

# **ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY, UK & IRELAND, No. 22, May 2015**

Welcome to the *ESEH UK & Ireland Newsletter No. 22*. Please send us notice of events, issues, announcements, and reviews, etc. for the next issue by **October 2015**, or before then for supplementary notes. We need your input. Hope to see you at the events. Thanking you all in advance!

Ian

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## **EVENTS**



### **ESEH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2015: *conference programme available***

ESEH's 8<sup>th</sup> biennial conference will be held in Versailles, France, on **30<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015**.

The host institution is the **University of Versailles-Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ)**, a green university that combines historical sciences and environmental sciences at a very high level, located only 30 minutes by train from the city centre of Paris. Gregory Quenet of UVSQ leads the Local Organising Committee and Ellen Arnold of Ohio Wesleyan University chairs the Programme Committee. The draft conference programme listing all of the sessions and papers for the upcoming meeting in Versailles is now available online: <http://eseh.org/eseh-2015-draft-programme/>.

This is going to be an exciting meeting! If you are not yet registered to attend, you can still do so at the Late Registration price of €265 (€135 for students). Register at <http://www.eseh2015.eu/register/>.

### ***Two workshops supported by ESEH***

ESEH is supporting two small workshops in 2015. Both of these have now issued calls for proposals:

### ***Environmental History of Poland and East-Central Europe***

The Institute of History of the Jagiellonian University in Krakow with the support of the Polish Historical Society is organizing a conference on the Environmental history of Poland and East-Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present, on 18-19 September 2015. The conference will take place in Polish, but papers in English will be accepted and fully considered. Paper proposals are due on 15 June 2015. The full call for papers in Polish and English is available at <http://eseh.org/cfp-environmental-history-of-poland-and-east-central-europe/>.

### ***Underground Space: Development, Exploration, Secondary Use***

Vasylivskiy Historical-Architectural Museum-Reserve "Popov's Country Seat", Ya.Novytskyi Zaporizhia Scientific Society and Historical Department of Zaporizhia National University are pleased to announce a two-day conference in environmental history of underground spaces, which will take place in Vasylivka-Zaporizhia, Ukraine, on 25-26 September 2015. The deadline for applications is 30 July 2015. For full call for papers is available at <http://eseh.org/cfp-underground-space-development-exploration-secondary-use/>.

## **Other upcoming Meetings**

### ***LANDSCAPE AS COMMUNITY: CHeriScape conference III, 18-20th May 2015, OSLO (Nor)***

CHeriScape (<http://www.cheriscape.eu>), funded by the transnational pilot call of the Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change (<http://www.jpiculturalheritage.eu>), starts from the recognition that landscape and heritage are closely aligned and mutually-supportive ways to address social and environmental challenges. Heritage makes major contributions to the idea and construction of landscape, whilst landscape offers a global frame for exploiting its social, economic and environmental values for social benefit. Our conferences are uncovering connections between landscape and heritage in cultural, social and environmental research, policy and practice, and will suggest new policy directions and understandings. They explore how the idea of landscape can enable heritage to address the challenges of significant environmental and social change, rather than being seen as a problem or obstacle, as it is sometimes claimed to be. Heritage and landscape perspectives can be local and universal, personal and collective; they embrace both tangible and intangible heritage and connects with digital and virtual heritage. Our conferences debate these issues in the context of the European Landscape Convention, the Faro Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage to Society and the ESF/COST Science Policy Briefing Landscape in a Changing World.

The CHeriScape team would like to remind you about our conference in Oslo in May, we are happy to announce the final programme for our third conference. You can find it attached to this message or online at our website. We would also like to inform you that registration is still open and poster proposals can still be submitted through [info@CHeriScape.eu](mailto:info@CHeriScape.eu).

