

People's Assembly for Nature Speaker Biographies- Third Weekend

Professor Pete Smith - Academic Lead- Professor of Soils and Global Change, University of Aberdeen



Pete Smith is Professor of Soils and Global Change at the Institute of Biological and Environmental Sciences at the University of Aberdeen (Scotland, UK) and Science Director of the Scottish Climate Change Centre of Expertise (ClimateXChange). He has been a convening lead author on many reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology, a Fellow of the Institute of Soil Scientists, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, a Foreign Fellow of the Indian National Science Academy, a Fellow of the European Science Academy, and a Fellow of the Royal Society (London).

Sue Pritchard- Chief Executive of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission



Sue is the Chief Executive of the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission. Sue leads the organisation in its mission to bring people together to act on the climate, nature and health crises, through fairer and more sustainable food systems, and a just transition for rural communities and the countryside.

Sue's background is in combined research and practice in leadership and organisation development for systems change, working with leaders across public, private and not for profit organisations, especially on complex partnership projects. She is a Trustee of CoFarm Foundation and is an independent Governor at Royal Agricultural University. Living on an organic farm in Wales, Sue and her family raise livestock and farm for conservation.

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Aled Jones- President, NFU Cymru



Aled Jones is an eighth-generation farmer who runs a pedigree herd of Holsteins with his son, Osian. Aled is married to Eilir and together they have four children, Osian, Prysor, Erwain and Gruffudd and four grandchildren.

Aled has previously held a variety of positions across the industry, including holding the post of Chairman of milk recording company Cattle Information Services (CIS) for seven years and being a trustee of Holstein UK for eight years.

Steve Omerod- Professor of Ecology, Cardiff University



As Professor of Ecology at Cardiff University, Steve is interested in global change effects on freshwater ecosystems. Previous roles include Chair of the RSPB; Chair of the invertebrate charity, Buglife; Chair of Science Development for the UK Centre of Ecology and Hydrology; Chair of the Environment Advisory Panel of Welsh Water and President of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environment. He is currently Deputy Chair of Natural Resources Wales, a member of the Joint Committee of the JNCC and Vice-President of the RSPB.

Mark Lloyd- CEO, The Rivers Trust



Mark Lloyd read Geography at St. Catherine's College, Oxford and then completed a Masters Degree in Environmental Water Management at Cranfield. He set up Thames21 in 1994 which became a registered charity, clearing up London's rivers.

In 2005 he moved to Herefordshire to lead the unification of 11 angling organisations to form the Angling Trust and Fish Legal in 2009, campaigning and taking legal action to protect the water environment. In 2019 Mark moved to become the Chief Executive of The Rivers Trust, the umbrella body for the rivers trust movement which comprises 60 independent charities and over 500 staff.

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Helen O'Keefe- Young Crofter of the Year



Helen O'Keefe is a crofter, café owner and local food campaigner in the NW Highlands of Scotland. She started her career in her native Australia as an engineer, which was her main occupation until she made the decision to move to Scotland seven years ago. Since then she has worked hard to realise her ambition to work on the land, contribute to strengthening the communities and culture of her adopted home and to help build a better food system that benefits both people and nature. On the croft she produces mutton, eggs, fruit and veg (as well as high quality wool), while working to improve the condition of the habitats she farms in. She is also co-founder of The Green Bowl local food hub, encouraging more production of food locally and helping to make local food accessible to more people.

Paul Kemp- Professor of Ecological Engineering, University of Southampton



Paul Kemp is a Professor of Ecological Engineering at the University of Southampton. His research relates to understanding the complex systems linked to integrated natural resource management, particularly in relation to marine and freshwater fisheries, and how shocks can influence those systems. Specific applications relate to how understanding of the behavioural ecology of fish can help solve challenges in sustainable water and energy engineering, particularly on how the physical environment influences the behaviour and physiological performance of fish, and how manipulation of that environment by engineering means can be used to mitigate for negative impacts of water and energy resource development.

Mark Lea- Farmer



Mark and Liz farm 450 acres of organic land in Shropshire in a way that contributes positively to biodiversity and soil, air and water quality whilst producing healthy food that is in genuine demand.

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Hannah Fennel- CEO, Orkney Fisheries Association



Hannah Fennel is the CEO of Orkney Fisheries Association, a trade association which provides support and advocacy for the Orkney fishing industry. She is also Vice President of Scottish Fishermen's Federation and Trustee of the group Women in UK Fisheries. She has a strong interest in improving the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of the fishing industry through increased science, diversification, and robust management. Hannah is also doing a PhD with Heriot Watt University on the impacts of static fishing gear and potential policy solutions.

