

# GRESHAM'S FLYING HIGH AFTER SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL OF NATURE



Gresham's annual Norfolk Festival of Nature event has been deemed a success after hundreds of visitors attended following the launch of a new, family friendly line up. The wildlife-inspired event took place on the 18th and 19th June at Gresham's and the Auden Theatre, located in the heart of the Senior School in Holt.

BBC presenters, Martin Hughes-Games (left) and Iolo Williams got the Festival underway, entertaining a packed theatre with their 'Wildlife Road Trip'. The nature-loving duo teamed up for an amusing and informative show and took their audience on a funny and fascinating journey. Martin Hughes-Games (recently seen in BBC's Springwatch) signed copies of his book 'A Wild Life: My Adventures Around the World Filming Wildlife' and both presenters chatted with the audience after the show. Iolo Williams hosted a prize winning ceremony, congratulating the winners of the Festival of Nature at Gresham's photography and poetry competitions. The winner of the poetry competition, 11-year-old Tilly Butterworth received a book donated by Holt Bookshop.

Winners of the photography competition, Under 11, Zac Dyer (pictured with Iolo Williams), 12 - 16, Tanya Osborne, Adult, David North received their winning image from Mr Williams presented in a frame donated by Rodney Smith of Photographers' Gallery, Holt.

The weekend continued with free events including a nature trail where children explored Gresham's beautiful woodlands led by naturalist, Dr David Horsley. The children discovered a hotbed of nature from wild flowers and trees to some of the birds that have made the woodlands their home.

Gresham's Sixth Form pupil, George Giles-Loane delighted children with his animated reading of Julia Donaldson's Stick Man.

After collecting sticks from the woodlands, the children created their own splendid versions of Stick Man and his family.

The Festival ended on a high with Fens Falconry's Father's Day Special. Almost 200 people enjoyed an informative talk from Mike Willis and a flying display from some of the most beautiful birds of prey in the glorious June sunshine.

Norfolk Festival of Nature at Gresham's coordinator, Tom Howland, said: "It has been a hugely successful weekend and I am delighted that many visitors came to share with us our celebration of Norfolk's wonderful wildlife. Congratulations to the competition winners and I would like to thank the organisations that helped make the Festival possible and hugely enjoyable."

