

Nature Matters

New NETWORKS
for NATURE

15–17th November 2012

Stamford Arts Centre and Theatre

This is the fourth and largest meeting organised by New Networks for Nature. It marks a significant development in our long-term goal of establishing a festival celebrating the cultural significance of nature in Britain. Events take place over three days and feature some of the nation's most important creators, thinkers and activists whose work centres on wildlife and landscape.

A major element of the programme is to pose and to try to answer the key questions for environmentalists in the twenty-first century. There are highlight presentations by national treasure and nonagenarian author Ronald Blythe and the distinguished artist Bruce Pearson, nature-inspired musical compositions by Bob Chilcott, Peter Cowdrey and Hanna Tuulikki, as well as words of insight and provocation by Jim Perrin and Conor Jameson. There will also be a Question Time-style event chaired by Mike McCarthy the Independent's Environment Editor and now New Networks Ambassador. Mike will put all your questions on the politics of nature and conservation to test the collective wisdom of our celebrated panellists – Mark Avery, Peter Marren, Peter Melchett and Dame Fiona Reynolds.

A meeting that draws together in one place a mixture of poets, publishers, scientists, authors, academics, artists, painters, conservationists, composers, museum specialists and musicologists is vintage New Networks. It promises to be challenging, provocative and, above all, huge fun. We hope you will be there.

New Networks for Nature is a wholly voluntary organization, founded by Tim Birkhead, Mark Cocker, John Fanshawe and Jeremy Mynott, supported by a steering group consisting of Carry Akroyd, John Barlow, Matthew Howard, Rob Lambert, Harriet Mead, Stephen Moss and Mike Toms.

www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@networks4nature](https://twitter.com/networks4nature)





Thursday 15th November 2012 Stamford Arts Centre Theatre

7pm Reception

8pm Ronald Blythe in conversation with Mark Cocker



Friday 16th November 2012 Stamford Arts Centre

09.45–11.00 'True Voices, New Songs' (Chair: Mark Cocker)

10.00 Introduction and welcome by Mark Cocker

10.10 Hanna Tuulikki *Vocal solo*

10.15 Conor Jameson *Silent Spring Revisited – Our Debt to Rachel Carson*

10.45 Jim Perrin *Nature/Rapture: A Re-evaluation*

11.00 tea break

11.15–13.00 'Question Time' (Chair: Jeremy Mynott)

11.15 Ruth Padel *Three poems*

11.30 Do the British care about nature?

A debate chaired by Mike McCarthy, with a panel of:

Mark Avery, Peter Marren, Peter Melchett and Dame Fiona Reynolds

13.00 lunch

14.15–15.10 'Saying Farewell' (Chair: Tim Birkhead)

14.15 Mike McCarthy – *Say Goodbye to the Cuckoo*

14.20 Nick Davies – *Cuckoo tricks with eggs and chicks*

14.40 Chris Hewson – *Tales of the Unexpected: new insights from satellite tracking Common Cuckoos*

14.55 Andrew Whitehouse – *Loudly sing cuckoo! Sensing time, place and season through bird sounds*

15.10 tea break

15.30–16.35 'Making Waves' (Chair: John Fanshawe)

15.30 Peter Cowdrey – *Three different ways of playing Blackbird song on the piano*

15.40 Bruce Pearson – *Trailing the Albatross*

16.00 Kate MccGwire – *The Contortionist's Tale*

16.20 Kim Atkinson – *Drawing Sound*

16.35 Close of day and final housekeeping



Saturday 17th November 2012 **Stamford Arts Centre**

09.30–10.30 'The Living Dead' (Chair: Harriet Mead)

09.30 David Tipling – *A New Beginning*

09.35 Dr Clemency Fisher – *John Gilbert, Bushman of the Never-Never*

09.55 Katrina van Grouw – *The Unfeathered Bird*

10.10 Andrea Roe – *Undressing the Animal* – reviewing taxidermy

10.30 tea break

11.00–12.30 'Natural Music' (Chair: John Fanshawe)

