NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

The Association's principal aim is to promote and prosper the work of the National Trust. Local National Trust properties circulate a list of projects and plans, and Associations are invited to meet the cost of specific initiatives.

In 2014 the Mid Warwickshire Association donated £560 to Charlcote Park for the purchase of 5000 new bulbs for their Spring display. We also donated £600 to Baddesley Clinton. Baddesley has a number of Christmas cards sent to their Victorian Quartet. These will be displayed around the house in protective glass domes and will be able to be seen by visitors without risk of damage. A photograph of a dome in situ appears on the front cover of this edition of Oakleaves.

Thank you letter from Charlcote Park & Garden Manager Lisa Topham

"I would like to thank your group for the very generous donation they have made to the Charlcote Park Woodland Garden.

Your donation will allow us to buy over 4700 bulbs for this area – our order includes Erythronium dens canis rose queen, Leucojum Vernum, Camassia Esculant, Scilla Siberica, Fritillaria Meleagris and different cyclamens. "



Delightful spring bulbs include Erythronium pagoda Photo Mary Gleaves

"We feel the year has started when the bulbs take centre stage everywhere and the woodland garden really comes into its own around the time the clocks change in March. "

IN GIVING, HOW MUCH DO WE RECEIVE?

THE SOCIAL VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

This is the title of a speech given by Andrew Haldane, Chief Economist of the Bank of England, no less, and it was so interesting that I wanted to attract members' attention to it. In one way or another, most of us are volunteers.



[<http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/Documents/speeches/2014/speech756.pdf> is the full link and gives all the references.]

Haldane has access to all the available and respectable national and international statistics on volunteering and as an economist he can draw conclusions from them. The contribution of volunteering to the economy and wider society over and above the measured Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any country is hard to measure and the research is new but this is a good attempt.

However, “you can only measure what you can first define” – what is volunteering?

It is “unpaid, non-compulsory work ... performed for others outside their own household”. Taking your father to hospital is family care, taking your neighbour to hospital is volunteering and takes time and effort. In Britain the volunteer army is huge: 44% of the population volunteer at least once a year and 29% at least once a month, so 15 million people in the UK volunteer “frequently” which adds up to 2 BILLION hours and if you add in the infrequent volunteers, the hours “worked” are above 4 BILLION a year. It is an industry in its own right. The UK is not unique. International comparisons put us 26th, after the USA and New Zealand, but before France and Sweden. Older people are more likely to volunteer than the working-age population, for obvious reasons; men and women are roughly equal, and there is little difference between classes and ethnic groups.

What is this unpaid work worth? Haldane divides it into three layers:

1. The economic value – measured by the equivalent market cost of such work measured in accounting terms, using the hourly wage rates for equivalent paid workers. Volunteers may be less competent but more enthusiastic and the sheer number of hours worked give a high economic value to this layer for sure.
2. The private value to the volunteers – what do they get out of it? Surveys show that enjoyment, satisfaction, making friends, learning new skills, exercising old skills and gaining confidence motivate volunteers. The personal well-being gained was found to be on a par with playing sport and volunteers would have to be paid good money to give up the habit. Volunteering has a positive effect on mental health. The social aspect is particularly important for the retired, whose families have left home. The young benefit

from new skills and a more attractive CV – so ‘in giving we really do receive – possibly as much as we give’.

3. The social value – what is gained by the community? Haldane considers a charity supporting homeless young people in London, thus protecting them from poverty, illness, drug and alcohol abuse and a possible criminal record and protecting society from the cost of these potential problems. The benefit to society was estimated to be at least £2.40 for every £1 spent and this is typical. Most of the smaller charities cannot estimate their social value at all.

The value of volunteering does not appear in any official national statistics but it is huge.

Could / should the state do more to encourage volunteering? Volunteers under-rate their contribution. More information and research and trustworthy publicity might persuade more people to come forward and potential sponsors would spend their money more wisely. Matching the skills of volunteers to the tasks is important (why do I end up as Treasurer so often?). Encouraging busy people to micro-volunteer for a few minutes (participating in on-line surveys, writing an email to a sick child) would recruit working people. Employers who grant their workers time off to volunteer acquire a motivated and happy staff. This is happening, but progress is slow.

Catching them young helps. National Trust youth camps and the USA domestic Peace Corps (AmeriCorps) are good examples. At the moment money given to UK charities is supplemented by Gift Aid. What about a tax incentive for those who give their time? Canada gives its volunteer firemen a tax credit of \$3,000 for 200 hours of (properly scheduled and audited) volunteering.

