

New NETWORKS
for NATURE

Nature Matters

in Time and Place



Friday 15th and Saturday 16th November 2013
plus an evening event on Thursday 14th November:
'In Conversation with Chris Packham and Bill Oddie'

Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Thursday 14th November 7pm – 9.30pm

Chris Packham and Bill Oddie 'in conversation' with Stephen Moss (TV producer/author) and Rob Lambert (environmental historian) about the changing role of natural history broadcasting.

19.00 – 20.00 Drinks reception and art exhibition in the Exhibition Space.

20.00 – 21.30 In conversation, including film clips and questions from the audience to Chris & Bill.

Friday 15th November 9.30am – 5pm

Arrivals from 09.00 for a 09.30 start.

09.30 – 09.45 Introduction to the day & housekeeping (Stephen Moss & Rob Lambert).

Prologue – Jonathan Elphick.

SESSION 1: Eating nature (10.00 – 11.00) Chair: Jeremy Mynott.

How we connect with the natural world through our stomachs – the earliest connection of all?

Donald Murray – *The Guga Hunters*.

Hattie Ellis – *Honey and honey bees*.

11.00 – 11.30 Break

SESSION 2: Question time (11.30 – 13.00) Chair: Tim Birkhead.

Panellists Elliot Morley, Chris Baines, Stephanie Hilborne and Georgina Mace. Four key players from the worlds of government, policymaking, academia and media come together to debate nature conservation issues and the future of the countryside, answering questions posed by our audience.

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

Poetry Interlude – Ruth Padel, Katrina Porteous, Charles Bennett & John Barlow.

SESSION 3: What does it mean to be a naturalist? (14.15 – 15.00) Chair: Stephen Moss.

Brett Westwood (Series Producer, BBC Radio Natural History Unit, Saving Species)

Matthew Oates (National Specialist on Love of Nature & Wildlife, National Trust).

15.00 – 15.45 Tea/Coffee Break

SESSION 4: Creating difficulties with nature (15.45 – 16.45) Chair: Carry Akroyd

Harriet Mead – *Natural History from Agricultural History*.

Nik Pollard – *Process is purpose: inky-thinking*.

Epilogue – Melissa Harrison.

Saturday 16th November 9am – 1pm

Arrivals from 08.30 for a 09.00 start.

09.00 – 09.15 Introduction to the day & housekeeping (Stephen Moss & Rob Lambert).

Prologue – John Barlow, Matthew Paul & Martin Lucas – *Nature Haiku*.

SESSION 5: Alien species – Anything to declare? (09.30 – 10.45) Chair: Rob Lambert.

Our complex and changing attitudes over time towards non-native species.

Ian Rotherham – *Cultural concepts of alien species*.

Peter Brown – *Alien ladybirds*.

Hugh Warwick – *The Uist hedgehog cull and why ecology is complicated*.

10.45 – 11.15 Break

SESSION 6: Virtual nature (11.15 – 12.30) Chair: Mark Avery.

A round-table discussion: How can modern technology be used to connect people with nature, instead of distancing them from it? Our panellists include: Lucy McRobert (A Focus On Nature), Paul Morton (Birds of Poole Harbour) and Nick Moran (BirdTrack).

DVD Montage – *50 years of the BBC Natural History Unit*.

Closing remarks – Jeremy Mynott.

Looking forward to 2014 – Mike Toms.

This, the fifth meeting organised by New Networks for Nature, sees the continued development of 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. The vibrancy that comes from bringing together poets, publishers, scientists, authors, academics, artists, conservationists, composers, museum specialists and musicologists promises to deliver a thoughtful, provocative and stimulating event.



Living on the Edge

Running alongside the New Networks for Nature meeting will be an art exhibition about wildlife, which features many of the artists participating in our network. These include: Greg Poole, Dafila Scott, Bruce Pearson, Andrew Tyzack, Rebecca Jewell, Matt Underwood, John Paige, Jane Paige, Esther Tyson, Beatrice Forshall, Andrea Roe, Nik Pollard, Harriet Mead and Carry Akroyd. The exhibition runs from Tuesday 12th November until Friday 29th in the gallery at Stamford Arts Centre.



Tansy Beetle, by Beatrice Forshall

Nature Matters: In Time and Place

14th – 16th November 2013



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 environmental scientific terms when, in fact, they are a resource at the very heart of human creativity. (By this we imply no criticism of the key role played by science in understanding our environment. It is the notion of scientific exclusivity that we seek to challenge).

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.

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