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Natures  
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**Natures Photos**

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## Harvest Mouse Photo Workshop - Joining instructions



As Britain's smallest British rodent harvest mice are the only old world mammal to have truly prehensile tails which they use to help them climb. They are indeed extremely active and agile climbers feeding in the stalk zone of long grasses and reeds. Their eyesight is poor but the hearing very acute and in the wild they will react rapidly to noise; either freezing or dropping into cover in response to rustling sounds up to 7m away. I was introduced to this little mouse nearly 40 years ago and I have been fond of them ever since.

They make fascinating subjects for wildlife photography. 35 years ago I undertook a photo study of a captive colony a project I have revisited recently. Having established a colony for this project I am now thrilled to be able to give others the opportunity to photograph them for themselves.

This is a chance to capture some really stunning images and to have some fun at the same time. The workshops are ½ day and I limit the numbers to 4. I do travel to camera clubs with the harvest mice for special sessions but normally hold them at my house which is 20 miles South of Northampton within easy access to all the main routes and 8 miles south of junction 15A on the M1.

My aim on this and all my workshops is quite simple; to help you improve your technique and to come away with some memorable images. As well as "managing" the mice I will therefore be on hand to give instruction and advice as required.

### Photography Level

This is one event where you don't need the latest and greatest DSLR camera. Perfectly acceptable photographs can be obtained using a reasonable quality compact digital camera. I have even taken some photographs with my iPhone!



## Photographic equipment required

If you are using a DSLR almost any medium length lens will do for this workshop but you will find you manage better with a lens of at least 100mm preferably 200mm. A lens of about 100mm preferably with a macro facility will be perfect. A lens of 200mm or more will require extension tubes to allow you to focus closer to capture pleasing frame filling shots of individual mice. A lens with a wide maximum aperture will also give nice soft out of focus backgrounds for wider shots of mice climbing vegetation. A tripod isn't necessary but you might find it or perhaps better still a monopod helpful. Lighting is always difficult with such small and fast moving subjects and therefore a flashgun might prove useful on poorly lit days.

If you have any particular questions re-equipment please contact me before the workshop. I can also arrange for very cost effective hire of individual lenses or even camera for the day if required. It may be that you for example want to use this as an opportunity to experiment with a specific lens in a 'real world situation' before considering buying one.

This will be a short but intensive workshop so bring plenty of memory cards and batteries and expect to take home lots of great images.



## Fitness level and clothing required

The workshop is normally held outside in my garden which has some established hedges which provide natural backdrops to the photos. As it is my house charging points for camera batteries are available although to get the most of the day you would be advised to bring plenty of batteries for both camera and flash and plenty of memory cards. You will be surprised how many photos you will take in just 2½ hours !

Toilet facilities are available and you will be offered a drink of tea or coffee on arrival and during the session.

