

Local to Global - 2021

New NETWORKS
for NATURE

tickets

Tickets can be purchased through our website
(www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk)

	Full ticket	Students	Balcony
3 day pass	£140	£85	
Friday only	£15	£10	
Sat only	£85	£50	
Sun only	£80	£45	
David Gray	£20	£15	£10
Workshops	£12		
Birdwatch	£20		

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.

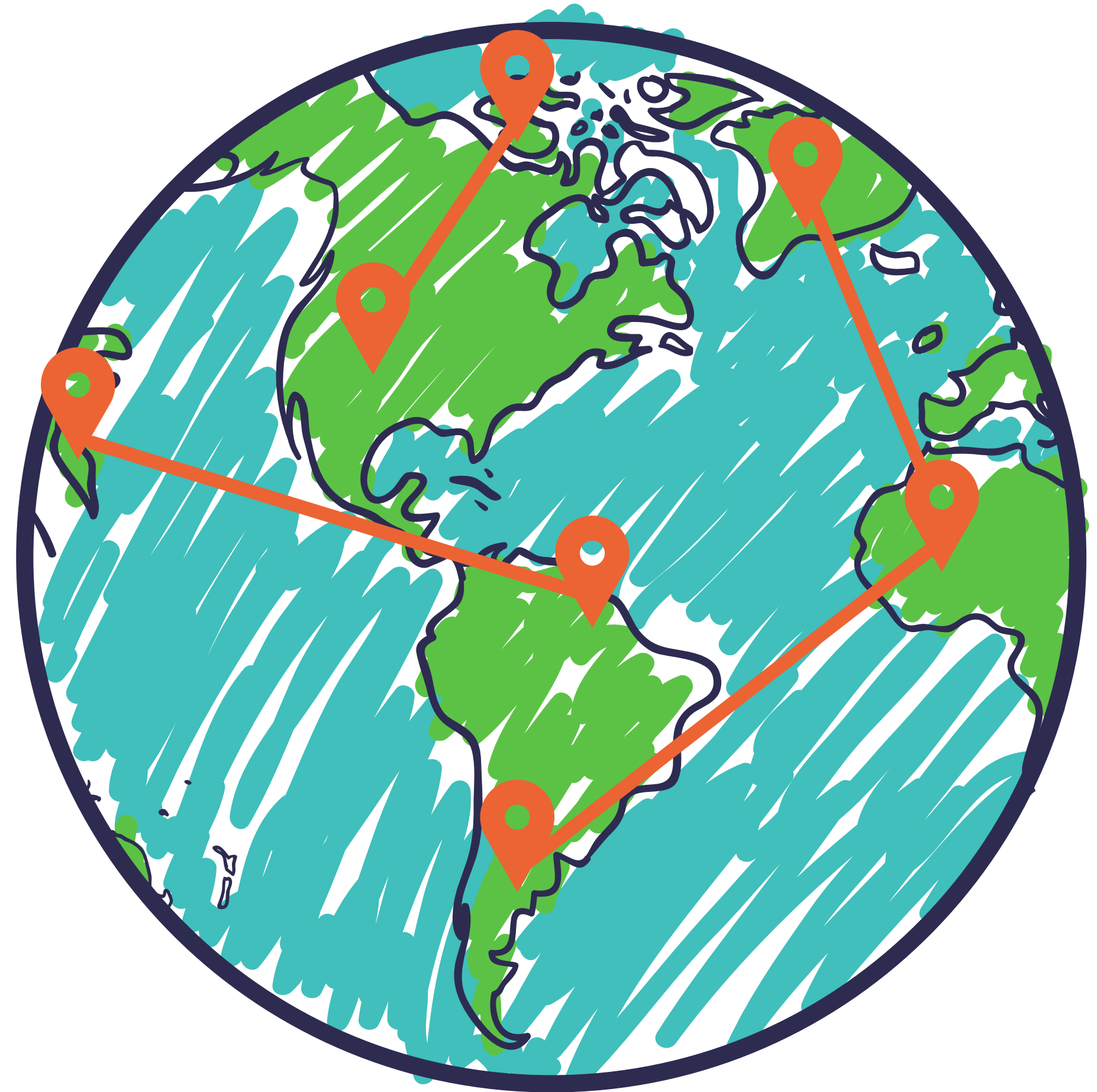
Places are limited and tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

