

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate use

St Albans pic wins Wildlife Trust photo competition

A stunning photo of a heron catching a brown trout on the River Ver in St Albans won top prize in Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust's 2011 photo competition.

Ben Andrew, 28, shop assistant, is a keen amateur photographer and has been capturing the natural world through a lens since 2007. He often visits St Albans in pursuit of local wildlife spectacles, and certainly hit the jackpot this time.

Ben says: "It was a completely opportunistic shot. I'd settled down beside the stream amongst the prams, pushchairs, dog walkers and joggers in Verulamium Park on a grey Sunday afternoon, watching an adult heron do nothing but stand still for around ten minutes. I decided to lower my camera to move positions, as I did the heron typically decided to strike and plunged his full body into the water! I had to react quickly and fired off as many shots as possible in the hope of getting something decent, it was only when I looked back through the camera that I realised I had got the shot."

Ben's photo beat more than 100 other entries to take top spot, and features on the cover of the Wildlife Trust's 2012 calendar.

As well as good composition and technical ability, the judges were looking for the photo that best captured the wildlife of Hertfordshire. Sarah Buckingham, Communications Officer at the Trust says: "Ben's photo reflects local wildlife brilliantly. A heron catching its supper in the heart of St Albans - what could speak



Herts & Middlesex

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better about not only typical Hertfordshire wildlife and the importance of the county's chalk streams, globally rare habitats which support species like brown trout, but also the idea that nature is just on your doorstep, whether you're in a rural or an urban environment. It chimes perfectly with our vision of a living landscape, where we work with others to improve both our towns and countryside for wildlife."

Eleven other entries from local photographers were selected to feature alongside Ben's photo – the calendar is available to buy for £5 at www.hertswildlifetrust.org.uk/shop - all proceeds go towards protecting local wildlife.

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Notes for Editors

Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

We are a local charity supported by people who care about protecting wildlife, including over 22,000 members.

With volunteers, we manage a network of more than 40 nature reserves, covering nearly 2,000 acres. Beyond this our vision is of a living landscape, where we work with others to improve our towns and countryside for wildlife.

The Wildlife Trusts

There are 47 Wildlife Trusts across the UK: we are the only charities working to protect the full range of UK wildlife and habitats at a local level.

Contact for further information and high res images:

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