

Nature Matters:

a sense of scale



Exploring the diversity of responses to the natural world

Thursday 13th – Saturday 15th November 2014

Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford, Lincolnshire

In this, the sixth New Networks for Nature meeting, we explore a sense of scale. From local to global, micro to macro, amateur to professional, short- to long-term, historic to contemporary, we hope to bring alive a sense of how the extraordinary diversity of nature is echoed in the ways in which a broad alliance of creators (including poets, authors, scientists, film makers, visual artists, environmentalists, musicians and composers) has responded to the nature that surrounds them.

Thursday 13th November 6.30pm – 9.30pm



Richard Mabey 'in conversation' with Tim Dee. An exploration of the ways in which we engage with the natural world, examining how these are influenced by the values and perceptions of society.

18.30 – 20.00 Drinks and a chance to meet friends and colleagues in the Exhibition Space

20.00 – 21.30 *'In conversation'*, including questions from the audience to Richard and Tim

Richard Mabey is Britain's best-loved nature writer and has been a regular columnist for BBC Wildlife Magazine for over 30 years. We are very grateful for the generous support given by BBC Wildlife Magazine for this special evening session.

Friday 14th November – 8.30am arrival for 9.30am start

Introduction to the day and housekeeping (09.30 – 09.45) *John Fanshawe and Mike Toms*

Poetry Prologue (09.45 – 10.00) **John Barlow, Jessica Penrose and Matthew Paul**

Session 1: A Question of Scale (10.00 – 11.00) *Chaired by Mike Toms*

We have a problem with scale, favouring creatures, landscapes and processes that best match the scale at which our senses work. Hence, we generally favour birds and mammals over microbes and mosses. This session addresses our problem with scale by examining these three contrasting topics.

Tim Dee (Writer and radio producer) – Four Fields

Oliver Burke (Director of Living Landscapes) – Is the Great Fen great enough?

Debbie Pain (Director of Conservation at WWF) – Conservation across borders: the Spoon-billed Sandpiper

Coffee break (11.00 – 11.45) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Session 2: Natural capital: nature conservation and the global economy (11.45 – 13.00)

A Question Time panel, *Chaired by Andy Clements (CEO, British Trust for Ornithology)*

Globalisation has profound implications for nature conservation and our interactions with the natural world. It also has the potential to structure policy, support local conservation efforts and increase awareness of issues, species and landscapes. With questions from the floor, our panel will offer comment and perspectives from their experiences.

Dr Tom Tew (CEO, Environment Bank)

Bill Sutherland (Conservation scientist)

Juliet Vickery (Scientist)

Lunch (13.00 – 14.15) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Photography Prologue (14.15 – 14.30) **Andrew Cleave** – *Marine Worms*

Session 3: All at Sea (14.30 – 15.30) *Chaired by Ruth Padel*

The oceans are one key to life on this planet, yet our knowledge and experience of them lags behind that of the terrestrial world. This session explores our relationship with the sea and its fauna.

Callum Roberts (Author and scientist) – Bountiful Oceans? Human impacts on marine ecosystems

Philip Hoare (Author) – The Sea Inside

Tea break (15.30 – 16.00) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Art Prologue (16.00 – 16.15) **Lyndall Phelps** – Artist/Scientist collaborations

Session 4: Planet Birdsong (16.15–17.30) *Chaired by John Fanshawe*

A celebration of the role of birdsong in creating music, film and education, and of the opportunities it provides to inspire people, particularly children, of the delights of listening.

James de Winter (Physics teacher) – Teaching physics with birdsong

Peter Cowdrey (Composer and ornithologist) & **Liz Cowdrey** (Musician) – Creating music with bird song

Rosie Johnston (Opera director, author and journalist) – Planet Birdsong on Film

18.30 until late @ the Tobie Norris (www.tobienorris.com)

Saturday 15th November – 9.00am arrival for 9.30am start

Introduction to the day and housekeeping (09.30 – 09.45) *John Fanshawe and Mike Toms*

Literary Prologue (09.45 – 10.00) **Richard Kerridge** – *Reading from Cold Blood*

Session 5: Blooming Marvellous (10.00 – 11.00) *Chaired by Stephen Moss*

Plants often provide the backdrop to our engagement with the natural world rather than the focus for our activities. In this session our three speakers explore plants (and the insects that pollinate them) and their role in our lives.

Rosamond Richardson (Author) – Richard Jefferies and the metaphysics of wild flowers

Dave Goulson (Author and academic) – Helping bees thrive in modern landscapes

Paul Evans (Conservationist, nature writer and broadcaster) – Herbaceous - an audacious botany, a personal response to climate change.

Coffee break (11.00 – 11.30) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Session 6: Country Diarists (11.30 – 13.00) *Chaired by Martin Wainwright*

Since 1906, the *Guardian's* Country Diary has provided readers with a brief and brilliant look at nature every morning. A panel chaired by the *Guardian's* former northern editor brings together the diarists,

Mark Cocker, **Paul Evans** and **Derek Niemann**, and former editor, **Celia Locks**, to reflect on the delights, challenges, and meaning of repeatedly returning to a single special place as a source of inspiration.

Lunch (13.00 – 14.15) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Session 7: Flights of Fancy (14.15 – 15.15) *Chaired by Jeremy Mynott*

The written word has long been used to stretch the boundaries of our views of the natural world and to take us to places far removed from the narrow focus of our daily lives. Three authors explore some literary perceptions of the natural world, through their own writings.

Helen Macdonald (Writer) – Reading from *H is for Hawk*

Michelle Remblance (Writer) – Reading from *Shooting the Albatross*

Michael Warren (Academic) – Illuminating the Ornithological ‘Dark Ages’

Session 8: Edge (15.15 – 16.00) *Introduced by Chris Hudson*

A sound-journey of words and computer music, by **Katrina Porteous** and **Peter Zinovieff**, which uses sound data collected from the solar system and explores the themes of chaos and the cosmos through science and art.

Review of the weekend, and thanks (16.00) *Mark Cocker*

Looking forward to 2015 (16.10) *Jeremy Mynott*

Ticket prices and booking for the conference

Thursday evening only – Richard Mabey ‘in conversation’ £20

Day ticket Friday £45*

Day ticket Saturday £45*

Two-day ticket (Friday and Saturday) £80*

Three-day ticket (Thursday, Friday and Saturday) £90*

* includes refreshments (Tea/coffee/lunch – as last year, we are using locally-sourced, organic catering)

Tickets can be purchased through our website (www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk) or by sending a cheque (payable to ‘New Networks for Nature’), together with a completed booking form (available on our website), to New Networks for Nature, c/o M Howard, 66 Salisbury Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR1 1TU. If you have a query about the event, about your booking or about New Networks for Nature itself then please email info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk.

Places are limited and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Founded by Tim Birkhead, Mark Cocker, John Fanshawe and Jeremy Mynott in 2009, **New Networks for Nature** is a wholly voluntary organisation run by a steering group currently consisting of Carry Akroyd, John Barlow, Tim Birkhead, Jonathan Elphick, John Fanshawe, Matthew Howard, Harriet Mead, Stephen Moss, Jeremy Mynott, Kate Risely and Mike Toms.*

www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk

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