Rhianna Rees- Researcher, Scottish Association for Marine Science



Rhianna Rees is a seaweed researcher and educator with several years' experience working within the sector. She is the winner of Aquaculture UK's Rising Star Award (2022), Bronze Award Winner for Innovation at Seagriculture EU (2022), and finalist for Scotland's Vibes Award. Rhianna has extensive theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of seaweed cultivation, marketing, history, and education. She is currently The Seaweed Academy Coordinator at SAMS, and, through her role she takes complex scientific concepts and transforms them into easily digestible engaging modules for all stakeholders across the industry.

Anna Turrell- Sustainability Director, Tesco



At Tesco, Anna is responsible for the Group's global climate change, sustainable agriculture, marine and forest sustainability agendas. Anna is also responsible for Tesco's flagship partnership with WWF. Prior to joining Tesco, Anna was head of sustainability for Nestle UK & Ireland, where she led the development and roll-out of an integrated sustainability strategy across the multi-category business. Before moving in-house, Anna spent 10 years in sustainability consultancy in Europe and Asia. Anna is a trustee of environment campaigning charity, Hubbub, and director of the UN Global Impact Network

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Hannah Norman- Wales Community Food Manager - Food Sense Wales / Soil Association



Hannah's work supports the development of local food systems, particularly around sustainable horticulture production, both from a policy and advocacy perspective, and as a trained organic grower. She fulfils a joint post for Food Sense Wales and the Soil Association as the Wales Community Food Manager supporting a number of programmes including Sustainable Food Places and Food For Life Get Togethers.

As a grower Hannah has worked on a number of commercial small-scale farms both in the UK and USA. In addition to her advocacy work, Hannah is currently the grower for a community garden in South Wales and consults on the development of local horticulture initiatives. Hannah is a fellow of the

Winston Churchill Trust, her area of research being the localisation of food systems in an urban environment.

Yvette de Garis- Head of Environmental Engagement, Thames Water



Yvette de Garis joined Thames Water in 1989 and, as Head of Environmental Engagement, now leads a team who work with environmental NGO's and catchment partnerships to codesign and deliver partnership projects to deliver business and wider environmental objectives. Yvette holds a first degree in Environmental Science from the University of East Anglia and a second degree in Environmental Economics from the University of London. She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management.

Martin Lines- UK Chair, Nature Friendly Farming Network



Martin Lines is a third-generation farmer and farm contractor and grows mainly arable crops on the family farm. Their farm is just over 165Ha and is in south Cambridgeshire.

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Ian Bateman- Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute, University of Exeter



Ian J. Bateman OBE, US-NAS, FBA, FEAERE, FRSA, FRSB, is Director of the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP) at the University of Exeter, UK. His main research interests revolve around the issue of ensuring sustainable wellbeing through the integration of natural and physical science with economics and by working with business and policy makers. Ian has been advisor on environmental improvement to senior Government Cabinet ministers for over a decade, advises the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon, is a member of various HM Treasury working groups and was a member of the Natural Capital Committee and the Board of the UK Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Dr Matthew Agarwala- University of Cambridge



Dr. Matthew Agarwala leads the Bennett Institute's Wealth Economy project at the University of Cambridge, is a member of The Productivity Institute, and Senior Policy Fellow at Yale University's Tobin Center for Economic Policy. His research covers natural and social capital, economic measurement, green finance, productivity, and wellbeing. Spanning sectors and disciplines, Matthew's collaborators include ecologists, social anthropologists, members of UK Parliament, and Nobel Laureates in peace, medicine, physics, and chemistry. Matthew works closely with the UN, World Bank, central banks, finance ministries, and businesses to highlight nature-related financial risks. He is a sought-after public speaker and regular media contributor (BBC, Bloomberg, Channel 4 News, FT, Guardian, NYTimes, Reuters, and The Times).

People's Plan for Nature

Helen McLachlan- Head of Marine Policy, RSPB



Helen hails from Argyll on Scotland's west coast and has a Bachelors degree in Zoology & Marine Fisheries and a Masters in Marine Environmental Protection. She has worked on marine fisheries issues for over twenty years with a focus on marine wildlife interactions with fisheries across European and global waters in her early career which she returns to in her move to RSPB in 2022 as Head of Marine Policy where she heads up the organisations UK Marine Programme.

Prior to working with the RSPB Helen worked with WWF through two reforms of the European Common Fisheries Policy and chaired the Greener UK work representing UK NGOs advocating for a strong UK Fisheries Act. She also lived and worked in Sweden for a number of years where she undertook independent consultancy as well as founding a small NGO that addressed the plight of the harbour porpoise in the Baltic Sea. She now lives near Edinburgh – by the coast where she takes great pleasure from living by, and being in, the sea.