***Wild Thing? Managing Landscape Change & Future Ecologies:  
Cultural Severance & Continuity 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Sheffield***

***Showroom & Workstation, Sheffield, UK;*** Outline programme & booking form available on: [www.ukeconet.org/event/](http://www.ukeconet.org/event/); Enquiries via email: [info@hallamec.plus.com](mailto:info@hallamec.plus.com) or telephone 0114 2724227

***A Life in Ecology – A Celebration of the Work and Inspiration of Dr Oliver Gilbert, Pioneer Ecologist*** 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Sheffield Hallam University (with field visit / River Don lectures on 13<sup>th</sup> November) Sheffield, UK; Outline programme & booking form available on: [www.ukeconet.org/event/](http://www.ukeconet.org/event/) Enquiries via email: [info@hallamec.plus.com](mailto:info@hallamec.plus.com); or telephone 0114 2724227

Other workshops on: ‘Sphagnum Identification’ - Peak District and details to be announced – Autumn 2015; ‘Meet the Bog Mosses – public event’ – Thorne Moors & Peak District – June 2015 and Autumn 2015 – details to be announced; ‘Waxcaps as Indicators’ – Autumn 2015 – check [www.ukeconet.org](http://www.ukeconet.org) for details

**Managing *Molinia*: 3-day conference**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015 Huddersfield Town Hall. Details and booking from [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/marsdenmoor) More Information: Marsden Moor Estate Office, 01484 847016, [marsdenmoor@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:marsdenmoor@nationaltrust.org.uk)



***6<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological  
Restoration Towards Resilient Ecosystems:  
Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild***

SER 2015 in Manchester aims to be the major restoration event of the year. Building on recent successful world congresses and regional meetings such as SER Europe 2013 in Finland, we hope to attract a large number of academics and practitioners who will share good practice and network successfully in one of the homes of the industrial revolution. The title: “Towards resilient ecosystems: restoring the urban, the rural and the wild” should provide something for everyone, whether working in highly urbanised, ex-agricultural, or natural wild environments. We mean this conference to be as inclusive as possible and are

keen to showcase not only the important scientific developments, issues and solutions, but also the cultural, educational and artistic aspects of restoration ecology. We are hosting a wide range of different types of events during the conference period, with pre-conference training workshops, conference symposia posters, workshops, and oral presentations, as well as half day field trips to see landscapes at first hand. A large range of different organisations have given us their support and indicated their intention to participate. So whether you are a student of restoration ecology, a practitioner in the field, have an academic interest in the subject area, or whether you publish or provide equipment related to this topic, or are part of an allied organisation, we hold out a warm welcome and invite you to SER 2015 in Manchester next August.

More information from <http://www.ser2015.org/>

### ***Arboricultural Association Amenity Conference 2015,***

Warwick University, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015; details from The Arboricultural Association, The Malthouse, Stroud Green, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3DL, UK, Tel +44 (0)1242 522152; Email: [admin@trees.org.uk](mailto:admin@trees.org.uk) ; <http://www.trees.org.uk/Amenity-Conference>

### ***Ancient Tree Forum summer conference 2015 in East***

***Anglia*** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015 - The 2015 Ancient Tree Forum conference is to be held in East Anglia, and it will bring together a wide range of experts and enthusiasts interested in the ecology and management of ancient and veteran trees. The two-day event will feature field visits to wood pastures, orchards and other sites, presentations from expert speakers, and networking opportunities. Details from <http://www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk/events/>

## ***ADVANCE NOTICES:***

### ***Capability Brown Tercentenary event 3-day conference ‘What Capability Brown did for ecology: Capability Brown’s legacy in ecology and nature conservation’ 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> June, 2016: – from habitat***

conservation and creation, to drainage and the release of alien species – the untold stories of Capability Brown and the landscape school which followed.....

### **Call for papers & support**

More information available on: [www.ukeconet.org/event/](http://www.ukeconet.org/event/) ; Enquiries via email: [info@hallamec.plus.com](mailto:info@hallamec.plus.com) or telephone 0114 2724227

**15<sup>th</sup> International PEAT Congress 2016** In Partnership with INTERNATIONAL PEAT SOCIETY 15 - 19 August 2016 Pullman Hotel, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

CONFERENCE website: [www.ipc2016.com](http://www.ipc2016.com)

Please communicate your ideas and suggestions to the conference secretariat at [peat2016@gmail.com](mailto:peat2016@gmail.com)

