It's time to get back to nature with a festival in Holt.

Gresham's will be presenting the Norfolk Festival of Nature from February 24-28.

The school will host a variety of nationally important writers, conservationists, art historians, poets and musicians with talks being held in the Auden Theatre.

The Festival Lecture will be a joint presentation by the nationally renowned nature writer Patrick Barkham and the National Trust's Matthew Oates who will offer a collaborative reflection on the concept of The Spirit of Place.

However, the festival will only be the first step in a much larger journey. Building on what has been achieved at Gresham's in 2011 and 2014 a number of like-minded people including representatives from a variety of key organisations have embarked on a ground-breaking project celebrating the central place of nature in our county.

Many of the key participants – Hawk and Owl Trust, National Trust, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk Museums Service and RSPB – will be represented.

For further details of all the events taking place visit www.greshams.com/NorfolkNatureFestival or contact the Auden Theatre at 01263 71344.


cover story

Riders ready to hit their peak

Good friends Charles Graham-Wood and Jack Greenwood have set their sights on achieving The National 3 Peaks Challenge, but by bike.

The feat is a considerable one, involving climbing the three highest mountains in the UK – Mount Snowdon (Wales), Scafell Pike (England) and Ben Nevis (Scotland).

And instead of driving between the mountains, the pair will be cycling.

They have named the trip Pedal the Peaks. It will be a journey of around 470 miles on the bikes and more than three vertical kilometres over 24 miles on foot... and they have just four days to do it in.

It's all in the name of charity and they'll be raising as much money as possible for Cancer Research UK as well as local charities including the Holt and Communities First Responders.

They'll start with climbing Mount Snowdon on April 13 and then it's about 210 miles to Scafell Pike in the Lake District. Then it's back on the road for roughly 260 miles to the bottom of Ben Nevis.

With a bit of luck (and possibly some sleepless nights) they'll be at the summit of Ben Nevis by sunset on the fourth day. This will make them the youngest duo to complete the challenge in such a short time.

They've been in training for the last couple of months, gained support from local businesses and will be officially launched the event last month at Budgens of Holt (see picture).

The boys were there all day with the bikes and information on the trip.