New Networks for Nature is a broad alliance of creators (including poets, authors, scientists, filmmakers, visual artists, environmentalists, musicians and composers) whose work draws strongly on the natural environment. 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 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 Mary Colwell, John Fanshawe, Richard Kerridge, Harriet Mead, Michael Warren, Amy-Jane Beer, Ben Hoare, Phil Warren and Laurence Rose.



www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk



19-21st November 2021

**Widcombe Social Club,
Widcombe Hill, Bath,
BA2 6AA**



Twitter: @networks4nature

Friday November 19th

Pre-conference Excursions and Workshops - Widcombe Social Club

Winter birds on the Somerset Levels

13.30 – 18.00 Depart Bath bus station, arrive back same location

Stephen Moss and Ben Hoare will lead a birdwatching walking tour of Shapwick Heath Nature Reserve, including the possibility of observing the famous starling murmuration as the birds come in to roost in the reeds

15.30 – 17.30 Afternoon Workshops: Nature writing courses – limited to 10 people per workshop.

Long-form nature writing with Richard Kerridge.

Short form and article writing with Amy-Jane Beer and Nicola Chester

Turning scientific writing into popular nature writing with Prof. Tim Birkhead

19.00 – 21.30 pm Evening Event, Everyone's Nature?

19.00 pm Bar open for drinks (*please note this is a public bar and we can't guarantee social distancing*).

20.00-21.30 Everyone's Nature?

Welcome from Richard Kerridge, Bath Spa University

Seb Choudhury in conversation with Anita Roy, Nicola Chester and David Lindo

Saturday and Sunday 20th- 21st November.

Nature Matters - Local to Global – Widcombe Social Club

Interconnectedness is the modern buzz word for what we all know to be true, that nothing in nature exists in isolation. From local interactions to global connections, life is a complex web of dependency. The nineteenth century naturalist John Muir said, "When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." This year, Local to Global will look at how the various ways our immediate relationships with nature have wider implications.

Saturday November 20th

9.15 for a 9.30 start

9.30 - 9.45

Welcome. Richard Kerridge from Bath Spa University

Session 1: 9.45 - 10.45

Chair: John Fanshawe

Panel: Art and environmental awareness

How can the visual arts help raise awareness about the environment? Can seeing problems through a different prism make issues more accessible to a greater number of people?

Contributors: Harriet Mead, Rachel Taylor, Sarah Gillespie

Session 2: 10.45 - 11.00

Chair: Mary Colwell

Merlyn Driver introduces his latest project for the RSPB, collecting musical responses to Britain's largest wading bird, the endangered curlew

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee

Saturday November 20th

Session 3: 11.30 – 12.30

Chair: Laurence Rose

11.30 - 11.45: A film by stand-up paddle boarding champion, Cal Major on plastics in the River Severn

11.45 – 12.30: Panel – Plastics in the environment

Plastic is the stuff of modern life, from industrial processes to wrapping the food we eat. What does it do to wildlife, how does it affect our perception of wild places and how can we change to reduce its use?

Contributors: Nina O'Hanlon, Jean Sprackland, Xanthe Clay

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

Session 4: 14.00 - 15.00

Chair: Michael Warren

Panel: Youth and the Climate Crisis

In recent years, youth culture has embraced environmental and conservation causes worldwide, taking the media by storm. Three young naturalists who have all made a name for themselves in this context speak about their own experiences.

Contributors: Holly Gillibrand, Kabir Kaul, Bella Lack

Session 5: 15.00 – 16.00

Chair: Phil Warren

Panel: Joining Up the World

Both local and global travellers tie the world together. Many species migrate, creating a thread of life around the earth. Other creatures create a world-wide bond by their universal appeal and their uncanny resemblance to us.

Contributors: Tim Guilford, Prerna Singh Bindra, Simon Allen

16.00 – 16.30: Tea

Saturday November 20th

Session 6: 16.30 – 17.15

Ben Hoare in conversation with Julian Hector, Head of the BBC Natural History Unit

What is the future of natural-history television – in particular, what role does it play in highlighting the plight of the environment? Can TV documentaries enlighten us while also being relaxing and popular viewing?