## ***Reconstructing Nature – a landscape approach to a future ecology***

**Major conference probably July or September 2018 but events building towards this through 2016, 2017 Conference venue – Sheffield / Doncaster with field visit coaches to Old Moor, Potteric Carr & Thorne Moors / Humberhead Levels**

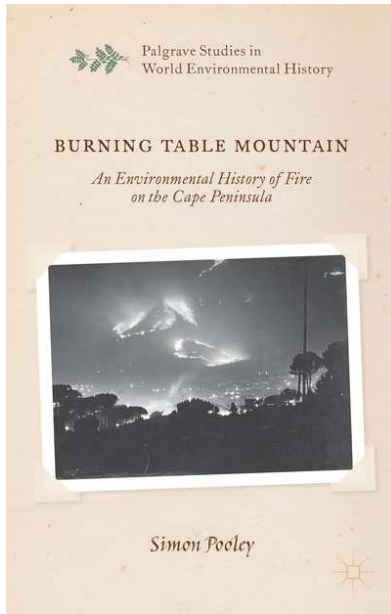
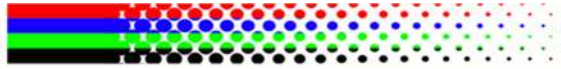
This will be a major international conference to showcase experiences in the restoration of functioning ecosystems at a landscape level. The event to be supported by BES, ESEH, IUFRO, WTs, RSPB, National Trust, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, with Thorne & Hatfield Moors Conservation Forum, South Yorkshire Biodiversity Research Group and others such as JBA Consulting.

The event will address key themes such as wilding / re-wilding, ecosystem services and functions, wildlife tourism and regional economies, water management and carbon sequestration, community engagement & education, grazed and ungrazed landscapes, reintroductions vs letting nature take its course, responses to climate change & climate change mitigation.

## **Books & Publications**

### **Palgrave Macmillan ENVIRONMENT STORIES – new out!**

The Centre for Life History and Life Writing Research, Centre for World Environmental History and The Africa Studies Centre at the University of Sussex held a DOUBLE BOOK LAUNCH for Alison Jolly's **THANK YOU MADAGASCAR** and Simon Pooley's **BURNING TABLE MOUNTAIN**. The books were introduced by Professor Alan Lester with brief talks by Margaretta Jolly and Simon Pooley. Palgrave Macmillan publisher Jenny McCall introduced the new series Palgrave Studies in World Environmental History.



## ***Burning Table Mountain An Environmental History of Fire on the Cape Peninsula*** by Simon Pooley

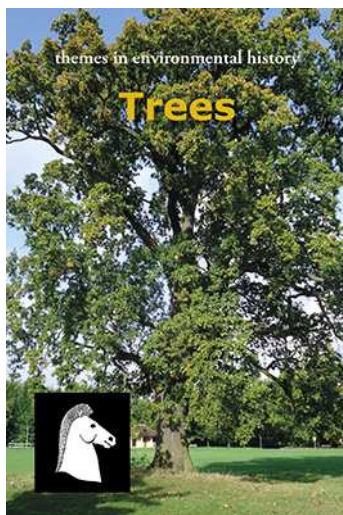
ISBN 9781137415431 Hardcover (336 pages) £60.00

Publication Date September 2014, Formats Hardcover Ebook (EPUB) Ebook (PDF), Publisher Palgrave Macmillan, Series Palgrave Studies in World Environmental History

Cape Town's iconic Table Mountain and the surrounding peninsula has been a crucible for attempts to integrate the social and ecological dimensions of wild fire. This environmental history of humans and wildfire outlines these interactions from the practices of Khoikhoi herders to the conflagrations of January 2000. The region's unique,

famously diverse fynbos vegetation has been transformed since European colonial settlement, through urbanisation and biological modifications, both intentional (forestry) and unintentional (biological invasions). In all the diverse visions people have formed for Table Mountain, aesthetic and utilitarian, fire has been regarded as a central problem. This book shows how scientific understandings of fire in fynbos developed slowly in the face of strong prejudices. Human impacts were intensified in the twentieth century, which provides the temporal focus for the book. The disjunctures between popular perception, expert knowledge, policy and management are explored, and the book supplements existing short-term scientific data with proxies on fire incidence trends recovered from historical records.

