



## PRESS RELEASE

12 June 2009

### Fun for all the family at Mottey Meadows Hay Festival

A three-day festival aimed at giving the whole family opportunities to celebrate and enjoy the beauty of the meadows within one of our local nature reserves starts on Thursday 18 June.

Mottey Meadows Hay Festival, hosted by Natural England, provides a series of interactive events and creative experiences which culminate in the Hay Festival on Saturday 20 June.

Tim Coleshaw, Senior Reserve Manager for the Staffordshire National Nature Reserves said "The Hay Festival will provide a unique opportunity for people to celebrate these internationally important hay meadows through music, art, and creative writing by local school children. Over the three days of the Festival a selection of walks, talks and other activities really will provide something for everyone."

Everyone is welcome to come along & get involved, and all events are free.

#### ***Timetable of events***

##### **Thursday 18 June**

- Farm walk around Mottey Meadows National Nature Reserve (NNR) to discuss traditional hay meadow management opportunities in agri-environment schemes, administered by Natural England  
***Meet - Mottey Meadows NNR at 7pm***
- An illustrated talk by Tim Coleshaw to gain insight into the natural history of hay making at Mottey Meadows  
***Meet – Wheaton Aston Village Hall at 8pm***

##### **Friday 19 June**

- A chance to enjoy the hay meadow flowers by joining expert botanist Shirley Burton on a wildflower identification course for beginners  
***Meet – Mottey Meadows NNR at 10am***
- Capture the beauty of the hay meadow flowers by taking part in a watercolour workshop led by Shropshire artist Beverley Fry. *Some experience of watercolour painting is required.*  
***Meet – Mottey Meadows NNR at 10am***

## **Saturday 20 June**

- **MOTTEY MEADOWS HAY FESTIVAL**

A celebration of hay making on one of England's finest series of hay meadows.

Fun for all the family with a day of activities ranging from vintage machinery displays, guided walks, trails, games, refreshments and entertainment courtesy of the one and only Wynndebaggie !!

***Event held at Mottey Meadows NNR and runs from 10am to 4pm***

For more information about the Mottey Meadows Hay Festival, please phone Natural England on 01743 282000.

If you would like further information about all events taking place at Mottey Meadows NNR, or for other opportunities to get out and about in the countryside, please visit the ***Countryside Visitors*** section on the website [www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

This year, we are celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act. This act paved the way in ensuring our precious sites - Nature Reserves (such as Mottey Meadows), National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Trails - were protected for the enjoyment of future generations.

**-Ends-**

### **Notes for editors**

For further information please contact Dean Gallen, Natural England Communications, on 01905 362987 or email [dean.g.gallen@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:dean.g.gallen@naturalengland.org.uk)

### **Natural England**

Natural England works for people, places and nature to conserve and enhance biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas. It conserves and enhances the natural environment for its intrinsic value, the wellbeing and enjoyment of people, and the economic prosperity it brings.

[www.naturalengland.org.uk](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk)

### **Beverley Fry**

Beverley has been painting professionally since 1983. She has had many group & one-women exhibitions in London, Paris, Dublin & now the U.S.

[www.beverleyfry.co.uk](http://www.beverleyfry.co.uk)

### **Wynndebaggie**

A musician, comedian, some would say a medieval minstrel, others a troubadour, some a fool, a clown, others a Music Hall turn - actually what it amounts to is all about entertainment.

Wynndebaggie wears authentic costumes that are appropriate to the shows performed, playing replicas of instruments from the 14th to the 19th century as well as some contemporary instruments as well.

The audience feature heavily in making a show work, largely because they get to play an active part.

[www.wynndebaggie.co.uk](http://www.wynndebaggie.co.uk)