



PRESS RELEASE

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Wild Hares and Hummingbirds New Summer Exhibition Opening at The Museum of Somerset

Visitors to the Museum of Somerset can discover more about the county's animals, plants and birds in a playful, new exhibition opening this summer. Based on the book, 'Wild Hares and Hummingbirds: The Natural History of an English Village', by the naturalist Stephen Moss, the exhibition runs from 20 July to 26 October.

Stephen is one of Britain's leading natural history writers, broadcasters and wildlife television producers. His book tells the story of wildlife through the seasons in his home village of Mark, on the edge of the Somerset Levels. The exhibition brings together his celebrated nature writing with beautiful, original illustration by the graphic artist Stephanie Cole. Stephanie is probably best known in the West Country for her striking illustrations that decorate the interiors at Gloucester Services.

Sam Astill, Head of Museums for the South West Heritage Trust, said: "We're delighted to be bringing together the creative talents of Stephen and Stephanie for this original exhibition. It's packed full of fun, interactive, hands-on activities for families to enjoy during the school holiday."

Stephen Moss added: "The book is a celebration of the British countryside and why it matters to all of us, wherever we live. It's exciting to see it given a new lease of life and I hope the exhibition will help inspire young visitors to connect with the natural world."

The South West Heritage Trust is a charity supported by Somerset and Devon County Councils and other generous funders

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Company number: 09053532 Charity Number: 1158791 VAT Registration Number: 197221592

‘Wild Hares and Hummingbirds’ is part of a summer of exhibitions, events and activities at the Museum of Somerset where visitors can explore more about the natural world. Throughout the summer holidays the museum will be running ‘Wildlife Wednesdays’ with weekly themed activities for families. From 27 July to 7 September there is also a display of artworks by the printmaker Jackie Curtis celebrating the landscapes and wildlife of the Somerset Levels.

Oh – and in case you were wondering about hummingbirds in Somerset, they’re a species of hawk-moth!

The Museum of Somerset is part of The South West Heritage Trust, an independent charity that protects and celebrates Somerset and Devon’s rich heritage.

Visit www.museumofsomerset.org.uk for more information.

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For further information please contact Beth Jerrett, PR & Communications Lead Officer, beth.jerrett@swheritage.org.uk or 01823 347418.

Image/s: *Photographs are granted for one time use in conjunction with this press release only, and photographers must be credited.*

Photo Captions:

Original illustrations by Stephanie Cole are combined with nature writing to create an interactive exhibition exploring the natural world at the Museum of Somerset, this summer.

Notes to editors

1. The South West Heritage Trust

The South West Heritage Trust is an independent charity committed to protecting and celebrating Somerset and Devon’s rich heritage. As well as the widely-praised Museum of Somerset and the redeveloped Somerset Rural Life Museum, in Glastonbury, the Trust manages state-of-the-art facilities in Taunton and Exeter to

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care for the extraordinary archive collections of the two counties. The Trust also provides essential advice about the historic environment and manages historic sites. Individuals and businesses are invited to support the charity through its Supporters' scheme. Visit swheritage.org.uk #SWHTdiscovery #WildSomerset

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