



JAMES CROPPER

**Wainwright
Prize**

2023 SHORTLIST MAGAZINE

Celebrating writing on nature
and conservation for adults
and children

Printed on James Cropper paper containing
4 recycled coffee cups in every magazine.



@wainwrightprize | #JamesCropperWainwrightPrize | #JCWP23



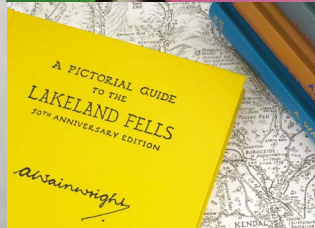
James Cropper Creative Papers is a prestige paper innovator based in the English Lake District. We've been making fine papers for publishing and premium packaging since 1845 in the very town where Alfred Wainwright lived and worked.

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This is our story; now onto yours.



A very warm welcome

Over the last decade, the James Cropper Wainwright Prize is proud to have celebrated the finest and most impactful writing exploring nature, conservation, and the environment – and this decennial year is no exception. Amid an undeniable climate crisis, spotlighting and amplifying nature writing is not only a joyful endeavour but a necessary one, and the James Cropper Wainwright Prize continues to support the incredible writers who encourage us to build and hone a lifelong connection with our natural roots and resources.

Although nature writing has long been a fertile ground for creativity, both the growing interest of readers in the climate and our natural environment and the diversity of writers being published within this genre has increased over the years, leading to the golden age of nature writing we are currently experiencing. This year, the upsurge that the James Cropper Wainwright Prize has witnessed and encouraged over the past ten years has culminated in a selection of shortlisted titles that represent both literary skill and diversity of thought across three categories – the Nature Prize, the Conservation Prize, and Children's Prize for Books on Nature and Conservation – our newest category created last year for those at the forefront of the climate revolution.

To celebrate its 10th anniversary, the James Cropper Wainwright Prize is going

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back to its roots this year, returning to Kendal in the Lake District, where our namesake – the beloved fell walker Alfred Wainwright – worked, lived, and found endless inspiration. To celebrate the Prize, its ongoing connection to the outdoors, and Alfred Wainwright's environmental legacy, we will be hosting an exclusive festival-style celebration on Thursday 14th September in partnership with the Kendal Mountain Festival, which will feature curated author events and the announcement of the winners of the 2023 prize.

Our headline sponsor for the third year running, James Cropper, preserves and reaffirms the Prize's strong affiliation with the Lake District, as the fine paper makers share an environmental connection with Alfred Wainwright. Founded in 1845 and still working from the very town where Alfred Wainwright lived and laboured, James Cropper has been at the forefront of a number of innovative environmental solutions. This year, we're delighted to be working alongside James Cropper once more to work towards our mission to actively encourage readers to explore and support the natural world through learning, literature, and the recognition of our shared environmental legacy.

2023 Categories

All award categories are in the spirit of the prize's namesake nature writer Alfred Wainwright and his work; they aim to inspire readers to explore the outdoors, connect with the environment, and nurture a respect for the natural world.



Nature Writing

The Nature Writing prize recognises the best narrative-driven books, with a subject that must be related to nature, the outdoors or travel writing (not guidebooks).

Children's Nature & Conservation Writing

For books on nature, conservation, and climate change specifically written for children. This celebrates works with an ecocentric message for the next generation.

Writing on Conservation

The prize for Writing on Conservation recognises books that reflect efforts in, or studies relating to, conservation or climate change as it impacts nature and the outdoors. They should be narrative-driven and could be global in scope.

SHORTLISTED - NATURE

A Line in the World

BY DORTHE NORS, TRANSLATED
BY CAROLINE WAIGHT

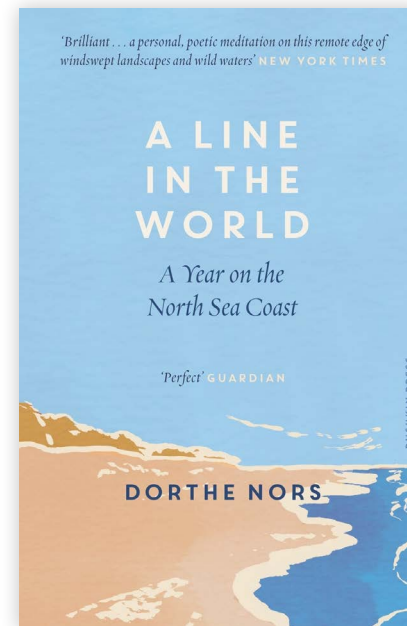


AUTHOR & TRANSLATOR BIO

Dorte Nors was born in 1970 and studied literature at the University of Aarhus. Her short stories have appeared in numerous publications including the *Boston Review* and *The New Yorker*. Nors's works include *Wild Swims*, *Karate Chop*, *Minna Needs Rehearsal Space*, and *Mirror, Shoulder, Signal* – shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize – all published by Pushkin Press. Born in Jutland, she now lives on the North Sea coast in Denmark. Caroline Waight is a London-based award-winning literary translator working from Danish, Norwegian and German.

SYNOPSIS

This is the story of the windswept coastline that stretches from the northernmost tip of Denmark to the Netherlands, a world of shipwrecks, storm surges, cold-water surfers, and resolute sailors' wives. In spellbinding prose, Nors invites the reader to travel through the landscape where her family lived for generations, which she now calls home. It is an extraordinarily powerful and beautiful journey through history and memory – the landscape's as well as her own.



Belonging

BY AMANDA THOMSON



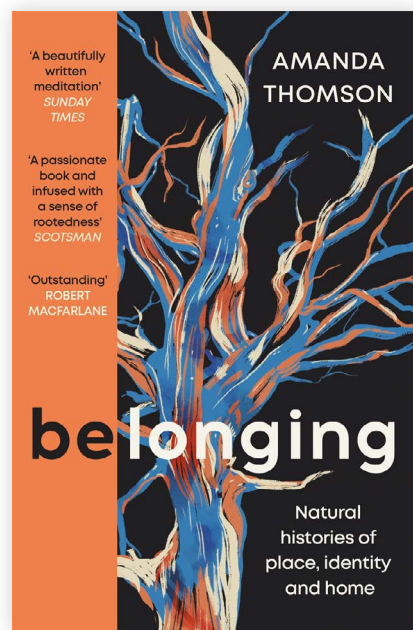
AUTHOR BIO

Amanda Thomson is a Scottish writer, and visual artist, and a lecturer at the Glasgow School of Art. Her first book, *A Scots Dictionary of Nature*, was published in 2018. She has spoken at many book festivals and has had her work published in *Antlers of Water*, *Willowherb Review*, *The Wild Isles*, *Gifts of Gravity and Light* and *The Guardian*. She lives and works between Strathspey in the Scottish Highlands and Glasgow.

SYNOPSIS

Reflecting on family, identity and nature, *Belonging* is a personal memoir about what it is to have and make a home. It is a love letter to nature, especially the northern landscapes of Scotland and the Scots pinewoods of Abernethy.

Beautifully written and featuring Amanda Thomson's artwork and photography throughout, it creatively explores how place, language and family shape us and make us who we are. It is a book about how we are held in thrall to elements of our past, and it speaks to the importance of attention and reflection, encouraging us all to look, observe, and ask questions of ourselves.



The Flow

BY AMY-JANE BEER

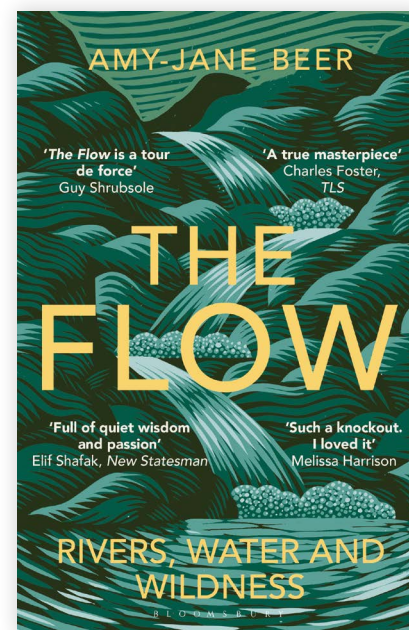


AUTHOR BIO

Amy-Jane Beer is a biologist turned naturalist and writer. She has worked for more than 20 years as a science writer and editor, contributing to more than 40 books on natural history. She is currently a Country Diarist for *The Guardian*, a columnist for *British Wildlife* and a feature writer for *BBC Wildlife Magazine*. Amy-Jane campaigns for the equality of access to nature and collaboration between the farming and conservation sectors. She is a member of the steering group of the environmental arts charity, New Networks for Nature, the land rights campaign RightToRoam.org.uk, and honorary President of the National Park society, *Friends of the Dales*.

