

Nature Matters

Creating connections



Exploring the diversity of responses to the natural world

Thursday 15th – Saturday 17th November 2018

Stamford Arts Centre, St. Mary's Street, Stamford, Lincolnshire, PE9 2DL

Creating Connections

This year's title is 'Creating Connections', which seemed appropriate for celebrating the tenth anniversary of the first New Networks for Nature event. Our annual gatherings have from the start been designed to help individuals and institutions who share our general aims make fruitful contact with each other and find inspiration. We think of our participants as nodes in an ever-expanding network.

In 2018, we shall look especially at ways in which social media can facilitate shared experiences; how new prose, poetry, music and work in the visual arts can change and enrich our responses to the natural world; what politicians can and cannot do to support conservation; and how our growing knowledge of the ecological needs of creatures such as seabirds can highlight the challenges ahead.

As always, there will be a mixture of leading figures and exciting new voices, all engaged in different ways with the study and love of wild nature.

Thursday 15th November

- 18:30–20:00 Welcome reception and drinks in Gallery
- 20:15–21:15 Adam Nicolson (in conversation with Tim Birkhead): the seabird's cry – conserving marine birds and their environment
- 21:15 Drinks in the Stamford Arts Centre bar

Friday 16th November

- 09:30–09:40 Introduction to the day: organisers
- 09:40–10:00 Prologue. Bob Gibbons: Flowers and wildlife in a medieval Transylvanian landscape
- 10:00–11:00 Session 1. Mark Cocker (in conversation with Jeremy Mynott): 'Our Place: can we save Britain's wildlife before it's too late?'
- 11:00–11:45 Coffee and bookstall
- 11:45–12:45 Session 2. Online connections: connecting with nature through new technologies
Rob Sheldon, Kate Macrae and Fiona Barclay (chaired by Mike Toms)
- 12:45–14:00 Lunch
- 14:00–14:15 Prologue: Derek Robertson, 'Migrations: a field study of adversity'
- 14:15–15:15 Session 3. Poetry and environmental activism: Jos Smith, Isabel Galleymore, Ben Smith and Luke Thompson (chaired by Matt Howard)
- 15:15–15:45 Tea and bookstall
- 15:45–16:45 Session 4. Seabirds: three powerful stories from Euan Dunn, Keith Clarkson and Chris Wallbank (chaired by Tim Birkhead)

16:45–17:45 Session 5. Caroline Lucas (in conversation with Barbara Young):
'Can Conventional Politics save the Environment?'

18:00 Supper in SAC

Saturday 17th November

09:20–09:30 Introduction to the day: the organisers

09:30–09:45 Prologue: Laurence Rose 'The Long Spring'

09:45–10:45 Session 6. What is New about the New Nature Writing? Miriam Darlington and
Mark Cocker (chaired by Richard Kerridge)

11:00–11:30 Coffee and bookstall

11:30–12:30 Session 7. Soil, peat, stone and the Visual Arts: Rose Ferraby, Kate Foster
and Tom Baskeyfield (chaired by John Fanshawe)

12:30–13:45 Lunch

13:45–14:45 Session 8. Lloyd Buck and Bran the raven

14:45–15:15 Retrospective and Prospective (Tim Birkhead and Amy-Jane Beer)

15:15–15:45 Tea and bookstall

15:45–16:45 Session 9. Paul Winter and a musical finale

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online via Eventbrite:

Thursday evening only – 'in conversation' £15

Day ticket Friday* £50

Day ticket Saturday* £50

Two-day ticket (Friday and Saturday)* £85

Three-day ticket (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)* £100

Optional Friday evening informal supper £15

* includes refreshments (tea/coffee and lunch)

If you have a query about the event, about your booking or about New Networks for Nature please
email info@newnetworksfornature.org.uk.

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

Catering

Tea, coffee and lunch will be provided on the Friday and Saturday. We hope you will also stay on and join us for an informal, celebratory supper on Friday evening in the Arts Centre ballroom at 6:00 pm. The supper is bookable as an extra option alongside the daytime tickets. Unfortunately, we will not be able to cater for extra requests on the day. A soft drink is provided and the Arts Centre Cellar Bar and café will be open for other beverages.

Book Sales and Networking

As in previous years, books will be available for sale from authors who are speaking and attending. There will be plenty of time and space for conversation and networking, with the opportunity to continue socializing in local haunts on the Thursday and Friday nights.

New Networks for Nature

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 Amy-Jane Beer, Tim Birkhead, Mary Colwell, John Fanshawe, Ben Hoare, Matt Howard, Richard Kerridge, Harriet Mead, Jeremy Mynott, Mike Toms and Michael Warren.