

LITTORAL

THE WILD LIFE OF BIRDS AND NATURE

EXPANDED LITERARY PROGRAMME FOR EAST NEUK FESTIVAL

3-7 JULY 2013



Featured Writers:

Patrick Barkham, Keith Brockie, David Campbell, Linda Cracknell,
Miriam Darlington, Gavin Francis, Vivian French, Andrew Greig,
Mike Heron, Conor Mark Jameson, Sir John Lister-Kaye, Esther Woolfson

Following the successful debut last year of *Littoral*, a writing and ideas festival within the celebrated East Neuk Festival of chamber music, curators Catherine Lockerbie and Jenny Brown have assembled some of the UK's most distinguished and illuminating authors on the subjects of travel, nature and wildlife writing. The programme has been further enriched with family events, storytelling, a foraging expedition and a creative writing masterclass in addition to the usual readings and discussions.

East Neuk Festival director Svend Brown's assured and imaginative programming has always been in keeping with the spirit of the East Neuk itself, hence his directive to embrace the nature of the region with its rolling landscapes, far-reaching seascapes, and distinctive flora and fauna. And with its big skies in mind, birds and birdsong are especially prominent in 2013's music and *Littoral* programmes, including a keynote discussion on the last day of the Festival, following the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson's seminal book and ecological alarm call on the dangers to wildlife and the environment which spawned Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace .

This year, the majority of *Littoral* events are concentrated over the weekend, especially the **Saturday at Cambo** festival extravaganza, allowing maximum literary indulgence in one day:

Gavin Francis (Thursday 4 July 6pm Largo Kirk)

Largo Kirk and its associations with explorer Alexander Selkirk (immortalised as Robinson Crusoe) is the ideal place to hear charismatic Fife-bred doctor, travel writer and Antarctic explorer, Gavin Francis expound on the world of ice, silence and emperor penguins. His acclaimed book, *Empire Antarctica*, was several times nominated one of the Books of the Year 2012 and acclaimed by Paul Theroux: "*the embodiment of everything I admire in travel writing* -

a great journey, intense isolation, wide reading, vivid writing, scientific research, and something in the nature of an old-fashioned ordeal. I loved this book."

Keith Brockie (Friday 5 July 6pm Anstruther Church)

The Isle of May, shimmering off-shore in the Firth of Forth, is a place of outstanding scenic beauty with its extraordinary populations of resident and migrating birdlife. Keith Brockie's book, *One Man's Island*, filled with his paintings and observations of the birdlife and sealife was one of the best-selling Scottish nature books ever. His recently published *Return to One Man's Island* is filled with illustrations of kittiwakes, guillemots, puffins, cormorants, razorbills and many more – the material for a richly illustrated talk.

Andrew Greig with special guest Mike Heron (Friday 5 July 8pm Anstruther Town Hall)

The writings of much loved Scottish writer (and musician) Andrew Greig are often about strange and exhilarating pursuits, challenges and survival, such as Himalayan expeditions, climbing and flying. He reads from his new work *Found At Sea*, about an open-dinghy voyage to spend the night on an abandoned Orcadian island, as well as other poems about the East Neuk where he grew up. He is joined by the legendary Mike Heron, founder member of the seminal sixties group *The Incredible String Band*.

Sir John Lister-Kaye (Saturday 6 July 11.30am Cambo House)

One of the UK's most eminent naturalists and environmentalists and a sought after speaker, Sir John Lister-Kaye has a wealth of experience observing nature through the seasons – both at his home and ecological establishment, the Aigas Field Centre near Inverness, and on expeditions across the Kalahari Desert, Malawi and Ethiopia. From his acclaimed books, *Song of The Rolling Earth* to *At The Water's Edge; A Walk In The Wild* he opens our eyes to the riches around us.