11.00 Matt Meritt - *The music of nature*

11.10 Charles Bennett – *The Angry Planet: The Music of Landscape: Environmental poetry & the BBC Proms*

11.30 Andrew McNeillie – *Marginally Alive - in the British & Irish Archipelago*

11.45 Peter Cowdrey – *Birdswing: Unlocking the musical secrets of birdsong*

12.00 Hanna Tuulikki with vocalists Nerea Bello and Lucy Duncombe, with field recordings by Geoff Sample. *Air falbh leis na h-eòin (Away with the Birds)* – a large-scale vocal composition and performance inspired by the rural environment in the Western Isles

12.30 Close of day and thanks



Making your booking

This year we have a number of different sessions and the ticket prices are as follows:

Thursday evening only – Ronald Blythe in conversation £10

Day ticket Friday £35*

Two day (Friday and Saturday) £45*

All three days £50*

* includes refreshments (coffee, lunch and tea)



To make a booking please telephone the Stamford Arts Centre on 01780 763203. They will accept cash, cheques or credit card bookings. Stamford Arts Centre, 27 St Mary's St, Stamford, Lincolnshire PE9 2DL (www.stamfordartscentre.com).

We urge you to book as soon as possible since the numbers that can be accommodated at the venues are necessarily limited and we shall in addition be advertising this meeting to other interested wildlife and conservation bodies who may wish to send representatives or encourage attendance from their own members.

Stamford is close to the A1 and is on an E/W rail route near to Peterborough.

We shall be circulating further details of the locations and other practical information in a later mailing.

If you have any queries about the facilities at the venue then staff at the Stamford Arts Centre Box Office will be able to help.

If you have any other queries about the event please email info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk

140 characters: Some of our speakers

New NETWORKS
for NATURE



Kim Atkinson has taken the notes on bird sound made in her sketchbooks and turned them into the subjects for her paintings.

Angry Planet, a collaboration between poet **Charles Bennett** and composer Bob Chilcott, expresses love for an environment celebrated and mourned.

Perhaps best known for *Akenfield: Portrait of an English Village*, **Ronald Blythe** is a much respected writer on the countryside and its people.

Peter Cowdrey is founder of *The Conference of Birds*, which performs music inspired by bird song over five centuries.

Professor of Behavioural Ecology **Nick Davies** asks why hosts accept Cuckoos, examining the arms race between host defence & Cuckoo trickery.

Londoner John Gilbert collected the first specimens of many of Australia's birds and mammals making him an interesting subject for **Clem Fisher's** talk.

Katrina van Grouw, artist & former curator, reveals *The Unfeathered Bird* - a marvellous fusion of art and science, with a playful edge.

As **Chris Hewson** reveals, new technologies have completely transformed our knowledge of Cuckoo migration, challenging previous wisdom.

Fifty years on from Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, **Conor Jameson** reflects on the growth of environmentalism and a changing countryside.

Matt Merritt is a poet whose works focus on the natural world and our interaction with it.

The Independent's **Michael McCarthy** revealed the wonder of migration in *Say Goodbye to the Cuckoo*. Here he focuses on the bird herself.

The Contortionist's Tale emerges from the work that **Kate McGwire** has produced in response to the sight of Cormorants catching eels.

Andrew McNeillie, poet, professor and publisher, explores through *Archipelago* the unnameable constellation of islands on the Eastern Atlantic coast.

It is the rhythm and restlessness of the natural world that fascinates artist, **Bruce Pearson**, as you'll discover as he follows the albatross.

Andrea Roe's experimentation with animatronics challenges the attempts of traditional taxidermy to recapture life.

Hanna Tuulikki's return to New Networks is much anticipated, her vocal performance drawing upon the sounds of the natural world to stunning effect.

Birder and anthropologist **Andrew Whitehouse**, explores the relations between time, place and bird song, revealing how seasons are experienced.