## **New From The White Horse Press**



### ***Trees - The fifth volume in the reader series, 'Themes in Environmental History'***

Comprising essays selected from *Environment and History* and *Environmental Values*, these inexpensive paperbacks address important aspects of environmental history through theoretical essays and case studies. The readers are attracting increasing interest from course-organisers. *Trees* addresses the roots of environmental history in forest history, offering a substantial section on forestry practice and ideology and the power-relations that have been and continue to be played out in global forests. While histories of forests and forestry have at times, by

focus on the woods, obscured our vision of the trees, this volume contains several essays about the nurturing of specific trees, from street trees to penal planting. A theme that runs through many of the essays is the psycho-social significance of trees, from nationalism to legend, imperialism to post-modern uncertainty; trees can be aligned with identity, power,

betrayal or redemption. The human relationship with trees that Dargavel and Johann have figured as one of 'science and hope' is an arena for endlessly diversified construction and negotiation, experiment and experience.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2015, Paperback, 380pp. ISBN 978-1-874267-88-1

£17.00/\$25/€20

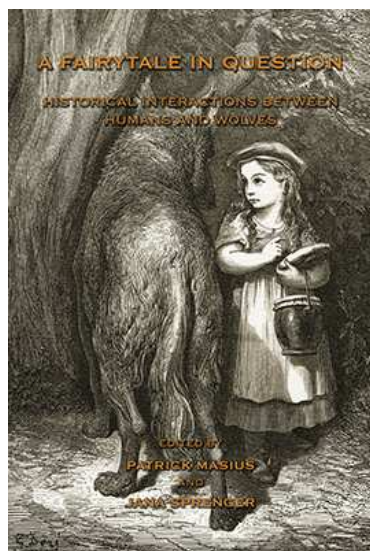
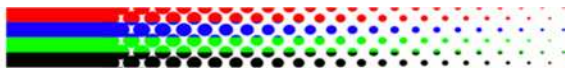


***Anne Frank's Tree. Nature's Confrontation with Technology, Domination, and the Holocaust*** Eric Katz

In this important and original interdisciplinary work, well-known environmental philosopher Eric Katz explores technology's role in dominating both nature and humanity. He argues that technology dominates, and hence destroys, the natural world; it dominates, and hence destroys, critical aspects of human life and society. Technology causes an estrangement from nature, and thus a loss of meaning in human life. As a result, humans lose the power to make moral and social choices; they lose the power to control their lives.

Katz's argument innovatively connects two distinct areas of thought: the fundamental goal of the Holocaust, including Nazi environmental policy, to heal the degenerate elements of society; and the plan to heal degraded natural systems that informs the contemporary environmental policy of 'ecological restoration'. In both arenas of 'healing', Katz argues that technological forces drive action, while domination emerges as the prevailing ideology. Katz's work is a plea for the development of a technology that does not dominate and destroy but instead promotes autonomy and freedom. Anne Frank, a victim of Nazi ideology and action, saw the titular tree behind her secret annex as a symbol of freedom and moral goodness. In Katz's argument, the tree represents a free and autonomous nature, resistant to human control and domination. *Anne Frank's Tree* is rooted in an empirical approach to philosophy, seating complex ethical ideas in an accessible and powerful narrative of historical fact and deeply personal lived experience. The book is essentially a meditation on the opposing themes of domination and autonomy as they relate to the uses of technology in environmental policy and in the genocidal policies of the Holocaust. Rather than an abstract, or theoretical, examination of the concepts of 'domination' and 'autonomy,' the book undertakes a robust pragmatic investigation into the ways in which these themes 'cash-out' in specific real-life or historical situations. It is a work in 'empirical' or 'historical' philosophy, for the meaning of the philosophical ideas and the arguments used to justify them flow out of a detailed understanding of historical and practical reality as well as personal lived experience.