SYNOPSIS

A visit to the rapid where she lost a cherished friend unexpectedly reignites Amy-Jane Beer's love of rivers, setting her on a journey of discovery. Threading together places and voices from across Britain, *The Flow* is a profound, immersive exploration of our personal and ecological place in nature.



The Golden Mole

BY KATHERINE RUNDELL, ILLUSTRATED
BY TALYA BALDWIN

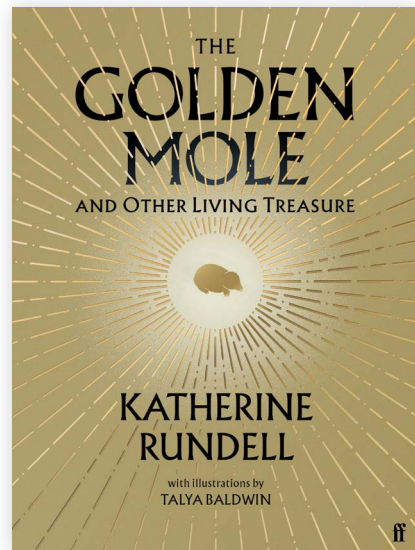


AUTHOR BIO

Katherine Rundell grew up in London, Zimbabwe and Belgium. She is the youngest female scholar to be made a Fellow of All Souls College at Oxford University. Her award-winning and bestselling books for children have been translated into thirty languages and have won multiple awards. Rundell is also the author of a book for adults, *Why You Should Read Children's Books, Even Though You Are So Old And Wise*. She is a regular contributor to the *London Review of Books*.

SYNOPSIS

A lavishly illustrated compendium of the staggering lives of some of the world's most endangered animals, *The Golden Mole* is a chance to be awestruck and lovestruck – to fall for the likes of the wondrous Pygmy Hippo, the seahorse, the narwhal and, as astonishing and endangered as them all, the human.



Ten Birds That Changed the World

BY STEPHEN MOSS

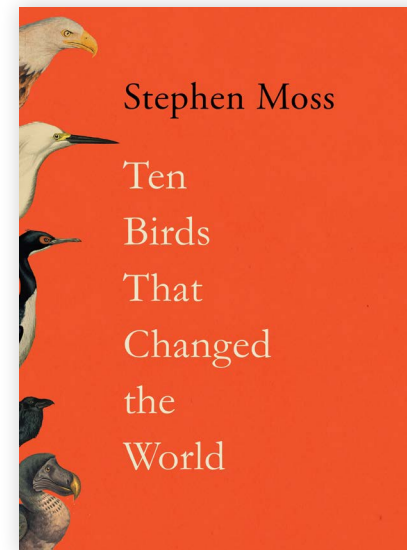


AUTHOR BIO

Stephen Moss is a naturalist, broadcaster, television producer and author. In a distinguished career at the BBC Natural History Unit, his credits included *Springwatch*, *Birds Britannia* and *The Nature of Britain*. His books include *Mrs Moreau's Warbler*, *The Robin*, *A Bird in the Bush*, *The Bumper Book of Nature*, *Wild Hares and Hummingbirds* and *Wild Kingdom*. He is also Senior Lecturer in Nature and Travel Writing at Bath Spa University. Originally from London, he lives with his family on the Somerset Levels and is President of the Somerset Wildlife Trust.

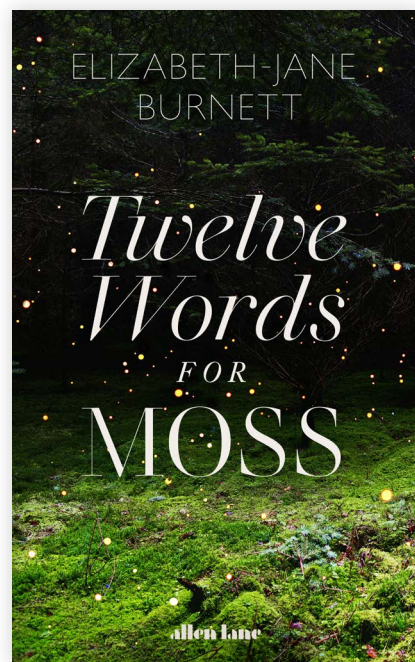
SYNOPSIS

For the whole of human history, we have shared our world with birds. We have hunted and domesticated them for food, fuel and feathers, placed them at the heart of our rituals, religions, myths and legends, poisoned, persecuted and often demonised them, and celebrated them in our music, art and poetry. This is the story of that long and eventful relationship, told through ten birds whose lives – and interactions with humanity – have changed the course of human history.



Twelve Words for Moss

BY ELIZABETH-JANE BURNETT



AUTHOR BIO

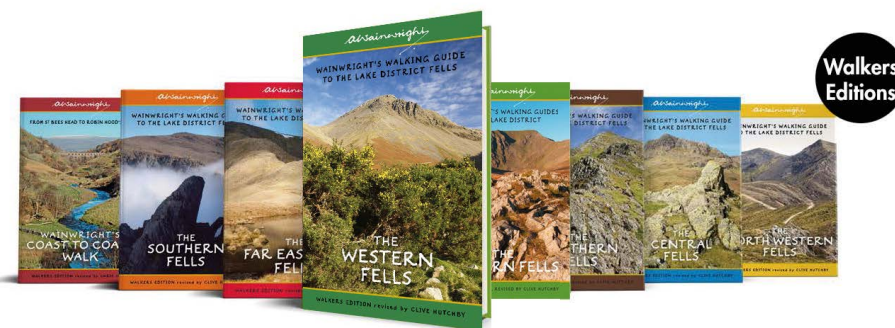
Elizabeth-Jane Burnett is a poet and academic whose research explores environmental issues through creative writing. She is the author of *The Grassling*, an exploration of memory and natural history, and a contributor to *The Guardian's* Country Diary column. She has also published two poetry collections: *Swims*, a *Sunday Times* Poetry Book of the Year, and *Of Sea*.

SYNOPSIS

Moss is known as the living carpet, but if you look really closely, it contains an irrepressible light. In *Twelve Words for Moss*, Elizabeth-Jane Burnett celebrates the unsung hero of the plant world with her unique blend of poetry, nature writing and memoir. Making her way through wetlands from Somerset to County Tyrone, Burnett discovers the hidden vibrancy of these overlooked spaces, renaming her favourite species of moss as she recovers from her grief at her father's death and draws inspiration from the resilience and tenacity of her plant and human friends.

A. Wainwright's definitive guidebooks to walking in

THE LAKE DISTRICT



A. Wainwright's definitive walking guides to the Lake District fells are available in two editions, complete with hand-drawn maps, ascent diagrams, ridge routes and summit views. The portable Walkers Editions have been comprehensively revised and updated throughout, and the giftable Readers Editions are faithfully reproduced from A. Wainwright's original manuscript pages.

AVAILABLE TO BUY NOW FROM ALL GOOD BOOK RETAILERS AND ONLINE

Judging Panel

RAY MEARS

Judging Chair and TV Presenter

Ray Mears has become recognised throughout the world as an authority on the subjects of Bushcraft and Survival. He has also become a household name through his various television series, including *Tracks*, *World of Survival*, *Trips Money Can't Buy* with Ewan McGregor, *The Real Heroes of Telemark* and many more. These programmes have reached out and touched the hearts of everyone, from small children to grandparents. They are enjoyed by many because of Ray's down to earth approach, his obvious love for his subject, and the empathy and respect he shows for indigenous peoples and their cultures. Ray has spent his life learning these skills and is truly a master of the subject he calls Wilderness Bushcraft.



JAMES ALDRED

Winning Author, 2022

James Aldred is an Emmy Award-winning wildlife cameraman, specialising in filming at height in the rainforest canopy and other wilderness regions. He has worked with Sir David Attenborough on numerous award-winning documentaries and presents on BBC Radio 4. He is also an author, and his second book *Goshawk Summer* won the James Cropper Wainwright Prize for Nature 2022.



AMBER HARRISON

Independent Specialist Bookseller

Amber Harrison is co-founder of FOLDE Dorset on Shaftesbury's iconic Gold Hill. FOLDE is an independent bookshop focused on nature writing that has fast become a go-to for those interested in the environment and natural world with topics as diverse as rewilding to wild swimming. Before opening FOLDE in 2021, Amber gained nearly two decades of sustainability expertise in the commercial world, and continues to be active in this area, both in bookselling and as an independent advisor.



