



**Park?** This haven of tranquillity with over 100 acres of gardens, woodland and parkland extending to the northern shores of Poole Harbour offers a lovely day out in Poole. Over 150 species of birds have been sighted at this important Site of Special Scientific Interest.

With its picnic tables and extensive grassed areas, Upton Country Park is the perfect spot for family gatherings or peaceful woodland walks

**Upton House**

The history of the Upton House dates back to about 1816 when it was built for William Spurrier, a merchant involved in the Newfoundland trade and a former Mayor of Poole. There is evidence of Roman remains on the site and the former estate included a Roman road.

The house and park were given to Poole Council in 1957 by the Llewelin family, William Llewelin being a former High Sheriff of Dorset. The house is open to the public most Sundays and can be used for a variety of functions and is a popular business venue. Upton House is also licensed for wedding ceremonies - receptions can be arranged in the grounds at the front of the house if a marquee is booked.

**Friends of Upton Country Park**

Last year, the Friends of Upton Country Park celebrated thirty years of dedicated involvement in the park and house. During this time, the volunteers have contributed both time and effort to ensuring that the park and house are maintained for the benefit of the people of Poole. Working in partnership with the staff of Leisure Services, they have seen a variety of projects come to fruition with over £750,000 being raised. Mike Yeomans, Chairman of the Friends, said: "We fundraise and organise events at the park including craft shows, plant fairs and book sales. Our team of enthusiastic volunteers are always on hand at the weekends ensuring that visitors can get refreshments at our kiosk, buy that plant at our plant centre or have access to Upton House on a number of Sunday afternoons during the year."

Check out [www.uptoncountrypark.org](http://www.uptoncountrypark.org) for the latest information.



**Peacock Tea Rooms**

This facility opened in 2001 and is a haven for visitors to the park, who enjoy the varied menu and friendly service. The Peacock Tearooms promote a real working environment for people with disabilities seeking employment and provides training to national standards in catering.



Since opening, on average 25 people per week have been provided with placements. All paid staff have achieved the basic food hygiene certificate and trainees are currently undertaking the course. Many enjoy the friendly and supportive environment and have chosen to stay and work at the tearooms. New trainees are being encouraged to move on to paid employment elsewhere or to catering college.

Whether it's lunch, a baguette or a gluten free bar, you can be sure of a friendly, professional service. Now that Spring is upon us, experience the changing season with a walk in the grounds of Upton Country Park followed by a visit to the Peacock tearooms.

**The walls**

During the winter... been carried out... will transform... of significant h... plans are under... work in April. Th... of footpaths to... will form part of... irrigation system... beds, lawns and



**Peacock**

The art gallery... regularly on disp

**Summer**

The highlight of... Park is the ev... presented by Bo... This year another... is being present... for more inform

