

LITTORAL AT THE EAST NEUK FESTIVAL

Celebrating a new wave of nature writing

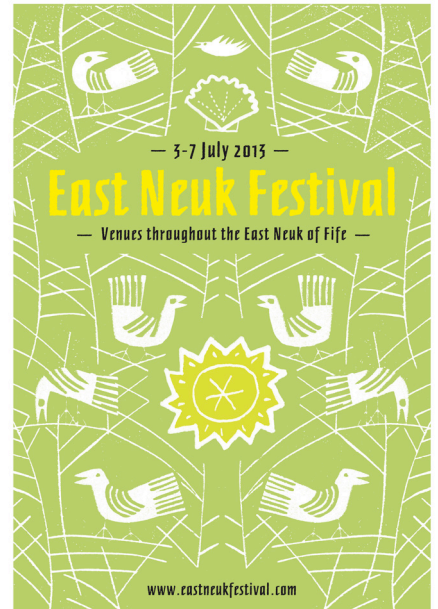
3-7 July 2013

plus

Festival Family Day

Saturday 6 July

www.eastneukfestival.com



Goshawks, kittiwakes, magpies, otters, butterflies and badgers hover, swoop, flutter and snuffle through this year's Littoral event – a festival of words, thoughts and ideas about the natural world designed to complement the music programme of the celebrated East Neuk Festival.

Nature and wildlife is inspiring authors and poets to respond as never before to landscape and ecology. *Littoral* curators, Jenny Brown and Catherine Lockerbie, have gathered some of the finest nature writers from these isles to share their work and thoughts in the setting of the rolling hills and seascapes of the Kingdom of Fife.

From the erudite elders of this literary field, such as **Sir John Lister-Kaye** and **T.C.Smout**, to the younger generation of passionate explorers of the natural world, *Littoral* introduces an incredible wealth of fine writing that will capture the imagination of even the most urban mindsets and make us keener witnesses of the nature all around. Many have gone to extraordinary lengths to find and observe creatures now rarely seen - **Patrick Barkham** on a quest to track down every species of British butterfly, **Miriam Darlington** on a passionate search for otters and **Conor Mark Jameson** in pursuit of the elusive goshawk – while **Esther Woolfson** abounds with stories and observations on the 'unloved' wildlife of foxes, magpies, crows and spiders in her own back yard.

CAMBO SATURDAY 6 July 11am-5pm

Doctor and explorer **Gavin Francis**, writer and illustrator **Keith Brockie** and poet and author **Andrew Greig** feature in the early part of the five-day festival, while the majority are concentrated into one day, **Cambo Saturday**, on 6 July. The glorious setting of historic Cambo House, located just south of St Andrews with an estate that reaches down to the shoreline, will become the Festival 'campus' for a day of indoor and outdoor activity to encourage even the youngest minds to enquire and explore nature's riches: music, performance, literary talks, woodland and shoreline foraging, creative writing workshop, plus storytelling, nature trails, competitions, creativity and face-painting for families and children.

Birds and birdsong are a soaring theme throughout the *Littoral* and East Neuk Festival programmes and will be celebrated in two groundbreaking music performances of works by renowned American environmentalist and composer John Luther Adams on Cambo Saturday, while the Scottish Chamber Orchestra conducted by Christian Zacharias will close the Festival the next day with a programme including famously bird-inspired composers Messiaen, Ravel and Beethoven (*Pastoral Symphony*) performed in the Cambo Potato Barn.

Littoral winds up on the Sunday morning on a poignant note with an open discussion - *Silent Summer?* - hosted by esteemed historian and environmentalist **Professor T.C. Smout** during which the legacy of Rachel Carson's seminal book of 50 years ago, *Silent Spring*, will be examined. Are we still heading towards a time when birdsong will disappear from our world and there will be no dawn chorus?

