

Press Release

29 January 2009



Merriments Gardens Supports National Nest Box Week

Merriments Gardens and Nursery located near Hurst Green in East Sussex is home to probably the largest wild bird centre in the South East. The bird centre has stocked up on the latest in trendy and traditional nest boxes in readiness for 'National Nest Box Week' taking place from 14 to 21 February 2009.

Organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) National Nest Box Week was launched in 1997 after it became apparent that the natural nest sites upon which wild birds depend, such as holes in trees and old homes, were decreasing rapidly. Residents across the UK are encouraged every year to put up nest boxes in their gardens to compensate for the loss of these natural nest sites.

***“Supporting initiatives like National Nest Box Week is a great way to encourage everyone to put up nest boxes. It’s also a great way to introduce everyone including children to the joys of watching and learning about our wild birds especially if feeding stations are also present in a garden.*”**

“At Merriments, we have over 200 nest boxes of all shapes and sizes, perfect for gardens of all sizes. Last year we sold over 300 nest boxes to customers during National Nest Box Week,” said bird centre manager Allan Roffey.

The nest boxes include boxes for Tits, Sparrows, Starling, Robins, Treecreeper, Woodpecker, Swallow, House Martin, Swift, Kestrel, Little Owl, Tawny Owl, Barn Owl and Hedgehogs. They also supply Dormouse hibernation boxes, Butterfly, Lacewing, Bee and Ladybird boxes and an assortment of bird tables. Bird lovers can also find a large selection of bird and wildlife identification books and DVD's as well as purchase bird box cameras to watch your favourite birds nesting up close.

Bird expert and manager Allan is passionate about everything to do with our birds and can offer advice on bird related topics including which food attracts which birds to your garden and the merits of each type of feeder.

The 4 acre garden at Merriments is open to visitors and displays a variety of colour throughout the year. The garden has plenty of bird feeders from the bird centre on display and the bird hide allows visitors to watch over 60 species of garden bird feeding throughout the day. Plants grown in the nursery can be seen in the garden.

Gardens are open from Easter: Monday – Saturday 10am – 5.30pm and Sunday 10.30am – 5.30pm. Entrance Adults £4.50, Children 5 - 16 £2.00, Groups of 15 or more £4.00

As well as house plants, bulbs and seeds, the shop also has a variety of gifts and gardening products including colourful Laura Ashley wellies.

A brand new tearoom provides delicious treats, light meals and hot and cold drinks. There is even a sofa and warm fire to sit beside.

The website provides detailed information on Merriments Gardens www.merriments.co.uk or call 01580 860666.

For more media information and photographs contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on **01892 616647** or e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com