CHARLOTTE SMITH

BBC Countryfile Presenter

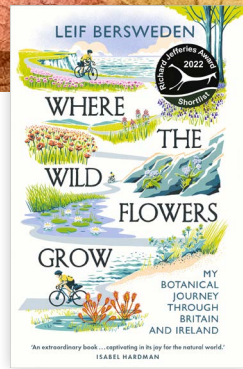
Charlotte Smith is a freelance broadcaster, writer and conference host - she presents BBC Radio 4's *Farming Today* and has been a *Countryfile* presenter for more than two decades.



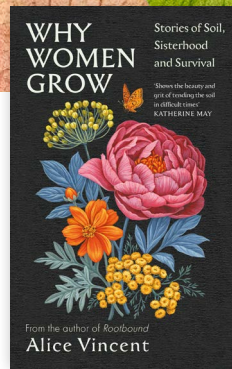
DR ANJANA KHATWA

Award-winning Earth Scientist & Presenter

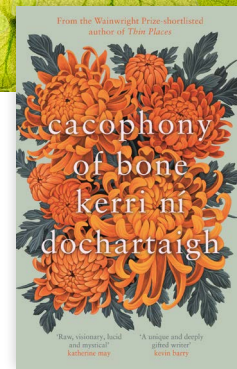
Dr Anjana Khatwa is an award-winning earth scientist, presenter and advocate for diversity. She is writing her first book, *The Whispers of Rock*, a global story of how rocks have not only formed and shaped our planet but also ourselves. She lives in Dorset, close to the Jurassic Coast, in a house filled with rocks and fossils.



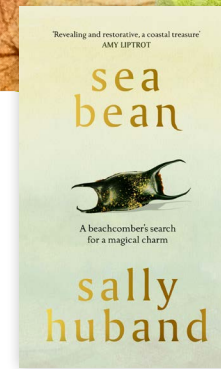
From a young age, Leif Bersweden's afternoons were spent hunting for and cataloguing the plants in his local area. But it is a landscape that is fast disappearing. Now a botanist, Leif goes on a journey around the UK and Ireland, highlighting the unique plants that grow there, their history and the threats that face them.



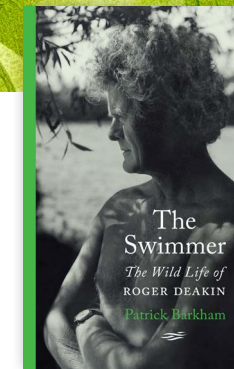
Why Women Grow is a much-needed exploration of why women turn to the earth, as gardeners, growers and custodians. This book emerged from a deeply rooted desire to share the stories of women who are overlooked. In doing so, Alice fosters connections with gardeners that unfurl into a tender exploration of women's lives, their gardens and what the ground has offered them.



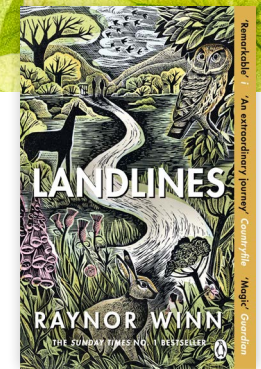
Two days after the Winter Solstice in 2019, Kerri and her partner moved to a small, remote railway cottage in the heart of Ireland. And then the pandemic arrived and their isolated home became a place of enforced isolation; however, the seasons still turned, the swallows came at their allotted time, and the rhythms of the natural world went on unchecked. *Cacophony of Bone* maps the cycle of a year, telling the tale of a changed life in a changed world, as well as all that does not change.



Sea Bean is a lyrical and evocative story of communion with nature on the stormy beaches of Shetland. When pregnancy triggers a chronic illness, Sally Huband begins beachcombing – a path that opens a world of ancient myths, fragile ecology, and deep human history; a path that brings her to herself again.



The definitive biography of Roger Deakin, beloved author of cult classic, *Waterlog*. Delving deep into Roger Deakin's library of words, Patrick Barkham draws from notebooks, diaries, letters, recordings, published work and early drafts to conjure his voice back to glorious life in *The Swimmer*.



Written in her trademark luminous prose, *Landlines* is the inspirational story of Raynor and her husband Moth who, faced with the latter's ailing health, embark upon a healing journey from North West Scotland back to the familiar shores of the South West Coast Path. On their incredible thousand-mile walk, Raynor and Moth map the landscape of an island nation facing an uncertain path ahead.

Last year's winner

James Aldred

Goshawk Summer

NATURE WRITING: 2022 WINNER

In early 2020, wildlife cameraman James Aldred was commissioned to film the lives of a family of goshawks in the New Forest, his childhood home. He began to plan a treetop hide in a remote site that would allow him to film the nest, the newly hatched chicks and the lives of these elusive and enchanting birds. When lockdown happened, the noise of our everyday life stilled and there was no one in the forest except James. Granted a unique opportunity to keep filming at this extraordinary time, James wrote about his experiences in a place empty of people, but filled with birdsong and new life. Amidst the fragility and the fear, there was silver moonlight, tumbling fox cubs, calling curlew and, of course, the soaring goshawks.



ABOUT

James Aldred is an Emmy Award-winning documentary wildlife cameraman and filmmaker and the celebrated author of *The Man Who Climbs Trees*. He works with television and production companies around the world, including the BBC and National Geographic. He has collaborated with Sir David Attenborough on numerous projects including *Life of Mammals*, *Planet Earth*, and *Green Planet*, and he has also been nominated for BAFTA/RTS awards many times.

RAY MEARS, JUDGING CHAIR,
SUMMARISED THE JUDGING PANEL'S
VIEWS ON THE WINNING TITLE

"THERE WAS A STUNNING COLLECTION OF BOOKS TO CHOOSE FROM ON OUR SHORTLIST. IN THE END WE DECIDED TO HAND THE PRIZE TO A BEAUTIFUL INSPIRATIONAL TALE SET IN AN EXTRAORDINARY TIME. NATURE IS ABUNDANT ALL AROUND US, IF ONLY WE COULD TAKE THE TIME TO REALLY LOOK FOR IT. THIS WONDERFUL BOOK SHOWS US HOW."

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An annual extravaganza that ignites the hearts of outdoor enthusiasts worldwide through a rich tapestry of films, speakers, activities and parties.

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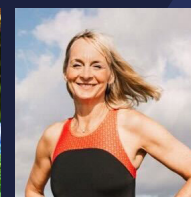
Robert Macfarlane



Elizabeth-Jane Burnett



Tristan Gooley



Louise Minchin



Simon Armitage



Kristin Harila



Ben Goldsmith



Jenny Sturgeon



Dwayne Fields

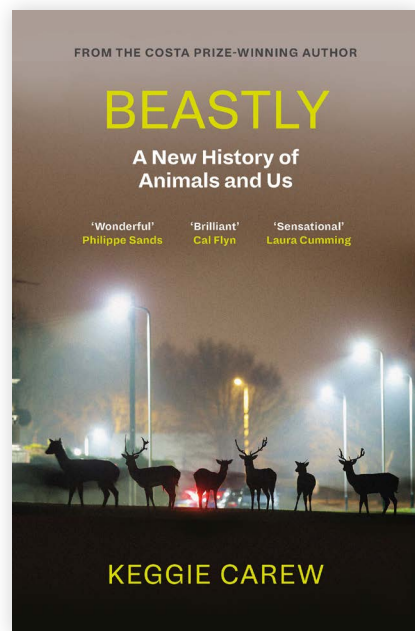


Noreen Masud

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Beastly

BY KEGGIE CAREW



AUTHOR BIO

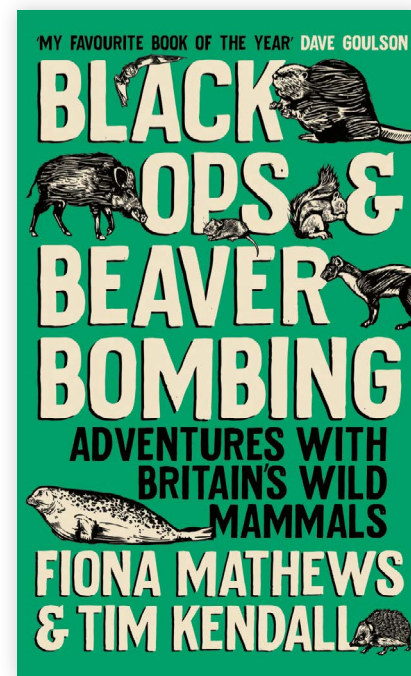
Keggie Carew lives with her husband Jonathan in Wiltshire, where they have a small nature reserve for fauna, flora and the education of young people. Carew is the author of *Dadland*, which won the 2016 COSTA biography award, and *Quicksand Tales*.

SYNOPSIS

Beastly is the 40,000-year story of our changing kinship with the animal world - starting from the smallest microbe to the largest creature that ever lived. Exploring this relationship through history, culture, science and inspiring examples, Carew makes the passionate case that animals are the key to the planet's health, but only if we can save them.

