People's Assembly for Nature Speaker biographies

Weekend 1



Professor Nathalie Seddon

Nathalie Seddon is Professor of Biodiversity and Founding Director of the Nature-Based Solutions Initiative in the Department of Biology at the University of Oxford. She is also Director of the Agile Initiative and co-lead of the Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery. She trained as an ecologist at Cambridge University and has over 25 years of research experience in a range of ecosystems across the globe. As a University Research Fellow of the Royal Society, she developed broad research interests in understanding the origins and maintenance of

biodiversity and its relationship with global change.

Her work now focuses on determining the ecological and socioeconomic effectiveness of nature-based solutions to societal challenges, and how to increase the influence of robust biodiversity science on the design and implementation of climate and development policy. Nathalie advises governments, UN agencies, and businesses on nature-based solutions, as a member of the Adaptation Committee of the UK Climate Change Change Committee, the Science Advisory Board of RBG Kew and the Science & Knowledge Committee of the IUCN Global Standard for Naturebased Solutions.



Tony Juniper

Tony Juniper CBE is Chair of the official nature conservation agency Natural England. Before taking up this role in April 2019 he was the Executive Director for Advocacy and Campaigns at WWF-UK, a Fellow with the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and President of the Wildlife Trusts. Until January 2018 he was an independent Sustainability and Environment Advisor, including as Special Advisor with The Prince of Wales's International Sustainability Unit.

Juniper speaks and writes widely on conservation and sustainability themes and is the author of many books, including the multi-award-winning bestseller 'What Has Nature Ever Done For Us?' published in 2013.

Tony began his career as an ornithologist, working with Birdlife International. From 1990 he worked

at Friends of the Earth, initially leading the campaign for tropical rainforests, and from 2003–2008 was the organisation's Executive Director. From 2000–2008 he was Vice Chair of Friends of the Earth International.

He was the first recipient of the Charles and Miriam Rothschild medal (2009) and was awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees from the Universities of Bristol and Plymouth (2013). The Ladybird Guide to Climate Change, co-authored with HRH The Prince of Wales and Emily Shuckburgh, was published in January 2017. In 2017 he was appointed a Commander of the British Empire (CBE).



Dr Radhika Borde

Dr Radhika Borde is a Lecturer at the School of Geography, University of Leeds, UK where she teaches and researches on sustainability and social justice. She has a long-term

interest in Indigenous social movements centered on sacred natural sites in India, on which she has authored several publications. Another area of her research and intervention is water, sanitation and hygiene issues in rural India, as well as waste management, and she explores these with a focus on gender and vulnerability.



Sir John Lawton

Sir John Lawton is an environmental scientist. He retired as Chief Executive of the Natural Environment Research Council in 2005 and was the last Chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution until 2011.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society, President of the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and Vice President of the RSPB. He chaired the influential report 'Making Space for Nature' published in 2010.



Ruchir Shah

Ruchir Shah is responsible for leading the transformation of how the Scottish Wildlife Trust engages with external audiences to tackle the ecological crisis we face. This includes strategic responsibility for policy and public affairs, communications and marketing, and the Trust's engagement with its members and the public.



Ella Saltmarshe

Ella Saltmarshe is an awardwinning writer and founder, pioneering work at the intersection of culture and systems change. She has set up a number of organisations, communities and campaigns. Trained as an anthropologist, Ella has worked in international development, the creative industries and public policy.

Working internationally in places like India, Afghanistan and Latin America, opened her eyes to the impact climate change was having over 15 years ago and tackling it has been a driver of her work ever since. Ella's burning question is how, as a species, we can create long, flourishing futures for all inhabitants of earth. And so, she has cofounded the Long Time Project - a movement inspiring individuals, organisations and industries to become better ancestors through collective action. She's the host of the Long Time Academy Podcast, which was recently awarded the best independent podcast of the year by The Radio Academy, and the Visionary Leadership Award at the International Women's Podcast Awards.