Special Evening Event. 20.00 – 21.30 (Bar open from 19.30) St Swithin's Church, The Paragon, Bath BA1 5LY

David Gray in Conversation with Mary Colwell

Chair: Michael Warren

David Gray is an internationally acclaimed singer/songwriter whose unique combination of lyrics and music produce emotional, soul-searching songs that have changed the face of popular music. His album, *White Ladder*, was released in 1998 and propelled him onto the global stage, becoming the tenth best-selling album in the twenty-first century. His most recent album, *Skellig*, is a meditation on what it is to be human in a complex modern world. David's love of nature is deep, abiding, and dynamic. He is involved with a number of conservation projects across the UK, from Norfolk beaches to the island of Skomer off the coast of Wales, as well as protecting the endangered Curlew. The natural world features throughout his work in various guises and is only ever a heartbeat away. This will be a very special evening of conversation, nature and music ahead of David's world tour in 2022.

Sunday November 21st

9.15 for a 9.30 start

Session 7: 9.30 – 9.45

Welcome and Chair – Ruth Padel

Nicola Chester reads from and discusses her latest book, a memoir, on nature, place, hope and protest, *On Gallows Down*

Session 8: 09.45 – 11.00

Chair: Annabel Ross

Panel: Nature and Spirituality

The connection between nature and spirituality is as old as humanity itself. For many, the natural world takes on a super-natural importance reflecting and defining our perceptions on what it is to be human or divine.

Contributors: Satish Kumar, Jini Reddy, Nick Mayhew-Smith

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee

Session 9: 11.30 – 12.30

Chair: Richard Kerridge

Panel: The role of nature in the weird and gothic

The natural world becomes a character in the weird/gothic genre, taking on a life of its own. Nature is transformed into the unexpected and plays with our fears and perceptions

Contributors: Laura Jean McKay, Ruth Padel, Maggie Gee

Session 10: 12.30 – 12.45

Ben Hoare introduces an inspiring short film by Luke Massey and Katie Stacey, founders of Wild Finca. They are realising their dream to run a farm following the principles of regenerative agriculture in Spain's Asturias province

Session 11: 12.45 - 13.15

Amy-Jane Beer introduces Samantha Walton on nature, health and well-being

Sunday November 21st

13.15 - 14.30 Lunch

Session 12: 14.30 – 15.30

Chair: Michael Warren

Panel: Ecotourism - Good or Bad?

There has been much debate about ecotourism, particularly since the Covid pandemic and its effects on the travel industry. Many of us feel torn: we know that flights come with a high carbon footprint, and yet foreign tourists are often the only thing keeping some reserves and parks from ruin. What is the 'right' thing to do?

Contributors: Ian Redmond, Nick Acheson

15.30 – 15.45

Closing remarks by Jeremy Mynott, a Trustee and founding member of New Networks for Nature.

Looking ahead to 2022 in York with Amy-Jane Beer.

Contributors

Nick Acheson lives in North Norfolk. He spent ten years in South America, four in India, and has worked with wildlife on every continent. He has given up flying and now cycles around north Norfolk, walks along the Wensum, and writes, speaks and teaches about wildlife and conservation.

Simon Allen is a Senior Research Associate at the Universities of Bristol and Zurich, and an Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. His research includes the complex social and foraging behaviours of dolphins.

Amy-Jane Beer is a biologist, writer and editor. She earned a PhD studying the nervous systems of sea urchins. She was editor of *Wildlife of Britain* and *Animals Animals* magazines, and currently edits *Wildlife World* magazine for the People's Trust for Endangered species. She has written numerous reference books on science and nature for all ages. She is a regular contributor to *BBC Wildlife* magazine and a Country Diarist for *the Guardian*. She is a judge on the BTO Bird Photographer of the Year competition and is co-organiser of the 2019 Nature Matters symposium.

Tim Birkhead is a professor of behaviour and evolution at the University of Sheffield. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2004. His talks (like *The Early Birdwatchers*) and popular science books have gained widespread recognition: *The Wisdom of Birds* (2008) won 'bird book of the year award' and *Bird Sense* (2012) was short-listed for the Royal Society Winton Prize. His most recent books are *Ten Thousand Birds: Ornithology since Darwin* (2014) and *The Most Perfect Thing: Inside (and Outside) a Bird's Egg* (2016).

Nicola Chester has been writing about nature since winning the *BBC Wildlife Magazine's* Nature Writing Award in 2003. Her work has appeared in many publications, several anthologies (*Seasons, Red 67, Women on Nature*), and she writes for the RSPB and is a Guardian Country Diarist. Her memoir, *On Gallows Down: Place, Protest and Belonging*, is out with Chelsea Green in October, 2021.