Black Ops & Beaver Bombing

BY FIONA MATHEWS & TIM KENDALL



AUTHOR BIOS

Fiona Mathews is professor at the University of Sussex, founding chair of Mammal Conservation Europe, and author of the government's official census of British mammals. Tim Kendall has been an obsessive mammal-spotter all his life and teaches poetry to undergraduates. When they're not co-writing a book, Fiona and Tim put their marriage to the test by hurtling up and down the country on wild mammal chases.

SYNOPSIS

In *Black Ops and Beaver Bombing*, Tim Kendall and Fiona Mathews take us on a safari unlike any other. Armed with binoculars, a Thermos and, regrettably, an inexhaustible supply of puns, they travel from Scotland to the Isles of Scilly in search of their elusive subjects. You'll find answers to questions you never thought to ask: do pine marten droppings really smell like Parma Violets? Should we give squirrels access to family planning? And what do wild boar have in common with a certain royal? *Black Ops and Beaver Bombing* is a celebration of Britain's marvellous mammals, and a rallying cry to save them.

Nomad Century

BY GAIA VINCE

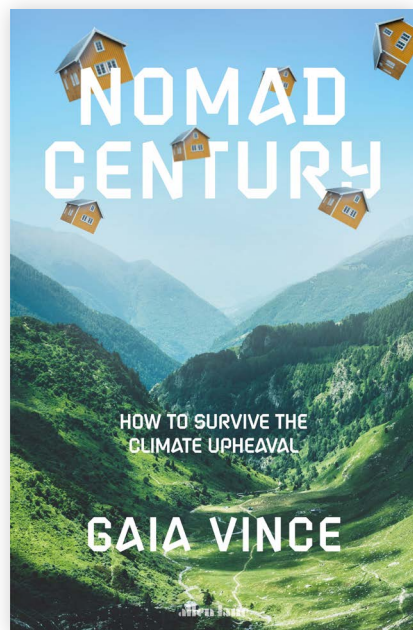


AUTHOR BIO

Gaia Vince is an honorary senior research fellow at UCL and a science writer and broadcaster interested in the interplay between humans and the planetary environment. She has held senior editorial posts at *Nature* and *New Scientist*, and her writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Scientific American*. Her research takes her across the world: she has visited more than 60 countries, lived in three, and is currently based in London. In 2015, she became the first woman to win the Royal Society Science Book of the Year Prize solo for her debut, *Adventures in the Anthropocene*.

SYNOPSIS

Nomad Century is an urgent investigation of the most underreported, seismic consequence of climate change: how it will force us to change where and how we live. While the climate catastrophe is finally getting the attention it deserves, the inevitability of mass migration has been largely ignored. Here, Vince provides an examination of the most pressing question facing humanity.



Rewilding the Sea

BY CHARLES CLOVER

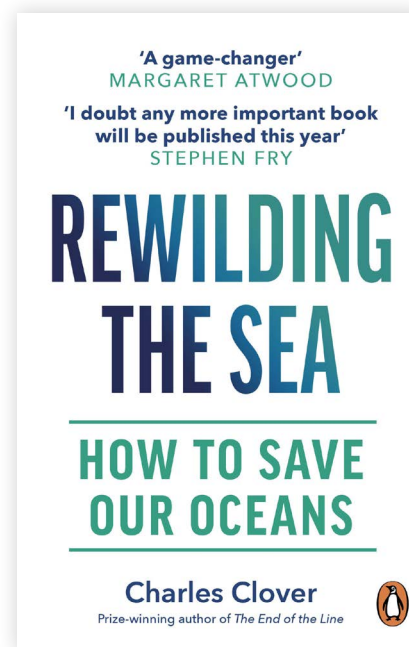


AUTHOR BIO

Charles Clover is a co-founder of Blue Marine Foundation, an impactful and influential marine conservation charity. Charles made his name as an author and environmental journalist writing principally for *The Sunday Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* for which he was Environment Editor for twenty-two years. His book *The End of the Line* and the award-winning major documentary film that it inspired, presented by Clover, highlighted overfishing as a global problem.

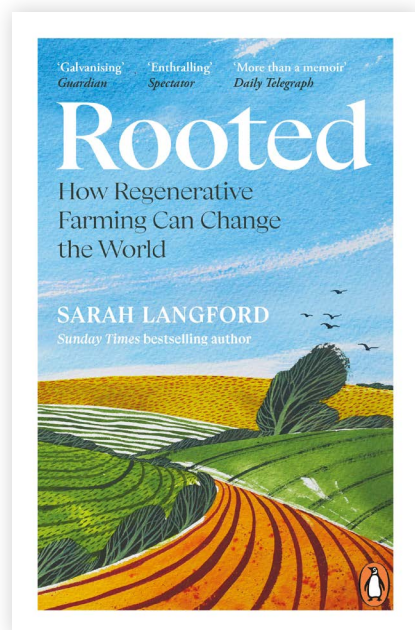
SYNOPSIS

Rewilding the Sea celebrates what happens when we step aside and let nature repair the damage. Charles Clover chronicles how determined individuals are proving that the crisis in our oceans can be reversed, with benefits for entire ecosystems. This essential book propels us to rethink our relationship with nature, revealing that saving our oceans is easier than we think.



Rooted

BY SARAH LANGFORD



AUTHOR BIO

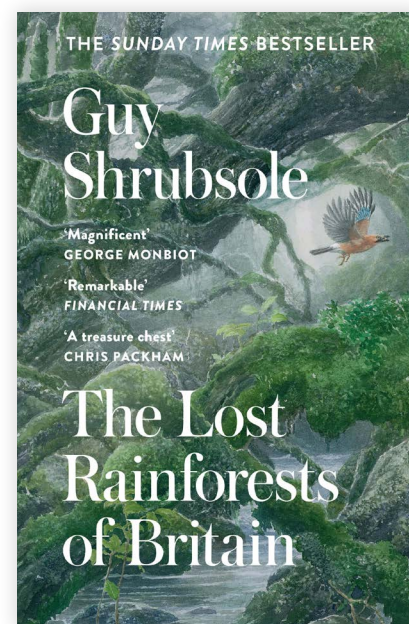
Sarah Langford is the author of *The Sunday Times* bestseller, *In Your Defence*. For ten years, she worked in criminal and family law in London. In 2017 she moved to Suffolk and, together with her husband, took on the management of his small family farm, an experience she writes about in her book *Rooted*. She now lives between London and Suffolk.

SYNOPSIS

In *Rooted*, Sarah Langford weaves her own personal story around those who taught her what it means to be a farmer. She illuminates the humanity and the difficulties of modern farming and introduces a new generation of farmers on a path of regenerative change, ultimately showing how land connects us all through community, health, and our planet.

The Lost Rainforests of Britain

BY GUY SHRUBSOLE



AUTHOR BIO

Guy Shrubsole is a writer and environmental campaigner. He has worked for Rewilding Britain, Friends of the Earth, the UK government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and New Zealand's Ministry of Agriculture. He has also written widely for publications including *The Guardian* and *New Statesman*. His first book, *Who Owns England?*, was an instant *Sunday Times* bestseller.

SYNOPSIS

Temperate rainforest may once have covered up to one-fifth of Britain, inspiring Celtic druids, Welsh wizards, Romantic poets, and Arthur Conan Doyle's most loved creations. In this awe-inspiring investigation, Guy Shrubsole travels through the Western Highlands and the Lake District, down to the rainforests of Wales, Devon, and Cornwall to map these spectacular lost worlds for the first time. This is the extraordinary tale of one person's quest to find Britain's lost rainforests – and bring them back.

Judging Panel

CRAIG BENNETT

Judging Chair and CEO UK,
Wildlife Trusts

Craig Bennett started as chief executive of The Wildlife Trusts in April 2020 with the ambition of putting a third of the UK's land and sea into nature recovery by 2030. Craig's prior titles include CEO of Friends of the Earth, deputy director at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, and director of The Prince of Wales's Corporate Leaders Group on Climate Change. He has been described as "one of the country's top environmental campaigners".



MARK CROPPER

Chairman of James Cropper

Mark is the current custodian of James Cropper, a specialist provider of niche paper solutions, including moulded fibre packaging designed to replace single use plastics. He also leads Ellergreen, which has led a renaissance in hydropower in the area and is now turning its attention to local community energy, zero carbon homes, and bio-abundant farming. This year, he has also commenced the UK's largest wildflower meadow restoration project.



SIR JOHN LAWTON

Leading Environmentalist

Sir John Lawton is an environmental scientist and conservationist whose Making Space for Nature report to Defra continues to have a major influence on conservation policy in the UK. Having trained as a zoologist at the University of Durham, Lawton has held distinguished posts at Oxford and York Universities and Imperial College London, and has acted as chairman of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, chief executive of the Natural Environment Research Council, and chairman of the Endangered Landscape Programme. He is currently president of Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and a vice-president of RSPB.