*Anne Frank's Tree* has a preface, six chapters, and a brief epilogue. Publication date: 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2015, 250pp. ISBN 978-1-874267-85-0 (HB) £57.00/\$90.00/€73.00



***A Fairytale in Question: Historical Interactions between Humans and Wolves***

Edited by Patrick Masius and Jana Sprenger

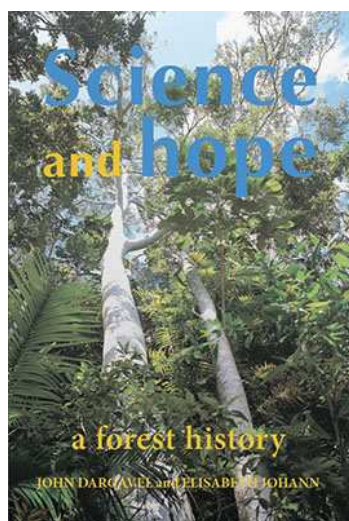
A COLLECTION OF ESSAYS PLACING THE HUMAN–WOLF RELATIONSHIP IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

International in range and chronological in organisation, this volume aims to grasp the main currents of thought about interactions with the wolf in modern history. It focuses on perceptions, interactions and dependencies, and includes cultural and social analyses as well as biological aspects.

Wolves have been feared and admired, hunted and cared for.

At the same historical moment, different cultural and social groups have upheld widely diverging ideas about the wolf. Fundamental dichotomies in modern history, between nature and culture, wilderness and civilisation and danger and security, have been portrayed in terms of wolf–human relationships. The wolf has been part of aesthetic, economic, political, psychological and cultural reasoning albeit it is nowadays mainly addressed as an object of wildlife management. There has been a major shift in perception from dangerous predator to endangered species, but the big bad fairy-tale wolf remains a cultural icon. This volume roots study of human–wolf relationships coherently within the disciplines of environmental and animal history for the first time.

Publication date: 15<sup>th</sup> February 2015, 320pp. ISBN 978-1-874267-84-3 (HB)  
£60.00/€75.00/\$100.00



***Science and Hope, A Forest History***

John Dargavel and Elisabeth Johann

A HISTORY OF THE SCIENCE AND IDEAS OF FORESTRY OVER THE PAST THREE CENTURIES

This book tells the story of the hopeful science and trusting art of forestry. It is a story about the hopes of foresters and other scientists to understand the forests more deeply, and about their unspoken trust that their knowledge could ensure an enduring sylvan future. Much has been written on the origins and development of modern forestry in various countries, and

on the people and institutions involved, but there is little in the forest history literature that explains what the science actually is. Forest knowledge has an ancient history documented since classical times and applied within the intricate social and legal systems of medieval Europe. This volume is concerned with the modern form of forest science, founded in

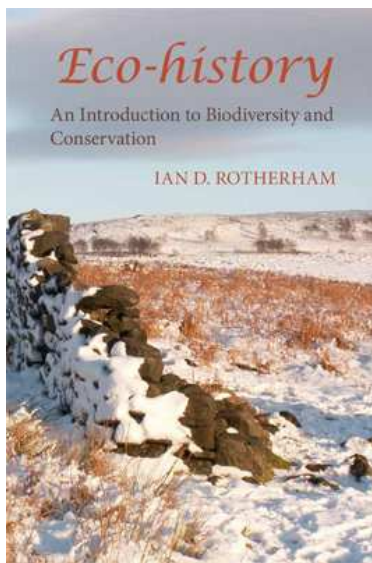


Europe early in the nineteenth century, when regimes for managing the forests that could be traced to the ancient world and had flourished in the Middle Ages were disrupted. New ways had to be found.

Foresters have tried to know their forests scientifically for over three centuries and have hoped to apply their knowledge to good effect, even though they could not live to see the futures they envisioned. How far did their scientific understanding enable a sylvan future? What, over the three centuries discussed in this book, were their successes and failures? And now what might the future hold for forest science and its application?

This is no tale of triumph: the outlook for the world's forests is too bleak for that. While many forests are flourishing, the climate is changing, tropical forests are disappearing, others are degrading, species are being lost, governments dither, international conferences fail. This is another, longer story – one of inquiry, of science and persistent endeavour to find a better future for the forests.