I will close by quoting the last paragraph: “Whether seen from an economic or social perspective, volunteering is big business with annual turnover well into three-figure billions. But it is a well-hidden jewel, whose social worth is rarely the subject of a public valuation. One of the purposes of this lecture was to provide such a valuation, however imperfect”.

I hope you feel better for reading this

Marianne Pitts

EXCURSIONS 2015

Bookings for trips will be dealt with commencing three weeks after the distribution of this Oak Leaves Magazine, and applications will be acknowledged from this date. If you do not hear from the organizers soon after this, please contact the telephone number on each booking form to check that your application has arrived. **The price of the excursion** includes the cost of coach travel, the driver's gratuity, the cost of any talk or guided tour and admission to properties which do not belong to the National Trust. **Please remember to bring your National Trust Membership Card for entry to NT properties.** As before, excursions will depart from the Leisure Centre at Newbold Comyn, with a further pick-up five minutes later at Newbold Terrace, opposite the Royal Spa Centre.

If, having paid for your excursion, you need to cancel, we suggest that it will be helpful if you are able to find someone else to take your place. The organizers may be able to assist with names and telephone numbers if there is a waiting list, but this cannot be guaranteed, nor can a refund, particularly if certain tickets have to be ordered and paid for well in advance.

The names of the volunteer organisers are on each booking form, so please make sure you address them correctly, but cheques still must be made out to "MID WARWICKSHIRE ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL TRUST" and enclosed with your booking form, together with a stamped, addressed envelope.

Thursday 30th April 2015

Coach trip to Bath

Following the very interesting talk by Jane Tapley last October, at her suggestion we have arranged a coach trip to Bath for a special tour given by Jane with the following itinerary. Coffee on arrival. A backstage tour of the Theatre Royal (where Jane is the Group Marketing Officer). Lunch (included in the price of the trip). We shall then rejoin our coach for a guided tour round Bath, following which we will visit the Holbourne Museum. There will be a special exhibition at the Museum (at individual choice) and we shall be picked up from the Museum by our coach for our return home.



**Depart: Newbold Coymn 8 am Spa Centre
8.05 am**

Cost £39

Please complete and return Booking Form A enclosed with this newsletter

Tuesday June 9 2015

Royal Botanic Gardens at KEW

Set in over 300 acres of beautiful landscape, Kew Gardens claims to be the "world's most famous garden". It is home to great glasshouses, rare plant collections, art galleries and restaurants, as well as a Georgian Chinese Pagoda and Royal Summer Palace and its restored kitchen, all included in the admission price.

To plan your trip, book your lunch and see maps and lists of these attractions please visit www.kew.org and opt to Visit Kew Gardens. The cost of travel and admission to Kew is **£32.00**.

As it is a big park, you may wish to travel around on the "Kew Explorer": a land-train which takes passengers from place to place and costs **£3.50 for the day** (£4.50 if you buy it in Kew). You can stay on the train or hop on and off. This is an optional extra. Timetables are at the seven stops.

We will leave Newbold Comyn at 09:30 and hope to arrive at noon. Departure time will be 16:00, ETA back in Leamington 18:30. There will be no stops on the journeys, but the coach has a lavatory on board.

Please use the enclosed Booking Form B

Tuesday 23rd June or Thursday 25th June 2015

SPECIAL VISIT TO THE FAIRFAX-LUCY FAMILY WING OF CHARLECOTE PARK

Following several requests, we have arranged with our President, Sir Edmund Fairfax-Lucy, special visits to the Fairfax-Lucy Family Wing at Charlecote Park. The rooms, many aspects of which have remained unaltered for over a hundred years, are not open to the public, but are of immense interest. Guests will be received and conducted round the apartments by Sir Edmund, who will also give an introductory talk. Of necessity numbers have to be limited, so late applicants may have to be disappointed, but if the visits prove popular, as expected, further arrangements can be made for later dates.

Members have a choice of two dates. The first is on Tuesday, 23rd. June at 11.30 a.m. in the car park, from where we walk to the house to inspect various rooms, have a light lunch, and then carry on with the inspection. A pay bar for coffee, etc. will be provided. The whole event is scheduled to last for at least 3 hours. **Tickets £25 each.**

The second is on Thursday, 25th. June at 6.00 p.m. in the car park, from where we walk to the house to inspect various rooms, then to have supper. A pay bar for wine and coffee, etc. will be provided after the tour. The whole event is scheduled to last for some 3 hours. **Tickets £25 each. Please note that this is a use-your-own-transport event.**

Please book your place as soon as possible but no later than Friday, 5th. June, using the Booking Form C.