She also advises governments, funders and civil society organisations on narrative, culture and systems change.



Professor Bill Sutherland

William (Bill) Sutherland is a keen naturalist and practicing conservationist with a determination to improve conservation practice. He holds the Miriam Rothschild Chair in Conservation Biology at the University of Cambridge and last year was awarded a CBE 'for services to evidence-based conservation'. His open access book is now available: Transforming Conservation: a practical guide to evidence and decision making

Here is <u>a video on his work</u> starring David Attenborough, Iolo Williams and Gideon Henderson.

Weekend 2



Professor Nathalie Seddon

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on nature-based solutions, as a member of the Adaptation Committee of the UK Climate Change Change Committee, the Science Advisory Board of RBG Kew and the Science & Knowledge Committee of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.
Richard Benwell Richard Benwell is Chief Executive of Wildlife
& Countryside Link, a coalition of 67 environmental charities.
He is also Chair of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership and a Director of UK Youth for Nature.
Nadia Shaikh
Nadia Shaikh is a freelance nature consultant, ornithologist and land justice advocate. She has worked in the nature conservation sector in protected areas policy and community engagement for six
years.



Dr Sara McGuckin

Dr Sara McGuckin is Head of Natural Science at the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). She leads on terrestrial nature conservation; protected area designation, protection and management; biodiversity evidence and reporting, and advising on climate and agri-environment policy. Her current focus is on enhancing the evidence base on natural capital and ecosystem extent and condition, the drivers of biodiversity loss and the measures needed to deliver long-term ecological and climate resilience, allied to the emerging global biodiversity framework commitments. Sara was one of the lead authors of the recent UK Nature Positive 2030 evidence report. Sara has worked in NIEA, and its predecessor, the Environment and Heritage Service, for 21 years. Sara has a BSc in Geography from Queen's University Belfast, an MSc in Land Resource Management from Cranfield University, Master of Research in Environmental Studies from University of Ulster, and a PhD in environment science.



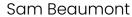
Dr Tom Tew

Dr Tom Tew is the CEO of NatureSpace, a company he founded in 2017 to design, create and implement the UK's first District Licensing scheme for great crested newts and which now partners over 50 Local Planning Authorities in England.

After a PhD at Oxford University on farmland conservation, Tom's early career was in the Government Agency sector. After leading national vertebrate specialist teams and heading the UK Scientific Authority for CITES, Tom managed local, regional and national teams for JNCC, English Nature & Natural England. Professional highlights include responsibility for SAC designation submission to the European Commission, UK lead for the European network of protected sites and leadership of England's SSSI programme. Over a 20-year career Tom spoke to the media, gave evidence to Parliamentary Select Committees and briefed Prime Ministers. He served on many committees, and coined the phrase 'better, bigger, more and joined' whilst on Sir John Lawton's expert panel. Tom finished his public service as

Executive Director and Chief Scientist at Natural England.

Tom volunteers his spare time as a Trustee in the environment sector. He chaired The Vincent Wildlife Trust for 10 years, served two full terms as the Prime Minister's appointment on the Board of the Heritage Lottery Fund and is now on the Board of the National Trust.



Sam and Claire manage the Gowbarrow Hall Farm which is a family run farm on the south facing shores of Ullswater in the Lake District. They are passionate about maintaining the natural beauty of the landscape and enriching the wildlife that falls within it. They care for the environment and are conscious of how farming fits within the wider global issues that our planet is facing.



Professor Miles Richardson

Professor Miles Richardson is a Chartered Psychologist, Chartered Ergonomist and Professor of Human Factors and Nature Connectedness at the University of Derby.

He founded the award-winning Nature
Connectedness Research Group which aims
to understand and improve connection with
nature to unite both human and nature's
wellbeing. The group works closely with
Natural England and its work has been
adopted by many organisations, including
the National Trust, RSPB and 2021 Mental
Health Awareness week. Miles is also a lead
author on the 'Intergovernmental SciencePolicy Platform on Biodiversity and
Ecosystem Services' (IPBES) global
transformative change assessment.

