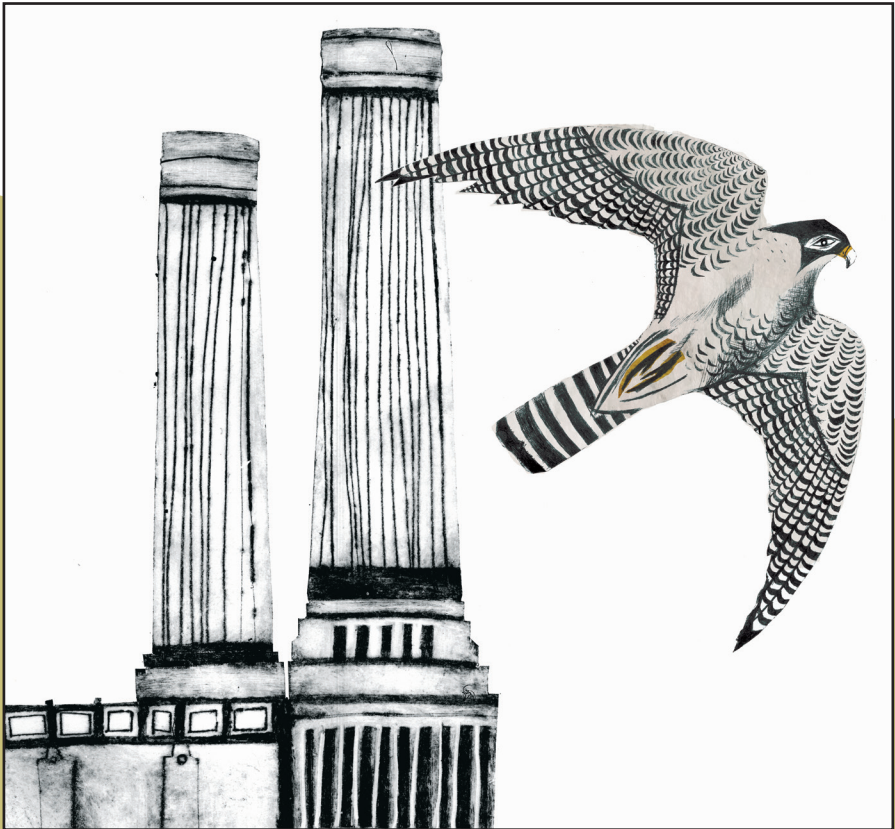


Nature Matters:

Place and Belonging



Thursday 12th – Saturday 14th November 2015
Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Nature Matters: Place and Belonging

A sense of place can be the root of belonging, the foundation for our interactions with the natural world and a link to generations past and future. This sense of place matters, for without it we are no longer grounded within the natural world or in tune with its processes. In many ways it defines who we are.

Thursday 12th November 18.30 – 21.30

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

Exhibition: 'Concrete Nature'

20.00 – 21.30 Germaine Greer in conversation with Ruth Padel, including audience questions

Friday 13th November – 08.30 arrival for 09.30 start

Introduction to the day (09.30 – 09.40) Jeremy Mynott

Prologue: (09.40 – 10.00) John Aitchison (Film-maker/broadcaster)

How people connect with nature through particular places.

Session 1: (10.00 – 11.00) Poetry and Pattern: nature poetry today. Chaired by Ruth Padel "*Hack and rack the growing green*" wrote Gerard Manley Hopkins, mourning poplars felled a hundred and twenty-five years ago. Today nature faces worse threats everywhere. Three prize-winning poets read their poems on nature, wildlife and conservation, and discuss ways in which poetry can address nature without overwhelming the poem – and the reader – in fury or lament.

Contributors: Ruth Padel, Jo Shapcott, Pascale Petit

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

Session 2: (11.45 – 13.00) Debate: The Real Value of Nature. Chaired by Jeremy Mynott Should we justify and defend the value of nature by the benefits it brings, or by its intrinsic qualities?

Debating: Tony Juniper and George Monbiot

Delicious organic lunch (13.00 – 14.15) locally sourced brain-stimulating nutrition! – and opportunity to buy books from authors

Musical prologue: (14.15 – 14.30) Barron Brady

Session 3: (14.30 – 15.30) Invertebrate Delights. Chaired by Stephen Moss Some thoughts about the more overlooked of our companions on the planet.

Contributors: Peter Marren (butterflies), **Helen Smith** (spiders), **Matt Shardlow** (bugs)

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

Prologue: (16.00 – 16.15) Esther Tyson (Visual artist)

The processes by which her images are reached.

Session 4: (16.15 – 17.30) Sound, story and place. Chaired by Geoff Sample

Sound has a strangely intimate connection with landscape and our sense of place. It may be the sound of the place itself and its sensual impressions; or it may be the way we express our bonding with a place in music, poetry or lyrical prose.

Contributors: Malcolm Green (story-teller) and **Jo Joelson** (fieldworks)

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

Saturday 14th November – 09.00 arrival for 09.20 start

Introduction to the day (09.20 – 09.30) Tim Birkhead

Prologue: (09.30 – 09.45) Matt Howard: a reading

Session 5: (09.45 – 11.00) The Science of Place. Chaired by Tim Birkhead

Ecology is essentially the study of organisms 'at home', that is, in their natural contexts. A palaeontologist and two zoologists present some case-studies.

Richard Fortey 'From the Natural History Museum into the Woods'

Elsbeth Kenny 'Feathered friends: relationships on the cliff-face'

Hannah Mumby 'When and how is an elephant human?'

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

Session 6: (11.30 – 12.30) Spirit of Place. Chaired by Carry Akroyd

How do we explain our emotional response to places?

Contributors: Mary Colwell, Matthew Oates, Andrew Forster

Delicious Organic Lunch (12.30 – 13.45) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Prologue: (13.45 – 14.00) Rebecca Jewell (Visual artist)

Shows work and reflects on extinction.

Session 7: (14.00 – 15.00) The Media and the Message: Communication and Conservation. Chaired by Barbara Young.

Four journalists and opinion-formers form the panel in any 'Any Questions' format.

Panellists: **Simon Barnes, Mike McCarthy, Louise Gray** and **Germaine Greer**

Tea break (15.00 – 15.30) – opportunity to buy books from authors

Session 8: (15.30 – 16.15) Music finale: Barron Brady

Review of the conference, comments from the floor (16.15 – 16.40) **Jeremy Mynott**

Looking forward to 2016 (16.40 – 16.45) **Mike Toms**

New Networks for Nature

New Networks for Nature is a broad alliance of creators (including poets, authors, scientists, film makers, visual artists, environmentalists, musicians and composers) whose work draws strongly on the natural environment.

Its formation grew out of dissatisfaction with the low political priority placed upon nature in the UK. Today our wildlife and landscapes are so often evaluated exclusively in economic or scientific terms when, in fact, they are a resource at the very heart of human creativity.

The multiple impacts of place and the natural world are central to the nation's cultural life. New Networks for Nature wishes to reflect these truths and celebrate them.

Founded in 2009 by Tim Birkhead, Mark Cocker, John Fanshawe, and Jeremy Mynott, New Networks is an annual forum and gathering, supported by a voluntary steering group currently including Carry Akroyd, John Barlow, Tim Birkhead, Jonathan Elphick, John Fanshawe, Matt Howard, Gill Kerby, Harriet Mead, Jeremy Mynott, Derek Niemann, Kate Risely, Mike Toms, and by our Ambassadors, Mark Cocker, Mike McCarthy, Ruth Padel, and Katrina Porteous.