July 22nd 2015

Renishaw Hall and Gardens

Visit to Renishaw Hall and Gardens, Derbyshire

Home of the Sitwell family for more than 4 centuries, and with a fine Italianate garden and a lake, we will also have a guided tour of the art treasures in the house. This will take about an hour.

The website is easy to navigate <http://www.renishaw-hall.co.uk>. Catering at the house can be booked in advance or you could take a picnic. The cost of travel, admission and the tour of the house is **£33.00**,

We will leave Newbold Comyn at 09:30 and hope to arrive at 11:30. Departure time will be 16:00, ETA back in Leamington 18:00. There will be no stops on the journeys, but the coach has a lavatory on board.

Depart: Newbold Comyn 8 am

Cost £38

Please complete and return Booking Form D enclosed with this newsletter

Thursday September 3 2015 Henley on Thames: Grey's Court (NT) and River and Rowing Museum,

Grey's Court is a picturesque 16th-century mansion with tranquil gardens, home to the Brunner family until recent years. The house is intimate and welcoming with a well-stocked kitchen and informal living rooms. The series of walled gardens is a colourful patchwork of interest set amid medieval ruins. The vegetables served in the café are home-grown. For more details please visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greys-court/>

We have also arranged entrance to the River and Rowing museum (valid for 12 months with 10% discounts) **including a boat trip** on the river Thames at 16:30. Their site is <http://rrm.co.uk/>.

The cost of travel and the River and Rowing Museum and boat trip is **£35.00**, if you are a member of the National Trust. If not, admission to Grey's Court is an **extra £10-80**

We will leave Newbold Comyn at 09:00 and hope to arrive between 10:30 and 11:00. We will leave Grey's Court at 14:30 for the RRM allowing 3+ hours for the museum and boat trip. Departure time after the boat trip will be 18:00, ETA back in Leamington 19:30 - 20:00. There will be no stops on the journeys, but the coach has a lavatory on board.

Please use the enclosed Booking Form E

NEWS from our local NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

Details are correct as we go to print, but it is advisable to check before making a special journey.

MOSELEY OLD HALL -01902 782808- moseleyoldhall@nationaltrust.org.uk

Moseley Old Hall had a very busy 2014 – by the end of December we had had 34,446 visitors – more than Moseley has ever had. We were pleased our new shop and reception area has worked well and have more plans to improve visitor facilities with a bigger car park in 2015.

For families and children of ALL ages we now have our new tree-hide, which opened in October last year and is proving very popular with family visitors. We can't wait to have the opportunity to see the changing seasons from the treetops! We were excited to acquire some new items for Moseley last year that will be on display in the house for the first time from 14 February 2015. Thanks to a kind and generous donation we were able to purchase some interesting items, including a seventeenth century heart-shaped locket with Charles II on one side and the mystery inscription 'Cupids dart possess thy hart'. Other items include a snuff box made from pieces of the Boscobel Oak (allegedly!)

2015 looks to be a great year for Moseley –we hope to see you soon.

PACKWOOD HOUSE – 01564-782024: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/packwood

Graham Baron Ash acquired Packwood in the early 20th century and restored the original Tudor farmhouse, saving furniture, panelling, floors and fireplaces from other country houses at risk of demolition, and preserving them at Packwood. From the Fetherstons – gentlemen farmers who lived at Packwood for 300 years – to Baron Ash and the team here today, successive owners and custodians have sought to enhance Packwood's spirit, but always with a creative or contemporary twist. Find out more about those changes, and how the house you see today was created, through the collection of old photographs, watercolours, maps and plans.

The Yew Garden at Packwood is undoubtedly Packwood's most significant feature and is considered one of Britain's major topiary gardens. Preserving the garden for future generations is a vital part of our work at Packwood. Packwood's yews do not grow in ideal conditions, our soil contains patches of heavy clay which leads to frequent water logging; this puts the trees under stress and leaves them vulnerable to disease. In 2008 many of the trees started to show worrying signs of decline, including stunted growth, bronze foliage and dieback. The gardeners reacted quickly and hand dug new drains around the worst affected trees, most of which started to improve. In 2010 a major project was launched to drain the entire garden. This work has been most beneficial and by the summer of 2014 the majority of yews were producing healthy new growth.

We are now looking to build on this recent work and safeguard the Yew Garden for future generations. After surveying all the trees we are starting a phased programme to rejuvenate the garden. This will be a long term project, which involves cutting back some of the sparsest trees to their main trunk and allowing them to re-grow. This technique looks severe but can be used successfully on yews as they regenerate from old wood. This is an important project to secure the future of this ancient and iconic topiary garden for ever, for everyone.