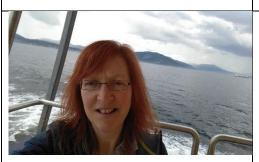


Maxwell Ayamba

Maxwell is the Founder/Managing Director of Sheffield Environmental Movement.

He is currently a PhD Research Student in Black Studies, Department of American & Canadian Studies, University of Nottingham,

M4C/AHRC. He is an environmental journalist by profession, former Associate Lecturer/Research Associate, Sheffield Hallam University and Co-Founder, 100 Black Men Walk for Health Group, which inspired the national play "Black Men Walking" in 2018. Maxwell is the first Black person to serve on the Board of the Ramblers Association UK, and was named in 2021 as one of the 70 most remarkable people in the history of the Peak District National Park since 1951. In 2021, Maxwell received the National Lottery Award in the Heritage category. He has authored papers and chapters in books in relation to minoritised communities and the UK environment.

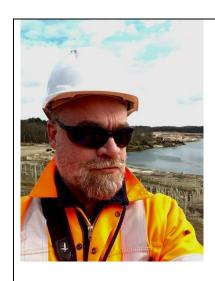


Gillian Dick

Gillian is the Manager of Spatial Planning –
Research & Development team within the
Development Plan Group at Glasgow City
Council. She has a BSc (Hons) in Town
Planning from Heriot-Watt University and BSc
(Hons) in Human Geography from the Open
University. She is a chartered member of the
Royal Town Planning Institute and currently

the Vice Chair on their Partnership and Accreditation Panel. She has just completed six years as the RTPI nominated practitioner rep on Queen University Belfast Planning school partnership Board, which she also chaired for the final two years. She has just started a similar role with the Technical University Dublin Partnership Board, where she is the vice-chair.

Gillian has the lead role for the Council within the Horizon 2020 Connecting Nature project, where Glasgow is one of the front runner cities. http://www.connectingnature.eu/glasgow Glasgow is using its Open space Strategy and Delivery Plan (opportunity mapping) as it's exemplar within this project. Gillian started her career in Banff & Buchan / Aberdeenshire before moving to Glasgow 16 years ago. She therefore has a broad breadth of experience working both very rural and highly urbanised areas. Gillian's team takes a place-based approach with a nature-based solutions focus to all that they do.



Nigel Symes

Nigel Symes is Head of Sector Advice at the RSPB. He leads a team of over 20, whose role is to help landowners and businesses to help wildlife. We work in a partnership with Barratt Developments plc to help them to create wildlife friendly developments, at the same time as locating them in the right places to minimise impacts on nature. This is a learning process for both parties. Our intent is to demonstrate to all builders and to the government and planning authorities that there is no reason why building new housing developments must have adverse impact on nature.

Nigel has more than 30 years of experience in working in partnerships to provide better spaces for nature, across many sectors in addition to housebuilding including forestry, quarrying, solar energy, golf, and even the military.



Kathryn Deeney

Head of Environmental Planning at Plymouth City Council. Kat has worked within the environment field for over 18 years.

Currently her portfolio includes strategic leadership for environmental planning, green and blue space enhancement and responding to the climate emergency within Plymouth City Council. This includes transformation of the Council's Green Estate, including nature-based solution delivery, solar farm development and activating spaces for people, development of the UK's first National Marine Park, delivery of a new Community Forest and the development of innovative environmental funding models.

In all her work there is a fundamental focus on how people and nature can work together to achieve benefits for all.



Rosie Hails

Professor Rosie Hails MBE is an ecologist and Nature and Science Director at the National Trust, holding honorary chairs at Exeter and Cranfield Universities. Her role is to develop the Trust's nature strategy, research portfolio and advise on scientific evidence relevant to Trust decision making. She leads teams focusing on Nature Conservation, Environmental Research & Data, Trees & Woodland creation, Wildlife Management, Land Use and Public Benefits delivered by Nature.