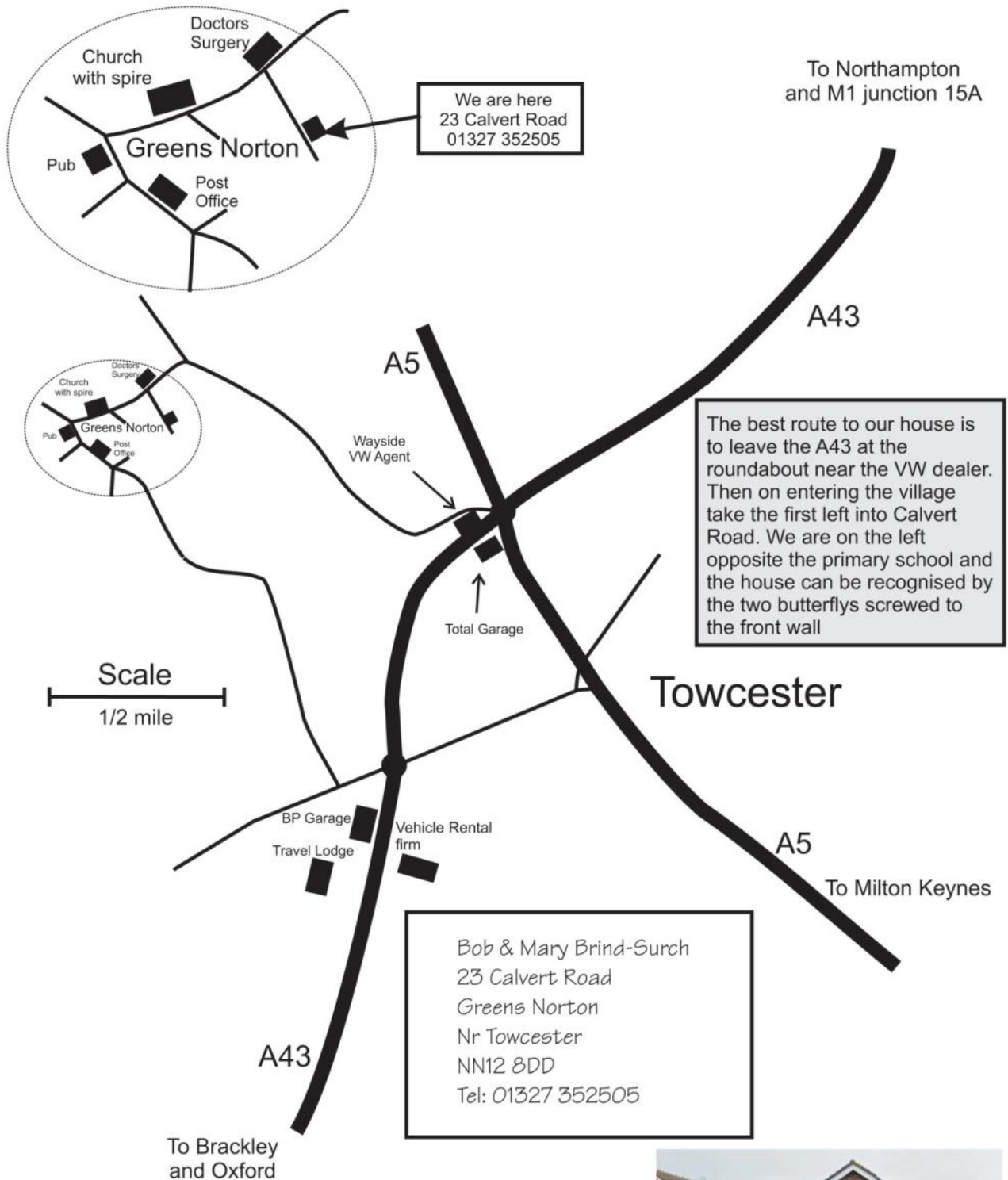


We will hope for good weather but if this isn't the case I will contact you beforehand. If the workshop is not fully booked it is possible to use my summer house but if it is fully booked I will if possible reschedule for a later date.

I am afraid that my garden has steps and a bridge over a small stream so this workshop is not suitable for wheelchair users or guest with specific mobility requirements. If you have any particular concerns please contact me directly.

# Car parking and directions

My house is easy to find but the map below should help. Car parking is available in the road outside my house. While there is plenty of space I do live on a residential estate so please respect my neighbours when parking.



## Schedule

This is a ½ day – 2 ½ hour - workshop (or an evening if booked by a club for a practical session).

Morning sessions will start promptly at 10am and run till 12:30pm. Afternoon session will start promptly at 2:00pm and run till 4:30pm.

If when you arrive there is no answer to the front door bell I am probably in the garden setting up. Please use the passage alongside the left of the garage to come directly around to the garden.

## Pre workshop questions

Whilst I hope that I have most questions here if you have any further queries or concerns please contact me either by phone or e-mail beforehand. Contact details are at the top of this information sheet.

## Finally

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming you to this workshop.

Be warned photographing harvest mice is addictive!

Bob Brind-Surch