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See below for **Cambo Saturday** 6 July programme and www.eastneukfestival.com for full programme 3-7 July

- Interview with the distinguished naturalist and environmentalist **Sir John Lister-Kaye** on the nature he exquisitely observes through the seasons. **Cambo House 11.30am – 12.30pm – tickets £10.**
- Avian session with celebrated lover of ‘unloved’ wildlife **Esther Woolfson** (*Field Notes from a Hidden City*) and ornithologist and writer **Conor Mark Jameson** (*Silent Spring Revisited/The Goshawk*) on the sinister disappearance of birds and birdsong in our natural world. **Cambo House 1-2pm – tickets £10.**
- Author sessions with otter-obsessed **Miriam Darlington** (*Otter Country*) and Guardian journalist **Patrick Barkham** (*Butterfly Isles*) who has tracked down every single species of British butterfly and is now on a quest to highlight the plight of badgers in Britain. **Cambo House 4-5pm – tickets £10.**
- Yarn-spinning from the worlds of nature, fairies and celtic spirits with master storyteller **David Campbell**. **Cambo Stables: two sessions at 11-11.35am (age 5 up) and 12.30 -1.05pm (age 12 up) – tickets £4.**
- Afternoon workshop led by **Linda Cracknell** for both new and experienced writers who want to explore their relationship with landscape through prose and poetry. **Cambo House and Estate 2.30-5pm – tickets £15.**
- Spellbinding stories and drawings about nature with renowned children’s author **Vivian French** and illustrator **Cate James**. **Cambo Stables: two sessions at 11.45am-12.20pm and 1.15-1.50pm (age 3 up) – tickets £4.**
- Expedition with **Mara Artisan Seaweeds** to find forest and shoreline food for free. **Meeting point at Cambo Stables 3.30-5pm family event (children 7 upwards) – tickets £10 including one free child per adult ticket.**
- European premiere of **Inuksuit**, an extraordinary music piece for percussionists, composed specifically for outdoor performance to harmonise with the ambient sounds of nature by America’s most environmentally friendly composer **John Luther Adams**. 30 musicians led by legendary American percussionist Steven Schick in the **Cambo Walled Garden 2-3.30pm – tickets £5.**
- Performance by Scotland’s foremost contemporary music ensemble, **Red Note**, in the acoustically wondrous potato barn at Cambo of **songbirdsongs** – an early work by **John Luther Adams** ... direct from the birds. **Cambo Barn 4-5.30pm – tickets £5.**
- Host of children’s activities including face-painting (bird and wildlife motifs, naturally), nature trails and creative projects throughout the day.
- Superior food and drink catered by fêted Edinburgh restaurateurs all day.

Entrance to Cambo House estate is free. It is advisable to book ticketed events in advance, although there may be some availability on the day: Hub Tickets T. 0131 473 2000 www.hubtickets.co.uk
Further Festival information: www.eastneukfestival.com and on facebook and twitter.

Notes to Editors

The **East Neuk Festival** runs 3-7 July at venues throughout the East Neuk from St Monans to Crail, featuring chamber music across six centuries performed by the world's finest musicians including Scottish Chamber Orchestra, pianist Christian Zacharias, cellist Thomas Carroll, Tallis Scholars, Tokyo String Quartet, Elias String Quartet, Conchord Ensemble and Red Note.

Artist Lisa Hooper exhibits her exquisite linocuts and engravings of birdlife throughout the festival at Crail Community Hall.

<http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/lisa-hooper/> <http://www.hoopoeprints.co.uk/>

Littoral author biographies:

Author interviews:

Andrew Greig <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/andrew-greig/> <http://andrew-greig.weebly.com/>

Prof Christopher Smout <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/chris-smout/>

Conor Mark Jameson <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/conor-mark-jameson/>

<http://www.bloomsbury.com/author/conor-mark-jameson>

Esther Woolfson <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/esther-woolfson/> <http://www.estherwoolfson.com/>

Gavin Francis <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/gavin-francis/> <http://www.gavinfrancis.com/>

Sir John Lister-Kaye <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/sir-john-lister-kaye/> <http://www.lister-kaye.co.uk/>

Keith Brockie <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/keith-brockie/> <http://www.keithbrockie.co.uk/>

Miriam Darlington <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/miriam-darlington/>

<http://grantabooks.com/Miriam-Darlington>

Patrick Barkham <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/patrick-barkham/> <http://grantabooks.com/Patrick-Barkham>

Storytelling for children

Vivian French <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/vivian-french/> <http://www.vivianfrench.com/>

David Campbell <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/david-campbell/> <http://www.daviddcampbell.co.uk/>

Workshops

Linda Cracknell <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/linda-cracknell/> <http://www.lindacracknell.com/>

Artisan Seaweeds <http://www.eastneukfestival.com/artists/mara-artisan-seaweeds/>

<http://www.maraseaweed.com/>

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