LEE SCHOFIELD

Shortlisted Author 2022

Lee Schofield is the author of *Wild Fell: Fighting for Nature on a Lake District Hill Farm*. He lives and works in the Lake District, where he oversees habitat restoration across 30 square kilometres of sprawling upland habitat in his role as site manager for the RSPB at Haweswater.



LUCY SIEGLE

Journalist and Broadcaster

Lucy Siegle is a UK-based journalist and broadcaster and opinion leader who specialises in taking nature stories outside the climate bubble. Known as a reporter and presenter on BBC1's *The One Show*, Siegle is also a speech writer and journalist, having contributed to publications including *The New European*, *The Guardian*, and the *New York Times*. In addition to being the author of five environmental titles, including *To Die For: Is Fashion Wearing out the World?*, longlisted for the George Orwell Prize, she is also known for her work on climate with singer songwriter, Ellie Goulding.

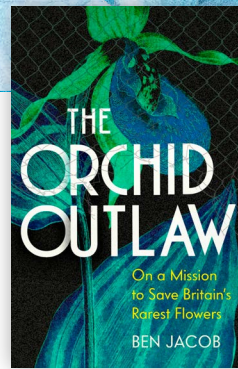




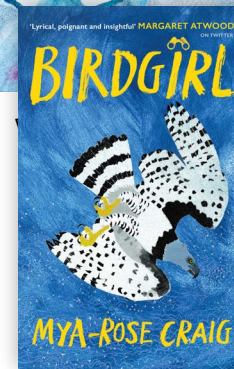
Fens, bogs, swamps and marine estuaries are the earth's most desirable and dependable resources. Pulitzer Prize winner Annie Proulx explores their vital role in preserving the environment, and their systemic destruction in the pursuit of profit. This is both a revelatory history and an urgent plea for wetland reclamation from one of our greatest prose stylists.



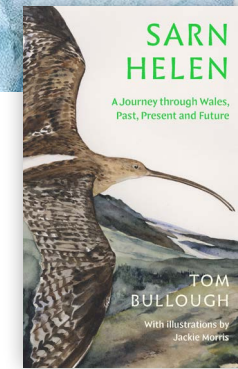
Set in the valley of the Mesta, one of the oldest inhabited river valleys in Europe and a nexus for wild plant gatherers, *Elixir* is an unforgettable exploration of the deep connections between people, plants and place.



On a mission to save Britain's endangered native orchids, Ben Jacob broke into building sites in the dead of night to rescue threatened plants, turned his kitchen into a laboratory, his fridge into storage for hundreds of baby flowers, and his back yard into a plantation. But doing all of this put him on the wrong side of the law...



Twenty-one-year-old British-Bangladeshi birder, environmentalist and activist, Mya-Rose Craig is an international force. In her moving memoir, *Birdgirl*, she chronicles her mother's struggle with mental illness and how her family used birds to cope, and shares her passion for social justice and fierce dedication to preserving our planet.



From the author of *Addlands*, and featuring illustrations by Jackie Morris, *Sarn Helen* is an immersive and evocative non-fictional journey through Wales and a revelatory meditation on the nation's past, present and future.



As climate change drives dozens of plants and animals towards extinction, are we forgetting them? Determined to ignite awareness of the environmental crisis, Sophie Pavele embarked on low-carbon trips to see ten rare native species. A wild, joyful odyssey, *Forget Me Not* is a clarion call for action and hope.

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*Mark Cropper,
James Cropper Plc, Chairman*



James Cropper Creative Papers have long been the choice of leading designers, conservationists, artists, writers and poets. We've been making fine papers for publishing and premium packaging since 1845 in the very town where Alfred Wainwright lived and worked.

In fact, in 2005 we produced a custom-made paper, matching the paper from the first editions, for the 50th Anniversary Wainwright pictorial guides that were printed in Kendal.

Whilst our location and the natural medium of paper connect us to Wainwright's wonderful legacy, it is that mutual respect and celebration of nature and conservation that sit at the heart of our sponsorship of the James Cropper Wainwright Prize.

Being located in the foothills of the English Lake District, the concept of stewardship, of looking after things for the next generation, is embedded in our business operations at James Cropper, as well as in the papers we make.

Paper is sustainable by design, being widely recycled and is derived from renewable sources. We are experts in creating beautiful papers by blending combinations of fresh and recycled fibres, we call this FibreBlend Upcycled Technology.

The publishing industry is looking at deepening the eco credentials of the raw materials that create the books we treasure. Our vision is to use our FibreBlend expertise to help the publishing industry truly embrace the principles of the circular economy.

As specialists in upcycling fibre, James Cropper created the world's first recycling process dedicated to upcycling take-away cups. We work with world-leading brands, and people across the globe connect with our papers in different ways. They can buy premium greetings cards from Hallmark, take their purchases home in carrier bags from Mulberry, or read books that had a previous life as a coffee cup.

For example, using our FibreBlend technology, we recently gave new life to 10.5 million paper cups used in McDonald's restaurants for drinks and soft ice creams, transforming them into children's books on nature and conservation, replacing toys in the chain's Happy Meals.

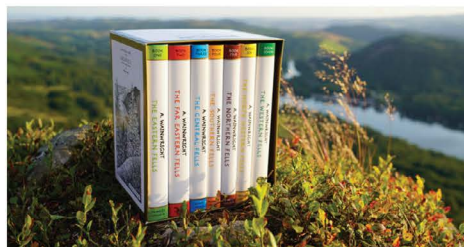
From the book binding to the pages the words are printed on, the paper of every book has the potential to tell a story of its own, by converting something which had a previous single-use life as another product into something to treasure, educate and pass on.

Our expert knowledge of fibre and upcycling is core to our papermaking craftsmanship,

all of our papers are created with FibreBlend technology. From bespoke papers made to order, the Wainwright Colours from Nature collection, made with 100% recycled fibre and dyed with natural ingredients, to Rydal Apparel, giving a new lease of life to worn denim jeans, we continue to advance our circular story by creating new value from waste.

As producers of one of the only UK sourced upcycled fibre for use in short-run publishing and creative print, we are forging new ground. We want to demonstrate how telling stories through paper can not only excite the imagination and educate, but also provide a significant opportunity to contribute to the circular economy.

People, young and old, are more aware than ever before of the impact which everyday things have on the planet. At a time when the natural world is under increasing threat, we are delighted to support the authors involved in this year's James Cropper Wainwright Prize who are inspiring book lovers to connect with the natural world and share an intrinsic attitude towards global conservation.



JAMES CROPPER
FibreBlend
UPCYCLED TECHNOLOGY

Dan Saladino

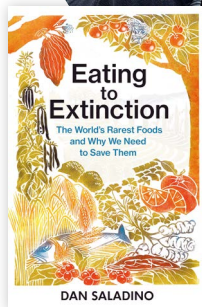
Eating to Extinction

CONSERVATION WRITING: 2022 WINNER

A captivating and urgent exploration of some of the world's most endangered foods, *Eating to Extinction* is a thrilling journey through the history of humankind's relationship with food, which reveals a world at a crisis point. From a tiny crimson pear in the west of England to great chunks of fermented sheep meat in the Faroe Islands to an exploding corn in Mexico that might just hold the key to the future of food - these are just some of the thousands of foods around the world today that are at risk of being lost forever. In this captivating and wide-ranging book, Dan Saladino spans the globe to uncover the stories of these foods. All of human history is woven through these stories, from the first great migrations to the slave trade to the refugee crisis today. But *Eating to Extinction* is about so much more than preserving the past; the future of our planet depends on reclaiming genetic biodiversity before it is too late.

ABOUT

Dan Saladino is a journalist and broadcaster who makes programmes about food for BBC Radio 4 and BBC World Service. His work has been recognised by the Guild of Food Writers Awards, the Fortnum and Mason Food and Drink Awards, and by the James Beard Foundation in America. *Eating to Extinction* was also awarded the 2019 Jane Grigson Trust Award. He lives in Cheltenham and has Sicilian roots.



CHARLOTTE SMITH, JUDGING CHAIR,
SUMMARISED THE JUDGING PANEL'S
VIEWS ON THE WINNING TITLE

"OUR WINNER IS
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CLEAR SOLUTIONS - IT GAVE
US ENORMOUS HOPE FOR THE
FUTURE"

DISCOVER

a world of
walking



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A Wild Child's Book of Birds

BY DARA MCANULTY, ILLUSTRATED BY BARRY FALLS



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BIO

Dara McNulty is a naturalist, conservationist and activist from Northern Ireland. He has received many awards for his conservation work, has written and presented numerous natural history programmes for BBC radio and television, and has become an environmental ambassador for many organisations. Dara is the youngest ever recipient of the RSPB medal for conservation and the winner of the 2020 Wainwright Prize for Nature Writing.