The magic of the moat, the stories of priest hunters and the freedom of the surrounding countryside means there's something for everyone at Baddesley Clinton. A bit of imagination goes a long way and visitors can take part in seasonal activities, with outdoor trails and traditional games every school holiday, or explore the grounds and find your own fun.

Visitors can try out Playful Journey a natural play trail in the park. Follow the horseshoes to find a winding labyrinth, rope swings and a rest a while shelter.

Over the course of its 500 year history, Baddesley Clinton has provided refuge for those seeking to escape the outside world, never more so when it became a place of safety for Catholic priests living in dangerous times. This year we take a look at Baddesley's Tudor residents and their story. Visitors can also take their own Tudor portrait in the moat room with costumes and a variety of hats. From June see our ongoing research into how one of the panelled bedrooms could have looked when Henry Ferrers the Antiquary lived at Baddesley in the late 1500s.



EVENTS:

Cadbury Easter Egg Trail Friday 3 – Monday 6 April, 11am – 4pm, Family Easter trail around the grounds, with chocolate egg prize and crafts in the activity tent. Costs £3 per trail

May half-term Saturday 23 May – Sunday 31 May, 11am – 4pm Join us for family fun this May half-term with outdoor games and see how many of our 50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ you can tick off.

Summer Evening Suppers Thursday 4, 11, 18 and 25 June, 6.30pm Enjoy an evening with friends. A delicious two course supper in the Barn Restaurant accompanied by a talk on a variety of subjects, and a chance to stroll in the gardens after hours. Tickets cost £22 and **booking is essential by calling 01564 783294**

Outdoor Cinema Friday 31 July – Grand Budapest Hotel and Saturday 1 August – Grease, time to be confirmed. An exciting opportunity to watch one of your favourite films against the backdrop of the moated manor house. Don't forget to bring a picnic. Tickets cost £12 for each screening but can be purchased for the earlybird price of £10.50 up to six weeks in advance. Under 5s go free. Groups of four or more can buy tickets at our early bird price of £10.50 and **booking is essential by calling 01332 290606**

Baddesley Book Fair Saturday 1 August – Sunday 9 August
Join us for our annual book fair and find your perfect summer read. If you have any books to donate please give us a call.

Easter is fast approaching and this year we have teamed up with Cadburys again for a fun filled event with chocolate eggs, take home activities and a trail around the grounds for everyone to enjoy. Our Cadbury **Easter Egg Trail** will be taking place from Saturday 4 – Monday 6 April, 11am - 4pm.

From Saturday 18 – Sun 19 April the Daffodil Society will be holding their National show with hundreds of exhibits, new varieties and experts will be on hand to answer questions and give top tips for visitor's spring gardens. The rare Throckmorton daffodils will be in full bloom and visitors will be able to take a stroll around the award-winning Throckmorton family gardens. Following this event, from Wednesday 22 – Sunday 26 April, Coughton is delighted to announce the return of its hugely successful **Jigsaw Festival**. Set against the beautiful backdrop of Coughton hundreds of jigsaws, in a variety of themes and sizes, will be available for visitors to buy in a constantly changing display.

From April, Coughton is exploring the consequences of various conflicts by illustrating a family's ingenuity, resilience and resolve to overcome conflict in all its guises, from political and religious to conflicts of the heart. Visitors will be introduced to key characters, giving them the opportunity to follow their fortunes through the rise and fall of the ever changing religious and political landscape. This year visitors are invited to explore the Throckmorton family's struggle between faith and ambition and the traitorous ties which affected all future generations, including the infamous Gunpowder Plot.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS:

May half-term Sat 23 – Sun 31 May, on open days, 11am-4pm Join us for family fun this May half-term with outdoor games, a trail around the grounds and *50 things to do before you're 11 ¾* booklets.

The Duck Race Sat 13 – Sun 14 June, 2pm Celebrate Father's Day and sponsor a duck on Coughton's annual duck race down the River Arrow, plus traditional games for families.