Seb Choudhury, is a journalist and presenter on BBC Points West and keen a cricket player.

Xanthe Clay has written for *The Telegraph* for 22 years, and pops up from time to time in other media including *delicious* magazine and BBC Radio 4. She is was President of the Guild of Food Writers 2014-2018 and is currently Academy Chair (UK and Ireland) for The World's 50 Best Restaurants.

Mary Colwell is an environmentalist and producer and author of *Curlew Moon and Beak, Tooth and Claw*. She is leading the efforts to conserve the Curlew throughout the UK and working to establish a GCSE in Natural History in England.

Merlyn Driver is a musician, writer, creative producer and nature enthusiast focusing mainly on traditional and international music, and on connections between music and the environment.

John Fanshawe is an author and environmentalist. He has worked on bird and biodiversity conservation in the UK, Kenya and Tanzania, primarily for the charity BirdLife International.

Maggie Gee OBE has been writing fiction about climate change since 1985. Her 17th book, *The Red Children*, a fable about global warming and migration, comes out from Saqi in March 22. She is a Vice-Chair of the Royal Society of Literature, and Professor of Creative Writing at Bath Spa University.

Sarah Gillespie is an artist specialising in wildlife and landscapes. Her contemplative work engages the viewer in the natural world and she believes art has a vital role in time of ecological crisis.

Holly Gillibrand is a Scottish environmental activist who is an organizer of Fridays for Future Scotland and named 2019 Glasgow Times Young Scotswoman of the Year. She was also named as one of 30 inspiring women on the BBC's Woman's Hour Power List 2020.

Tim Guilford is professor of Animal Behaviour at the University of Oxford, with an interest in long distance wandering seabirds and how they map and navigate across the open oceans.

Julian Hector is Head of the BBC Studios Natural History Unit, the department responsible for *Blue Planet II*, *Planet Earth II*, *Dynasties*, *The Watchers* and a host of other innovative titles.

Ben Hoare is Features Editor of BBC Wildlife Magazine. He joined the prestigious Bristol-based magazine in 2008, after 12 years as a freelance natural-history book editor and author, and stints volunteering for the RSPB and BirdLife International. One of his books, *Animal Migration: Remarkable Journeys in the Wild*, was published by the Natural History Museum in 2009. In 2015, he was awarded the British Trust for Ornithology's Dilys Breese Medal.

Kabir Kaul is an environmentalist and writer, member of the RSPB Youth Council, has plotted over 1000 nature reserves in London and was awarded the Young Ornithologist Marsh Award by the BTO.

Richard Kerridge is a nature writer and ecocritic. *Cold Blood: Adventures with Reptiles and Amphibians*, published by Chatto & Windus in 2014, is a mixture of memoir and nature writing. Richard's work has been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and published in *BBC Wildlife*, *Poetry Review* and *Granta*. Richard leads the MA in Creative Writing at Bath Spa University, and has published numerous essays giving environmental readings of literature. He was co-editor of *Writing the Environment*, the first collection of ecocritical essays to be published in Britain.

Satish Kumar is a life-long activist and former monk, Satish Kumar has been inspiring global change for over 50 years. In his 20s, Satish undertook a peace-pilgrimage for nuclear disarmament, walking without money from India to America. Now in his 80s, Satish has devoted his life to campaigning for ecological regeneration, social justice and spiritual fulfilment. Satish founded The Resurgence Trust, an educational charity that seeks a just future for all.

Bella Lack is a conservationist, part of the Ivory Alliance (a group of 'influencers' and politicians working to combat the Illegal Wildlife Trade). She is a public speaker and blogger.

David Lindo is a British birdwatcher and author. Also known as the Urban Birder, he is a regular contributor to *Bird Watching magazine* and has written a number of books including *The Urban Birder*, published in 2011 and *How to be an Urban Birder*, published in 2014. He is a vice-president of the *Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust*, a regular guest presenter on *BBC Radio 4's Tweet of the Day*, and has also made appearances on TV shows such as *Countryfile*, *The One Show* and *The Alan Titchmarsh Show*. He launched a campaign in 2015 to find Britain's national bird, which after more than 224,000 votes being cast, the robin was declared the winner. He presents a popular podcast *In Conversation with...*

Cal Major is an ocean advocate, veterinary surgeon and world-record stand-up paddleboard adventurer, passionate about connecting people to the ocean, and protecting the animals and ecosystems within them.