Publication date: 1 June 2013, 200pp. Black and white illustrations and diagrams  
 ISBN 978-1-874267-73-7 (HB) £57.00 ISBN 978-1-874267-87-4 (PB) £25.00



***Eco-History. An Introduction to Biodiversity and Conservation***

Ian D. Rotherham

An accessible introduction to biodiversity, conservation and the eco-cultural nature of landscapes.

'...essential to understanding the history of conservation and sustainability, humanity's devastating impact on biodiversity, and the survival of civilization'. JoAnn Valenti in *Applied Environmental Education and Communication*.

Key issues are addressed in short, focused chapters, supported by a detailed thousand-year timeline based on the British Isles. The author is convinced that to conserve wildlife or ecology, and to heal the wounds of human impacts, we

must understand our own history and how, over countless centuries, we have forged today's ecologies from our impacts on, and utilisation of, nature. He argues that the interlinked concepts of biodiversity, nature conservation and of sustainability are too often mixed with notions of 'wilderness' and 'nature' and 'naturalness'. Much of the biodiversity that we hope to conserve is the result of long-term interactions between people and nature. It is a 'cultural ecology', the product of the environment, history and tradition. Recognising that the landscapes around us are 'eco-cultural' not 'natural' is, Rotherham suggests, the key to understanding contemporary biodiversity and major challenges for ideas of future conservation and sustainability.

The book introduces the background to humanity's interactions with Nature and the forces at work in shaping today's world. It is essential reading for anyone wishing to understand the nature of the global environmental crisis and how we got here. In particular, it will be a stimulating guide to students and teachers or lecturers from sixth form and college to university. It will also appeal to the ordinary wildlife enthusiast wishing understand the past, and to gain insight into what might be in store for the future.

Daniel Simberloff, University of Tennessee, in *Environmental History*:

'Rotherham sees British conservation peaking about ten years ago and the United Kingdom descending into a "new environmental Dark Age" (p. 182) with the advent of the Big Society, pointing to the proposed high-speed rail system as an example that will wreak particular ecological havoc, despite masquerading as "green transport." .....This truly dismal scenario is difficult to dispute.....'

The high point of Eco-history is a remarkable 42-page "Timeline," detailing in linear fashion 224 key points in the history of British nature conservation from AD 1000 to 2000: laws especially, but also extinctions, introductions, establishment of nature reserves and environmental organizations. Rotherham concisely lists the impacts of each event, with further explication for about half of them. This section alone could be published as a short book that almost any environmental historian would value.'

Publication date: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014, 220pp. Black and white illustrations ISBN 978-1-874267-81-2 (PB) £25.00/\$40.00/€30.00

## And don't forget.....



ISSN: 1973-3739 (print); 2053-7352 (online).

Editors in Chief: Mauro Agnoletti, University of Florence and Gabriella Corona, National Council of Research, Naples

The half-yearly journal *Global Environment: A Journal of History and Natural and Social Sciences*, now published by The White Horse Press, acts as a forum and echo chamber for ongoing studies on the environment and world history, with special focus on modern and contemporary topics. Our intent is to gather and stimulate scholarship that, despite a diversity of approaches and themes, shares an environmental perspective on world history in its various facets, including economic development, social relations, production government, and international relations. One of the journal's main commitments is to bring together different areas of expertise in both the natural and the social sciences to facilitate a common language and a common perspective in the study of history. This commitment is fulfilled by way of peer-reviewed research articles and by interviews and other special features. *Global Environment* strives to transcend the western-centric and 'developmentalist' bias

that has dominated international environmental historiography so far and to favour the emergence of spatially and culturally diversified points of view. It seeks to replace the notion of 'hierarchy' with those of 'relationship' and 'exchange' – between continents, states, regions, cities, central zones and peripheral areas – in studying the construction or destruction of environments and ecosystems.