Barry Falls is an award-winning commercial illustrator, working with clients such as *The New York Times*, American Airlines and *The Telegraph*. His first book, *It's Your World Now!* was published in 2019.

SYNOPSIS

This beautifully illustrated book takes readers through a year in the life of the birds in Britain and Ireland. Divided into four seasonal sections, you will find out what birds do each season while learning about birdsong, beaks, nesting, the science of flight, migration, attracting birds to your garden, and recording what you see.



Blobfish

BY OLAF FALAFEL

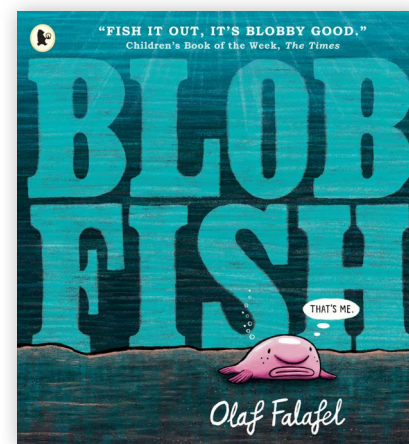


AUTHOR BIO

Olaf Falafel is an award-winning comedian, children's author and illustrator. In 2020, Olaf started Art Club – a YouTube series packed with jokes, how-to-draw tutorials, technical tips and tricks as well as a few fantastically silly songs. Olaf's recent books include *Unleash Your Creative Monster: A Children's Guide to Writing* written by Andy Jones, with oodles of Olaf's jokes and bright and bold illustrations.

SYNOPSIS

Deep, deep, deep under the sea ... lives Blobfish! Blobfish loves telling jokes, although he has no one to share them with, so he sets off on an adventure to find a friend. But sometimes friends turn up in the most unexpected places, even at the bottom of the ocean. This heartfelt and humorous story gently introduces children to themes of friendship, belonging and the issue of plastics in our oceans.



Grandpa and the Kingfisher

BY ANNA WILSON, ILLUSTRATED BY SARAH MASSINI



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BIO

Anna Wilson lives in Cornwall with her husband and dog, cat, ducks and a tortoise called Hercules. A keen wild swimmer and advocate for protecting animals and nature, Anna's passion for the natural world shines through in all her work.

Sarah Massini has had a varied creative career as a corporate graphic designer, a children's book art editor, and now as the acclaimed illustrator of many picture books including *The Velveteen Rabbit* and *The Little Prince*. She lives in Sussex with her ecologist husband and her Scottie-dog Coco.

SYNOPSIS

Life-affirming and lyrical, this beautiful picture book celebrates the awesome power of nature, while gently introducing young children to the concept of life and death. As spring turns to summer and autumn to winter, the kingfishers raise a family on the riverbank, while Grandpa teaches his grandchild about the power of nature and the circle of life.



Leila and the Blue Fox

BY KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE,
ILLUSTRATED BY TOM DE FRESTON



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BIO

Kiran Millwood Hargrave is an award-winning, bestselling novelist. Her debut story for children, *The Girl of Ink & Stars* won the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the British Book Awards Children's Book of the Year. Hargrave met Tom de Freston when she was a student and Tom was artist-in-residence at Cambridge University. They have been a couple and collaborators ever since, and *Julia and the Shark*, shortlisted for the Wainwright Prize and named Waterstones Children's Gift of the Year, was their first novel. Tom is making his illustrative debut having worked as an acclaimed artist for many years.

SYNOPSIS

Based on the true story of an Arctic fox who walked from Norway to Canada in 76 days, the blue fox crosses ice and snow, over mountains and across frozen oceans beneath the endless daylight of an Arctic summer. Meanwhile, Leila embarks on a journey of her own, finding her way to the mother who left her. This compelling, emotional and beautifully illustrated story charts a breathtaking journey across the sea, with Leila rediscovering herself and the mother she thought she'd lost, with help from a determined little fox.



Protecting the Planet: The Season of Giraffes

BY NICOLA DAVIES, ILLUSTRATED BY EMILY SUTTON

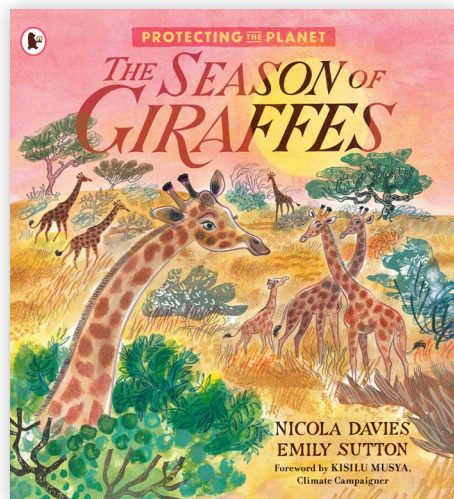


AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BIO

Nicola Davies is an award-winning author, whose many books for children include the *A First Book of...* and *Tiny* series, *The Promise*, *King of the Sky* and *The Day War Came*. In 2017, she became the first ever recipient of the SLA's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Information Books. Emily Sutton is the best-selling illustrator of the *Tiny* series, *The Christmas Eve Tree*, the acclaimed *A First Book of the Sea* and *Everyone Sang* by William Sieghart.

SYNOPSIS

In this powerful picture-book, Davies writes in collaboration with conservationist Kisilu Musya to explain how one of the world's best-loved animals has dealt with the challenges of climate change. Giraffes were once a part of daily life in Niger, but after severe droughts one year, when the rains eventually return, the giraffes are nowhere to be seen. *The Season of Giraffes* is ultimately a hopeful, celebratory story that makes an important point about how humans can make change for the better.



Spark

BY M.G. LEONARD



AUTHOR BIO

M. G. Leonard is an award-winning, bestselling writer of children's books, as well as a member of Authors4Oceans. Her books are sold in 40 countries, and there is currently a TV series in development based on her *Beetle Boy* series. She has since written her first picture book, *The Tale of a Toothbrush*, and has co-authored the critically acclaimed *Adventures on Trains* series. Before becoming a writer, M. G. Leonard worked as a digital media producer for the National Theatre, The Royal Opera House and Shakespeare's Globe. She lives by the sea with her husband, two sons and pet beetles.

SYNOPSIS

When Jack discovers that someone in Briddvale is taking pot shots at local pets with a pellet gun, he is determined that The Twitchers will get to the bottom of it. But The Twitchers are more interested in the news that a rare and endangered bearded vulture has been spotted heading for Aves Wood. Determined to prove himself a detective, Jack sets off to investigate, only to find himself in deep water... Jack must use all his bravery and detective skills to stop a terrible crime, and to prove to his friends that he's a deserving member of The Twitchers.



Judging Panel

MARK FUNNELL

Communication & Campaign Director,
National Trust

Mark is communications and campaigns director at the National Trust. He has specialised in environmental communications and campaigns for over 20 years. His other recent roles include interim director of communications at Defra, head of communications at the Forestry Commission, and head of external relations at the Environment Agency. Mark started out in editorial and publishing roles, working for five years at a consumer magazine publishing company.



BEN SHIRES

Children's TV Presenter

Ben Shires is the award-winning (and more often losing) presenter of children's TV favourites *Officially Amazing*, *Match of the Day Kickabout* (CBBC) and *Dig Detectives* (Sky Kids), as well as the owner of a rather splendid quiff. An unrepentant Yorkshireman, when he's not cheering on Leeds United or scoffing Yorkshire puddings, Ben is in demand for live event hosting, and has worked for many years with high profile organisations such as the Premier League, BAFTA and English Heritage.



ROISIN TAYLOR

Co-director for UK Youth for Nature

Roisin Taylor is co-director for UK Youth for Nature, a nature friendly flower farmer and Nuffield farming scholar from the north-east of England. Roisin grew up in the countryside on a steady diet of children's books like *Bramble Hedge*, Beatrix Potter and *Where's Ted?* She is looking forward to getting back to her roots and delving into judging for the Children's category of the Wainwright Prize!



KATE MCCLOSKEY

Independent Bookseller

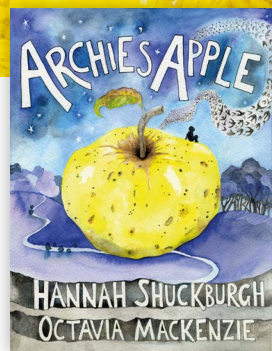
Kate McCloskey has a Ph.D. in Hispanic Literature and a professional background in copywriting, libraries and the social sector. She owns and runs Dogberry & Finch Books in Okehampton on the northern edge of Dartmoor, her home town's first indie bookshop in 30 years.



