

Cambridge **Conservation** Initiative

New **NETWoRKS**  
for **NATURE**

# Nature Matters

## In Touch with the Wild



*Exploring the diversity of responses to the natural world*

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**CCI Campus, David Attenborough Building, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, CB2 3QZ**

Our eighth New Networks for Nature meeting, for which we are collaborating with the Cambridge Conservation Initiative, explores how we connect with the natural world. Our emphasis is on personal connection, loss and hope, through which we examine how the changing nature of the natural world challenges us to find new ways for engagement.

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 18.30 – 21.30

**Connection – an exploration.** Through chaired conversation, and involving author **Rebecca Stott**, Astronomer Royal **Martin Rees**, poet **Kathleen Jamie**, leading British environmentalist **Tony Juniper** and chaired by **Gillian Beer**, we will explore the ways in which we engage with the world around us. The idea of legacy and of dealing with timescales beyond our own lives, is a key component of this discussion.

**18.30 – 20.00** Drinks and a chance to meet friends and colleagues in the CCI space.

**20.00 – 21.30 Connection – an exploration**, including questions from the audience.

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – 08.30 arrival for 09.30 start

Introduction to the day and housekeeping (09.30 – 09.45) *Elizabeth Allen and Mike Toms*

**Prologue** (09.45 – 10.00) **Edward Parnell** (Author) – *The Listeners* – loss and connection

**Session 1: Personal Connection** (10.00 – 11.00) *Chaired by Ruth Padel*

Our connections with the natural world typically begin, and often end, as direct personal interactions and our first session explores the dynamics and resonance of personal experience.

**William Fiennes** (Writer and academic) – *The Snow Geese*

**Alison Brackenbury** (Poet) – Making a connection through poetry

**Laurie Parma** (Academic) – How we connect with the natural world

**Coffee break (11.00 – 11.45)** and the opportunity to buy books

**Session 2: Understanding Loss** (11.45 – 13.00) *Chaired by John Fanshawe*

The loss of biodiversity and our changing ways of living deliver significant challenges to our connections with the natural world. How should we express our response to such loss?

**Dr Stuart Butchart** (BirdLife International) – Global bird decline

**Toby Smith** (Photojournalist) – Chasing Cuckoos

**Hanna Tuulikki** (Artist, composer and vocalist) – ‘At Sing Two Birds’

**Lunch (13.00 – 14.15)** and the opportunity to buy books

**Session 3: Rewilding – a debate** (14.15 – 15.30) *Chaired by Joanna Elliott (Fauna & Flora International)*

Rewilding has become a theme for conservationists, both here within the UK and more widely across the globe, but it is not without its critics. This debate explores the role of rewilding within nature conservation and seeks to understand its potential contribution.

**Panel members include: George Monbiot** (Journalist), **Sir Charles Burrell** (Rewilding practitioner) and **Jamie Lorimer** (Academic)

**Tea break (15.30 – 16.15)** and the opportunity to buy books

**Prologue** (16.15 – 16.30) **Katharine Norbury** (Writer) – *The Fish Ladder*

**Session 4: Reconnection** (16.30–17.30) *Chaired by Katrina Porteous*

Can we take personal connection with the natural world to a broader audience, delivering experiences that change the nature of the connection that society has with nature and landscape?

**Ivan Scales** (Academic) – How people see nature

**Sharon Blackie** (Writer) – Myth and story as an act of place-making

**@ATMStreetart** (Artist) – Reconnecting urban communities with the natural world

**19.00 until late – Event dinner at Queens' College (ticketed separately, see overleaf)**

## **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September – 08.45 arrival for 09.20 start**

Introduction to the day and housekeeping (09.20 – 09.30) *Shelley Bolderson and Matt Howard*

**Prologue** (09.30 – 09.45) **Mike Toms** (Ornithologist and writer) – An incline of Nightjar

**Session 5: Tools for Life** (09.45 – 10.45) *Chaired by Tim Birkhead*

Technology can deliver new opportunities for conservation, supporting data collection and analysis, together with providing new ways of engaging people with the natural world.

**Dr Stuart Newson** (British Trust for Ornithology) – Innovation and monitoring bats

**Professor Kate Jones** (Academic) – Technology for nature?

**Stephanie O'Donnell** (WildLABS, community manager) – Delivering tools for change

**Coffee break (10.45 – 11.30)** and the opportunity to buy books

**Session 6: Workshops** (11.30 – 13.00)

Spaces within the David Attenborough Building provide us with the opportunity to run a diverse mix of workshops for the first time. Full details of these are available on our website but we are covering everything from nature writing and poetry, through to the exploration of why we have not got more angry about the loss of biodiversity. Some sessions will require pre-booking and details of these will be sent during late August to those who have booked tickets for the event.

**Lunch (13.00 – 14.00)** and the opportunity to buy books

**Session 7: Hope** (14.00 – 15.00) *Chaired by Mike Rands*

Can we be optimistic about the future and use 'hope' as a catalyst to deliver a fundamentally different relationship with the natural world?

**'Voices of Hope':** New poets from Cambridge University - **Jade Cuttle**

**Hope – a conversation:** **Professor Andrew Balmford**, **Bruce Pearson** (artist), **Michelle Cooper** (Conservation Practitioner), **Susan Jones** (A Focus On Nature)

**Sir David Attenborough** will then say a few words about his hopes for the future and about the ways in which we need to connect with the natural world if we are to realise our ambitions.

## **Ticket prices and booking for the event**

Thursday evening only £10

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)

Tickets can be purchased through our website ([www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk](http://www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk)). If you have a query about the event, about your booking or about New Networks for Nature then please email [info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk](mailto:info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk).

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

## **Dinner at Queens' College, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

19.30 – 22.30 Old Hall at Queens' College

2 course dinner (menu will be available on our website shortly).

After dinner speaker TBC

£35 per person – this can be booked via the New Networks for Nature website.

## **Accommodation**

We have secured a number of rooms at Queens' College for the nights of 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September, should you wish to book accommodation there. These are £73.25 per night, £147.50 for 2 nights.

Room bookings need to be made via the college, using the following web link and the promotional code KX11902.

<http://tinyurl.com/newnetworksrooms>

*Founded by Tim Birkhead, Mark Cocker, John Fanshawe and Jeremy Mynott in 2009, **New Networks for Nature** is a Registered Charity (No. 1165027) run by a steering group currently consisting of Carry Akroyd, John Barlow, Tim Birkhead, Mary Colwell, Jonathan Elphick, John Fanshawe, Matt Howard, Harriet Mead, Derek Niemann, Jeremy Mynott, Kate Risely, Rosamond Richardson, Gill Tew and Mike Toms.*

**[www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk](http://www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk)**

**Twitter: [@networks4nature](https://twitter.com/networks4nature)**