## Other information and networking:

### About the Researching the River Thames Website

The Researching the River Thames website at [www.gre.ac.uk/riverthamesguide](http://www.gre.ac.uk/riverthamesguide) is a guide for anyone interested in finding out more about the environment of the river and its history. It provides information on historical sources and on where to find out more. It is designed for those wanting to research online as well as those who would like to get out into the archives. The website has been created by the team behind the 'Running the River Thames' project at the Greenwich Maritime Institute (2011-13). Some sections of the site reflect the project's focus on the past fifty years – several sections cover a longer period going back to the mid nineteenth century.

#### Here are the main features of the guide:

- Timeline for the environmental governance of the River Thames since the 1850s,
- including information on legislation and key events. There are links to online sources, such as these photographs of the 1953 storm surge flooding from *The Guardian* newspaper. Current and historical maps for the river and Thames river basin, including images and links.
- Historical overview of the river's functions – what has the river been used for and by whom?
- Governance snapshots showing which organisations have run the Thames at different times since the 1960s.
- Interest groups and stakeholder organisations – past and present – for the Thames river and communities across the river basin.
- Statutory organisations for the river and Thames region.
- Historical sources for the Thames, including links to historic films about the river available online and links to archive collections. You can see some of British Pathé's amazing collection of online films on the Thames or search for catalogue information on old films about Thames' water supply. In the 1949 film *Mud Shifters* (51 seconds), two brothers are regularly employed to sweep the Thames foreshore with 'looters' to maintain enough depth for barges.
- Information about relevant archives, with links.
- Bibliography (popular history and academic sources for the Thames).

- Information on the ESRC project, Running the River Thames Project: London, Stakeholders and the Environmental Governance of the River Thames, 1960-2010. This has examined the environmental governance of the river since 1960, and the changing forms of public participation and environmental citizenship that are part of this history.

Professor Sarah Palmer | Dr Vanessa Taylor, ESRC Research Project Running the River Thames: London, Stakeholders and the Environmental Governance of the Thames, 1960-2010 Greenwich Maritime Institute, Univ. of Greenwich, Queen Anne Court, Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, London SE10 9LS. Email: [runningtheriverthames@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:runningtheriverthames@greenwich.ac.uk)  
Twitter @ThamesGov

## Dates for the diary 2015

- ***LANDSCAPE AS COMMUNITY: CHeriScape conference III, 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, OSLO (Nor)***
- ***Ancient Tree Forum summer conference 2015 in East Anglia Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015***
- ***ESEH's 8<sup>th</sup> biennial conference will be held in Versailles, France, on 30<sup>th</sup> June – 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015***
- ***SER 6<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Ecological Restoration Towards Resilient Ecosystems: Restoring the Urban, the Rural and the Wild, Manchester, UK, 23<sup>rd</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> August 2015***
- ***Wild Thing? Managing Landscape Change & Future Ecologies: Cultural Severance & Continuity; Sheffield Showroom & Workstation, Sheffield, UK, 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015***
- ***Managing Molinia: 3-day conference Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015***
- ***Arboricultural Association Amenity Conference 2015, Warwick University, Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2015***
- ***A Life in Ecology – A Celebration of the Work and Inspiration of Dr Oliver Gilbert, Pioneer Ecologist; Sheffield Hallam University, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015***

- October – November 2015 - *Autumn Workshops on Identification and Ecology of Sphagnum Mosses.*
- October – November 2015 - *Autumn Workshops on Identification and Ecology of Waxcap Fungi.*

For more information and updates on all of these, please visit our Website:

[www.ukeconet.org](http://www.ukeconet.org)

## Call for interest & support:

### ***\*\*Issues of Energy, History, Landscape & Environmental Change\*\****

A number of us are looking to organise a series of events beginning in 2016 on the broad themes of energy use / fuel use through history and its impacts on landscapes and environments. We are particularly interested in the scales of fuelwood and peat or turf exploitation and the issues of community / domestic vs commercial / industrial usage. The scope could extend to other energy sources such as mineral coal, water power, wind power, nuclear power etc, but for now, the focus is on historic uses and especially the often overlooked aspects of domestic fuel exploitation. Coppice exploitation frequently maintained 'woods' for centuries, but with their ecologies radically changed. Furthermore, industrial-scale charcoal manufacture involving stripping and burning of locally cut 'turf' in the woods and transformed both soils and vegetation. Many of these impacts are still unseen by most ecologists.