HELEN MUSSELWHITE

2022 Wainwright Prize Official Artist

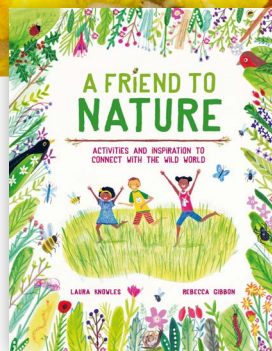
Helen Musselwhite is a creator of enchanting paper artistry, forging flora and fauna creations with beguiling craftiness. There is a humbleness to the way she crafts out of one raw, natural, and modest material; it is a pastoral resourcefulness, an offering back to nature. Creating inherently shares a link to nature - to things grown and made.



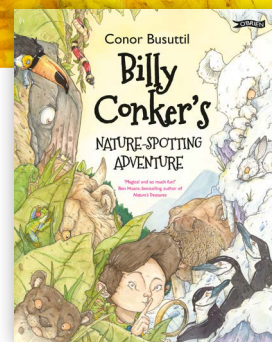
Inspired by a true story, *Archie's Apple* tells the tale of Archie, who lives with his father in a stone cottage in a deep dark wood. Every day, Archie plays in the woods, watching and hearing nature. But one day deep in the woods he finds an apple, quite unlike any apple he's ever seen or eaten. His discovery takes them on an adventure that neither he nor his dad could have foreseen.



Mink doesn't believe in rules. She loves running wild and free. So, when a zebra appears in the square where she lives and she finds out that his parents have been captured by the evil Mr Spit, she knows that it's up to her to help. So begins a grand adventure to rescue a whole menagerie of animals – an adventure that will take all of Mink's courage and determination.



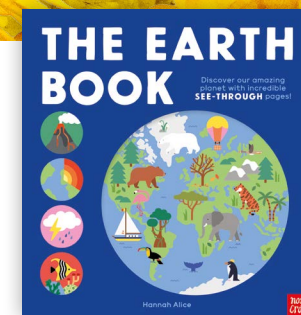
An illustrated book celebrating the natural world and ways to appreciate it, filled with practical activities and ideas to help wildlife and the environment on your doorstep and worldwide.



Billy Conker is a young conservationist. He loves visiting different places around the world, discovering all the amazing animals and plants there and finding out how he can help them. Join Billy as he explores ponds and forests, oceans and coral reefs, deserts, prairies, cities and more!



Tom is still quiet and timid, and Zofia has a raging storm that makes her want to fight the whole world until she gets what she wants. And what she wants is for scaredy-cat Tom to get out of her life. Tom hates loud, unpredictable Zofia just as much, but he's moving into Zofia's house because his mum and Zofia's dad are in love and are having a baby, which Tom and Zofia aren't happy about. But then Tom's mum gets ill, and it begins to look horribly like their wish might come true...



What happens deep under the Earth's surface? How do volcanoes form? And how does our planet stay a healthy place for us to live? With labelled acetate diagrams – from outer space to super soil and from weather systems to the water cycle, *The Earth Book* is an exciting way to explore all the amazing things our planet does.

Rob and Tom Sears

The Biggest Footprint

CHILDREN'S PRIZE: 2022 WINNER

A fun, highly original, fact-packed and beautifully illustrated book about climate change and how to make the world a better place, revealing our giant species as we've never seen ourselves before and showing us how – together – we can do a better job of looking after the planet. *The Biggest Footprint* tells the story of the mega human, a 3km-tall, blue giant made of all humanity 'smooshed' together – who, despite not being the smartest of creatures, is beginning to understand the problems it has created for planet earth's future, and how it might be able to fix them. Using brain-bending statistics about humanity's impact on the planet, this is a totally unique and beautifully illustrated book that uses statistics to present the challenges of climate change in a new light.



ABOUT

Rob and Tom's creative partnership began in the 1980s when Tom was born. Now, Rob is a bestselling writer and Tom is an illustrator. They've created everything from zoo exhibitions and ice cream van designs, to sitcoms, books, newspaper cartoons, and movie scripts. They made this book as an experiment to try to understand the species that they are a part of, and that you're most likely a part of too. Despite everything they learned, they're still hopeful about what's next for humans and the planet.

**GEMMA HUNT, JUDGING CHAIR,
SUMMARISED THE JUDGING PANEL'S
VIEWS ON THE WINNING TITLE**

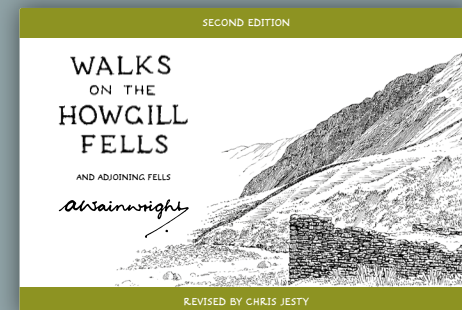
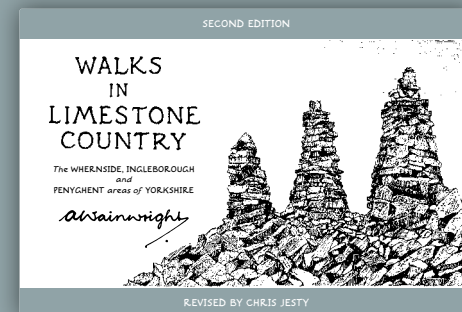
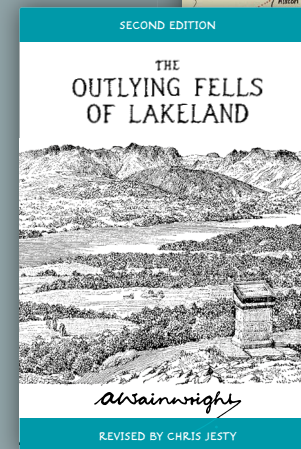
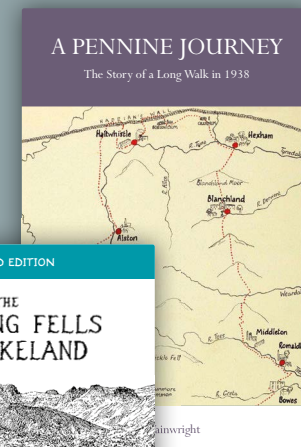
"THIS TOTALLY UNIQUE AND HIGHLY INNOVATIVE BOOK CAPTURED ALL OUR IMAGINATIONS. IT'S AN EMPOWERING, INSIGHTFUL TALE THAT HELPS US ALL, AT ANY AGE, UNDERSTAND AND TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE BIGGEST THREAT OF OUR LIFETIME. SUCH A CLEVER AND ORIGINAL BOOK THAT FEELS TOTALLY DESERVING OF OUR INAUGURAL PRIZE."

The Wainwright Society was formed in 2002 and now has over 2000 family members. The Society promotes Alfred Wainwright's vision of introducing a wider audience to fellwalking and caring for the hills.

We contribute to public debate on issues affecting landscape quality and the quality of life in upland areas.

Increased membership over the past few years has helped us raise funds of over £175,000 for various good causes including Mountain Rescue Teams, Search and Rescue Dogs, Fix the Fells, Animal Rescue Cumbria and The Lake District Calvert Trust.

We've also republished four out of print Alfred Wainwright titles which are available to purchase from the Society's website.



Ten Years of The Wainwright Prize

As stacks of nature writing books titter high in bookshops, and submissions for our prize proliferate into unheard-of numbers, it is clear that we have found ourselves in a glorious golden age of nature writing. Entering the tenth year of the James Cropper Wainwright Prize, which has flourished in popularity and support over the last decade in ways we couldn't have imagined, we turn our eyes to the glow of nature books past - the stand-out books, the titans of the genre, the newcomers, and those changing and diversifying the genre for the better.

And why at this very moment in time have we found ourselves at such a pinnacle of nature writing? What propels us to connect with the natural world around us, to reckon with our place within it in new ways? We think it is because, in many ways, nature writing is a tide that tugs at us to rediscover our natural roots, pulling us back towards the natural world many of us have been sheltered from for too long.

Most of us find ourselves entrapped in the commotion of modern life, consumed by technology, city living and often, individualism. It can be undeniably overwhelming, as if our anchor

to the present is lost somewhere just out of reach, our holistic sense of the world faded. In this drought of modernity, we have found ourselves reaching towards an oasis of nature writing: books that can subdue, reconnect and revitalise us. Accomplished writing can reignite in us a fire to appreciate and protect our surroundings.