She is a member of Defra's Science Advisory Council, chairing the Biodiversity Targets Advisory Group, and a member of Defra's bovine TB partnership. She is also on a number of advisory boards. Formerly she was the Science Director for Biodiversity & Ecosystem Science at the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology and was awarded an MBE for services to Environmental Research in 2000.



Philip Price

Philip Price has been an award-winning professional wildlife photographer and tour guide based on the west coast of Scotland for the last 16 years. 6 years ago, Philip helped set up a coastal community group which gave the local community a voice in how to look after our local marine environment. That was called Cromach, Craignish Restoration of Marine and Coastal Habitat. That progressed to a charity getting set up called Seawilding, which Philip now works for. His role is split between active habitat rewilding and communications: education, photography and film making.



James Rainey

Originally from Ireland, James is Senior Ecologist at Trees for Life, an organisation working to rewild the Scottish Highlands. He spent the last few years surveying and reporting on the health and resilience of Caledonian Pinewoods and is currently focused on improving approaches to landscape-scale restoration.



Dr Tim Fererro

Dr Tim Ferrero is a marine biologist and conservationist working at Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (HIWWT), raising awareness of the marine life, habitats and protected areas of the Solent. Tim's work at HIWWT includes responsibility for delivery of the HIWWT's "Wilder Solent" vision, marine data collection and dissemination, citizen science and marine education and engagement. Tim is currently leading HIWWT's, "Solent Seagrass Restoration Project", working on the EU Life recreation ReMEDIES project, seeking to reduce recreational impacts on seagrass, and helping to manage the Trust's national Lottery Heritage Fund project, "Secrets of the Solent".

Prior to his move to HIWWT in 2013, Tim worked for over 23 years at the Natural History Museum in London as a researcher and consultant on the ecology and taxonomy of marine free-living nematode worms.

Tim's work has taken him all over the world, including five memorable trips to Antarctica and by way of contrast, he once undertook fieldwork in Kuwait in temperatures of 54 °C, but he is very happy to be back on the Hampshire coast where he grew up in the late sixties and seventies.

Weekend 3



Professor Pete Smith

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

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.



Aled Jones

Aled Jones is President of NFU
Cymru and an eighth-generation
farmer who runs a pedigree herd of
Holsteins with his 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.



Martin Lines

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



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.



Professor Paul Kemp

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.



Hannah Fennell

Hannah Fennell 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.



Helen McLachlan

Helen hails from Argyll on Scotland's west coast and has a bachelor's 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.



Rhianna Rees

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 Scottish Association for Marine Science, and, through her role she takes complex

scientific concepts and transforms them into easily digestible engaging modules for all stakeholders across the industry.



Mark Lea

Mark is a farmer; owning and farming 450acres 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.



Anna Turrell

As Sustainability Director 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 Nestlé 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 a director of the UN Global Compact Network UK.



Hannah Norman

Hannah's role is Wales Community
Food Manager at Food Sense Wales
/ Soil Association. Her 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.



Professor Steve Omerod

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.



Yvette de Garis

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.



Mark Lloyd

Mark Lloyd read Geography at St.
Catherine's College, Oxford and
then completed a master's 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.



Professor Ian Bateman

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, advised the former 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

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).

Weekend 4 – Citizens' Assembly deliberation support



Professor Nathalie Seddon

Nathalie Seddon is Professor of
Biodiversity and Founding Director
of the Nature- Based Solutions
Initiative in the Department of
Biology at the University of Oxford.
She is also Director of the Agile
Initiative and co-lead of the
Leverhulme Centre for Nature
Recovery. She trained as an
ecologist at Cambridge University
and has over 25 years of research
experience in a range of
ecosystems across the globe. As a
University Research Fellow of the
Royal Society, she developed broad

research interests in understanding the origins and maintenance of biodiversity and its relationship with global change.

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