From a socio-economic perspective, the competition between fuel resources and their exploitation provides a fascinating topic for environmental historians to research. Additionally, most of the environmental impacts and indeed the implications for triggering environmental and climate changes, or at least mitigating negative effects of changes, are overlooked.

A suggestion, which several of us have considered for a number of years, is that domestic peat and turf use were far more extensive than is currently recognised, and indeed, that landscapes have been dramatically transformed by domestic and other extraction. The environmental impacts of the scale of peat use could be hugely important in understanding aspects of carbon-related climate change, and the compromised ability of peatlands to

moderate water behaviour in the landscape – flood and drought. Peatland drainage and peat removal where deep peats occurred, and paring and burning for example, on shallow turf for agricultural ‘improvement’ have had major effects which seem to be largely ignored.

As discussed at previous meetings, such as in Sheffield, but also at the first **World Environmental History Congress** in Copenhagen, in 2009, the combined usage of fuelwood and of peat / turf were massive in Medieval Europe. Similar issues were raised at the **12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference of the International Association for the Study of Commons** at Cheltenham in 2008. Moreover, as suggested previously, the scale of human exploitation of peatlands has caused a landscape transformation so radical that the very existence of peat in many areas is totally overlooked. However, the historical and environmental history sources confirm the past occurrence of bog, moor, heath, fen and common.

**FUTURE EVENTS:** It was suggested at the *In The Bog* conference in Sheffield in 2014, that it would be good to bring key people together to discuss and to debate these issues. Through the **British Ecological Society’s Peatland Special Interest Group**, we are suggesting a series of focussed seminars or workshop events to take the discussions forward. To this end, we are now inviting offers of support and expressions of interest, to [i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk](mailto:i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk) . I would like to have an outline programme put together by this autumn to begin in 2016. Thoughts, suggestions, offer ....money / sponsorship (!), all welcome.

**Ian Rotherham**

**And finally.....other useful cross-disciplinary networks to engage with:**

***Bridging the Gap*** managed by Jane J Bunting @ University of Hull ([M.J.Bunting@hull.ac.uk](mailto:M.J.Bunting@hull.ac.uk))

## **European Association for Environmental History UK**

The European Association for Environmental History was founded in 1989. The UK Branch has held annual Meetings nearly every year since the early 1990's. The parent organisation was closed down in 1995, but the UK Branch continued. We now work in conjunction with the successor European level body to the EAEH, which is the European Society for Environmental History <http://eseh.org/> (which has its own UK section). We are now an informal grouping, and if you would like to be on our distribution list, just email to tell us. There is no membership fee. Our meetings provide a forum for academics and professionals from the physical, natural and social sciences, as well of course as the humanities, to discuss their work in the field of environmental history, which we define very inclusively. Contacts: Peter Brimblecombe [P.Brimblecombe@uea.ac.uk](mailto:P.Brimblecombe@uea.ac.uk) , University of East Anglia; Raymond Smith [RJSmith@envirohistory.waitrose.com](mailto:RJSmith@envirohistory.waitrose.com)

## **For the ESEH UK & Ireland Newsletter:**

Please forward all announcements, notes, calls for papers, book reviews etc., rather than my university email note the dedicated email: [esehbrit1@hallamec.plus.com](mailto:esehbrit1@hallamec.plus.com) or directly to [i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk](mailto:i.d.rotherham@shu.ac.uk)  
Also, feel free to send links to your websites to my own research website [www.ukeconet.org](http://www.ukeconet.org), where you will find more information, announcements and newsflashes. We will shortly have a dedicated ESEH page on the UKECONET website.

Feel free to circulate this newsletter & call to other interested persons and importantly, to put it on your own websites too.

**Ian**

**Ian D. Rotherham**

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*European Society for Environmental History, UK & Ireland Representative; Editor, International Journal of Urban Forestry, Journal of Practical Ecology & Conservation, International Urban Ecology Review, Landscape Archaeology & Ecology; Editorial Boards: Global Environment & Landscapes; British Ecological Society Chair of the Peatlands Special Interest Group*