Esther Woolfson & Conor Mark Jameson (Saturday 6 July 1pm Cambo House)

Birds fly to the fore in this session. Esther Woolfson charmed readers with *Corvus*, her book on sharing her home with rescued crows, magpies, rooks and other 'unloved' birds, and has made the urban wildlife of her hometown Aberdeen the subject of her latest *Field Notes from a Hidden City*. Leading ornithologist Conor Mark Jameson is the author of *Silent Spring Revisited* which considers the legacy of Rachel Carson's iconic *Silent Spring* and whether the stealth of silence in the natural world is leading us towards becoming a land without birdsong, while his new book is on the mysteriously elusive goshawk.

Patrick Barkham and Miriam Darlington (Saturday 6 July 4pm Cambo House)

Otters and badgers are elusive and emblematic creatures of our countryside and both these writers are on challenging quests to find them. Having previously written about tracking down all 59 species of the UK's butterflies, Guardian journalist Patrick Barkham goes in search of badgers and probes the controversies of their alleged threat to cattle as TB carriers. Miriam Darlington too is on a quest and describes in luminous prose her travels in search of otters, the creatures who are easy to love but difficult to know – and increasingly the victims of road deaths and poisons.

Linda Cracknell (Saturday 6 July 2.30pm Cambo House and Estate)

Acclaimed creative writing tutor and author Linda Cracknell leads an afternoon-long session at Cambo House and in the surrounding grounds, for new and experienced writers who want to explore their relationship with landscape through prose and poetry.

David Campbell (Saturday 6 July 11am and 12.30pm Cambo Stables)

A flamboyant, eloquent ambassador for Scottish culture, David Campbell is an award-winning master storyteller – effortlessly spinning yarns of the comic, fairy, supernatural, romantic, historical and heroic kind. In these two special Cambo sessions he brings to life with drama and relish the Celts' deep and symbiotic relationship with nature.

Vivian French (Saturday 6 July 11.45am and 1.15pm Cambo Stables)

Children's author with a devoted following, Vivian French spends as much time interacting with her readers through theatre projects, workshops and festivals, as she does writing. Growing frogs and a caterpillar's transformation to a beautiful butterfly will be part of nature-inspired storytelling for young children in Cambo Stables on Festival Saturday.

Foraging Workshop (Saturday 6 July 3.30pm from Cambo Stables)

With local flora in mind – through Cambo's woodland walk to the shoreline at the edge of the estate – Mara Artisan Seaweeds opens up the world of foraging and culinary expertise, finding forest and seaside food for free.

A Silent Summer? (Sunday 7 July 11.30am Crail Church Hall)

In this session Littoral nature writers and others invite audience comment on the disquieting prediction that birdsong, along with many other aspects of our wildlife, will one day cease to exist unless we wake up and find a way to balance our relationship with nature.

MUSIC

The core music programme of the East Neuk Festival is, as ever, five days of world-class music making across six centuries, from the Renaissance to the current day, with some of the greatest international musicians and ensembles around: pianist and conductor **Christian Zacharias**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, **Tallis Scholars**, **London Conchord Ensemble**, cellist **Thomas Carroll**, Scotland's contemporary music ensemble **Red Note**, **Elias String Quartet** and the renowned **Tokyo String Quartet**. Traditional classical repertoire from the likes of **Beethoven** and **Mozart** is played in the intimacy of the East Neuk's special churches, while the extraordinary nature-inspired soundworlds of today's American experimentalist composer **John Luther Adams** will echo around the Cambo Estate's walled garden and resound in the lofty interior of the Cambo Potato Barn.

And **ART** joins the East Neuk Festival worlds of music and words with an exhibition of Galloway-based artist **Lisa Hooper's** distinctive linocuts, prints and engravings of birds and wildlife.

The East Neuk Festival gratefully acknowledges support from Creative Scotland, Fife Council and Dunard Fund.

EAST NEUK FESTIVAL AND LITTORAL

Box Office: Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 www.hubtickets.co.uk

Festival information: www.eastneukfestival.com

GENERAL BOOKING OPENS 7 FEBRUARY 2013

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