Luke Massey is an award-winning wildlife filmmaker, photographer and conservationist. Luke and Katie Stacey own Wild Finca, a rewilding and regenerative agriculture project in Spain's wildlife-rich Asturias region.

Nick Mayhew-Smith is a researcher and writer specialising in environmental theology, sacred landscapes, and Celtic spirituality. He has written several books on holy places in the natural and built environments.

Laura Jean McKay is a writer and a lecturer in creative writing at Massey University in New Zealand. Her debut novel, *The Animals in That Country* (Scribe, 2020), won the 2021 Victorian Prize for Literature and the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Fiction. She is also the author of *Holiday in Cambodia* (2013).

Harriet Mead is an award-winning sculptor and the President of the Society of Wildlife Artists (SWLA). Her striking pieces use only recycled metal to bring to life the vitality of the natural world.

Stephen Moss is a nature writer and broadcaster, specialising in birds and British wildlife. In a long career at the Natural History Unit in Bristol, he produced *Birding with Bill Oddie*, *Big Cat Diary*, *The Nature of Britain*, *Birds Britannia*, and the BAFTA-award-winning *Springwatch*. His books include *Wild Kingdom*, *Skylarks with Rosie*, and bestselling biographies of the *Robin*, *Wren*, *Swallow* and *Swan*. He is President of the Somerset Wildlife Trust, and teaches an MA in Nature and Travel Writing at Bath Spa University, from where he was recently awarded a PhD.

Jeremy Mynott is a trustee and founding member of New Networks for Nature. He is the author of *Birdscapes: birds in our imagination and experience*, *Birds in the Ancient World* and co-author of *The Consolation of Nature* and is now working on a book about changing human attitudes to nature through history.

Nina O'Hanlon is an ornithologist and conservationist for the BTO, with a particular interest in anthropogenic threats to marine birds and their environment.

Ruth Padel's collections include *Darwin – A Life in Poems* and *The Mara Crossing, a meditation on migration*. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Trustee of the Zoological Society of London. Awards include First Prize in the National Poetry Competition and a British Council Darwin Now research award.

Jini Reddy is an award-winning author and travel writer. Her book, *Wanderland*, explores the magical in the landscapes of Britain.

Ian Redmond is a tropical field biologist and conservationist, renowned for his work with great apes and elephants. For more than 35 years he has been associated with Mountain Gorillas, through research, filming, tourism and conservation work.

Laurence Rose has worked in wildlife conservation for nearly 40 years and is author of *The Long Spring* (2018), *Framing Nature - conservation and culture* (2020) and *Leopard Moon Rising* (2021)

Prerna Singh Bindra is from Gurgaon, India, and one of India's leading environmental journalists and travel writers. She has received the Carl Zeiss Wildlife Conservation Award.

Jean Sprackland is a poet and Professor of Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. She was Chair of the Poetry Archive from 2016 to 2020.

Katie Stacey is a writer, journalist and conservationist who has worked for BBC Earth and BBC Wildlife magazine among many others. Together with Luke Massey, she manages the Wild Finca project in Spain.

Rachel Taylor is a senior scientist at the BTO and has recently branched into glass art to portray birds, with some pieces highlighting the environmental issues they face.

Annabel Ross is an audio producer who arrived in Bristol several years ago from Tanzania where she spent ten years producing educational radio dramas. She is a podcast presenter for BBC Countryfile Magazine and has her own business, Messages from the Wild, which gives a voice to wild animals, using experts to embody them. With a background in producing for the BBC World Service and many years of travelling in East Africa, Annabel's main focus is on creating entertaining audio to improve our interconnection with the natural world.

Samantha Walton is reader in Modern Literature at Bath Spa University specialising in psychological approaches to the environment in modern and contemporary British literature.

Michael J. Warren is an ecocritic, writer and medievalist, specialising in historical human-nonhuman relationships. He is honorary research fellow at Birkbeck College and author of *Birds in Medieval English Poetry*. Michael is currently writing a book on birds in our sense of place.

Phil Warren is a professor of Ecology at the University of Sheffield, specialising in the structure and function of ecosystems and how humans interact with them.