Waterloo Ball, Sat 27 June, 6.30pm – 11pm Returning for a third time, this year's Regency Ball celebrates the 200th anniversary of the English victory at Waterloo in 1815. Dance the evening away in true regency style to the music of the Pemberley Players in Coughton's beautiful Saloon and enjoy a sumptuous, candlelit Regency inspired supper in the Panelled Dining Room. Tickets are £75 including buffet and **booking is essential by calling 01789 400777**

Twelfth Night Fri 24 July, Gates open 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start Classic theatre, performed by the Lord Chamberlain's Men against the beautiful backdrop of Coughton Court. Tickets cost adult £15.75, Child £8.40 and Family £40 and **booking is essential by calling 0844 249 1895**

The Three Musketeers Sat 8 August, Gates open 6.30pm for a 7.30pm start Classic theatre, performed by Boxtree Productions against the beautiful backdrop of Coughton Court. Tickets cost adult £15.75, Child £8.40 and Family £40 and **booking is essential by calling 0844 249 1895**

Banking for Victory: A Country House at War

In 1939 the owners of Upton House – the Bearstedts – moved out and their family-owned bank moved in. Driven by the need to protect bank staff and assets from the London air raids, M. Samuel & Co, moved in lock, stock and barrel for the duration of the Second World War.

“The whole place was run like a holiday camp but a little more austere...The meals were taken in the Long Gallery which is full of magnificent paintings and the finest collection of Chelsea china in the world.” Joyce Adler (one of the bank typists).

Come and visit us from April 2015 to experience the transformation of Upton into ‘The Country House Bank’. We have lots of events through Spring and Summer, see our website for more details www.nationaltrust.org.uk/upton-house

2015 Events at Upton

April

Cadbury Easter Egg Trail - Fri 3 – Mon 6 April, 11am - 4pm. There's fun throughout the holidays with a special Cadbury trail over the Easter weekend. Child £2.50.

May

Bluebell Tours – Sun 10th May, 12 – 4pm Enjoy a guided tour in Blackwell's Wood to see the bluebells. Places limited, timed tickets available on arrival.

1940's Weekend - Sat & Sun 30 & 31 May, 11am - 4pm

Join us in bringing history to life with Wartime music, costumes, traditions, displays by The Home Guard and Land Girls and wet your whistle at our 1940s pub!

June

Vintage Transport Weekend - Sat & Sun 20 & 21 June, 12noon – 4 pm

Celebrate Father's Day with a fascinating display of vintage transport vehicles on the driveway and music on the terrace.

July

1940's Party – Sat 11 July, 7pm-9.30pm (gates open 6pm) Picnic to the sounds of the 1940s with a live band and dancing demonstrations. Adults £18 (£20 on the gate). Child £8. Special Group rate: 10 adults pre-booked for the price of 9! Box Office: 0844 249 1895

August

1940s Wedding Weekend - Sat & Sun 1 & 2 August, 12 noon - 4pm

Experience the entertainment of a Wartime wedding party with live music, dance and costume demonstrations. Meet the bride and groom and have a taste of their wedding cake!

The Three Belles Summer Concert – Sat 29 August, 7pm-9.30pm (gates open 6pm)

Join the beautiful Three Belles, the 1940s vocal trio inspired by The Andrews Sisters, as they showcase their repertoire of 1940's classics. Bring a picnic, enjoy the music and have a dance as the sun sets on a summer's evening at Upton. Adults £20 Child £10. Special Group rate: 10 adults pre-booked for the price of 9! Box Office: 0844 249 1895

NATIONAL TRUST PREMIUM WILD BIRD FOOD

I would like to introduce Wildlife Habits to your National Trust Supporters Group.

We are the official licensee for the National Trust wild bird food range and have been working on the development of a new website allowing us to market and sell the range beyond National Trust shops and we are delighted that this project has just been completed and launched. The website can be found at www.nationaltrustwildbirdfood.co.uk



To celebrate the launch we are offering a special member's discount scheme to all National Trust Supporter's Groups who place any orders via our new website. The scheme is simple as we have created a unique discount code (NTSG15) that can be distributed to members of your group that can then be used at the checkout on our website when placing an order to receive the discount. We are delighted to offer all supporter group members a 10% discount on all listed website product prices.



We hope that this is another way in which you can support the National Trust as all the profits they make from the wild bird food range go towards supporting special places across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

If you have any questions or need any further information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards
Alan
Wildlife Habits Ltd

Photo John Beatie



Bluebells at Upton House Photo: National Trust

GIFT AID

I have claimed Gift Aid on present and past three years' donations, where applicable, and have received £1,880 to further the Association's aims.

If you have not completed a Gift Aid form, and would like to do so, it is not too late. If everyone signed, we would be able to claim about a further £2,000. This would make a significant difference to the National Trust properties that we support.

A Gift Aid form has been included with this copy of Oakleaves.

Marianne Pitts, Honorary Treasurer