It was during the Covid pandemic that many of us discovered or rediscovered our affinity with nature. While the world stopped, nature continued, its rhythms and cadences pulsing on. In the morning birdsong, the flight of a bird, the sinking sun, or the soft changing of the leaves, time could be felt, even when all else ceased. Our Prize slogan at that time was, 'Let the outside in', as not all of us were lucky enough to be able to get outside. Nature books served to ground us when the solidity of the natural world remained just out of grasp, seen through a foggy pane of window or from an apartment balcony, but not felt under our feet. Both reading and nature books blossomed at this moment, as our time to read, reflect and notice increased. It seems these invaluable ways of thinking have been carried onwards, into our present moment.



Jane King, Step-Daughter of Alfred Wainwright, The Wainwright Estate

“We’re thrilled to have reached such an important milestone, reflecting a general drive amongst the population to reconnect with nature and an upturn in reading in the genre over this period”

- Alastair Giles, Prize Director



Our prize's history begins with the remarkable figure of our namesake Alfred Wainwright: fell walker, mapper, writer and illustrator. His legacy runs deep amongst nature enthusiasts, most keenly felt in his popular guidebooks, the *Pictorial Guides to the Lakeland Fells*, which are meticulous and intricate in their detail. Wainwright revolutionised the way we interact with the natural world, combining fact with artistry. In his own unique way, he was not only able to map out the fells on which he walked, but he also captured their distinctive character. This year, the prize comes full circle as we return to Alfred Wainwright's roots and hometown, Kendal, burrowed in the sublime peaks of the Lake District, for a festival-style celebration of this year's winners, who undoubtedly continue his legacy in their writing.

Our last ten years of platforming the best nature writing has been a rich journey, navigating stories of our natural world. *The Green Road Into Trees* was the inaugural winner of the Wainwright Prize, in which travel writer and film-maker Hugh Thomson charts his odyssey across England, through ancient trackways and green grass roads, from coast to coast, exploring the past and present of his homeland – the legends, literature and natural worlds that have shaped us, including the subterranean

cultures of Celts, Saxons and Vikings that lie closer to home than we may imagine. Likewise, the celebrated Robert Macfarlane's canon of work is a lyrical exploration of the landscape's interconnectedness with language and storytelling. His Wainwright-Prize-winning book, *Underlands*, is an exploration of deep time, myth, memory and human experience. Like Orpheus, he travels into the deep pits of the underworld. He writes, 'I have rarely felt as far from the human realm as when only 10 metres below it, held in the shining jaws of a limestone bedding plane first formed on the floor of a warm Cretaceous sea'. Humanity feels small in his work, a speck in the history of geological time.

John Lewis-Stempel, British author, farmer and naturalist, is our only double-winner of the Prize. His first winning title, *Meadowland*, is an ode to the English meadow, seen through the rural year; it is an opera of the hidden lives of its inhabitants who scurry and burrow amongst the grass blades and beneath the trodden earth. His later work, *Where Poppies Blow*, shifts in focus, movingly telling a story of affinity between World War One soldiers and nature in the trenches. Lewis-Stempel writes, 'In the trenches, soldiers actually habited the bowels of the earth, in direct and myriad contact with all flora and fauna of Flanders and the Somme. Nature was all around,

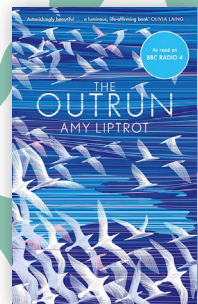
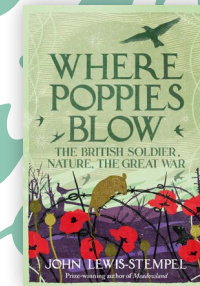
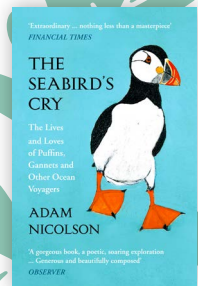
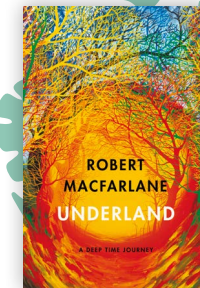
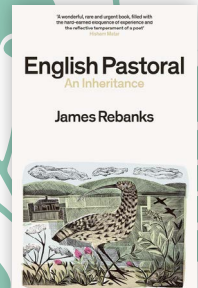
in every one of Its/His/Her guises'. Where soldiers fell and shells soared, the shoots of spring emerged. Nature was a source of solace for those men who fought: birdwatching transpired, nature poetry abounded, and trench gardens were cultivated.

Our third winner of the prize, Amy Liptrot's *The Outrun*, radiated like the Merry Dancers she searches for in Orkney's Northern night sky. Hers is a vulnerable and candid account of addiction and healing. Lost in a hedonistic, alcohol-driven cycle in London, Amy finds herself in her once-home of the remote Orkney isles, fractured, lost, and wounded, amid memories of her childhood and her past: 'When I first came back to Orkney I felt like the strandings of jellyfish, laid out on the rocks for all to see. I was washed up: no longer buoyant, battered and storm-tossed'. Immersing herself in the icy currents of the North Sea, beachcombing, observing puffins nesting on sea stacks and seafowl circling, she is pulled towards recovery. A rich and spatially textured work, Liptrot maps the spaces in between city and wilderness, musing on what is lost in the tides and then eventually returned to us.

Nature writing is, of course, primarily about nature, but its depth and complexity is bottomless, as it constantly evaluates and re-evaluates our relationship to the natural world, interrogating concepts such as place, time, and belonging.



Robert Macfarlane, 2019 Wainwright Prize winner

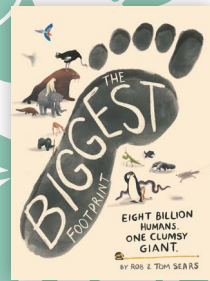
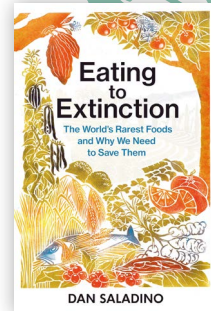
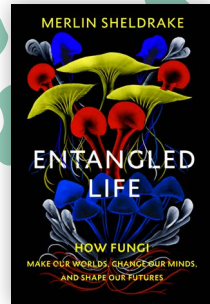
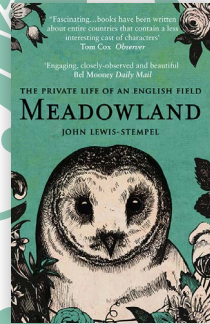
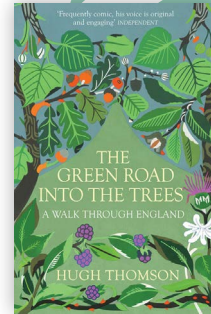


“Every single voice that we add to a discussion diversifies and enriches it”

- Dara McAnulty

Nature is not only natural, but social, historical, political and philosophical. And while there are books that place the self in nature, exploring our connection and interconnectedness to nature, there are also works that are more educational and polemic in their stance; a call to action for us to save our dwindling natural resources and protect our vulnerable planet, to face the raging forest fires, devastating plastic pollution and brutal wildlife destruction that engulfs our earth. This propelled us to create a new category of nature writing in 2020 – the Prize for Conservation.

While attitudes to the right way to conserve and protect our planet may vary, the same fervent desire lies at the heart of this genre. Benedict Macdonald's *Rebirding* claimed the first Conservation title, followed by Merlin Sheldrake's *Entangled Life*, and last year, Dan Saladino's *Eating to Extinction* won the Prize. These works are rich in variation: a compelling manifesto for restoring Britain's wildlife and restoring rural jobs; the secret and incredible lives of fungi; the foods that are at risk of being lost forever and the stories behind them. To quote Merlin Sheldrake, 'Words form stories



and stories shape our senses and imaginations. Our senses and imaginations allow us to enter into relationships with those around us, whether human or non-human'.

And with this drive for conservation has emerged the global climate youth movement, a passionate and inflamed collective of youth activists determined to do something concrete about climate change and to save their futures. From this cast of heroes is our very own Wainwright Prize winner, Dara McAnulty, the youngest person yet to win a major literary prize. McAnulty claimed the 2020 Nature Prize with his deeply-

felt memoir, *The Diary of a Young Naturalist*. Charting a year in his life from Spring equinox to the following Spring equinox, Dara moves from one side of Northern Ireland to the other, finding respite in nature, and uncovering how his love of the natural world is intertwined with his autism.

Speaking to us, Dara proclaimed modestly and compellingly that, 'This book feels like a youth voice. For me, that feels like the most important thing, that maybe, just maybe, some other young people might see this book, and might think about taking up their own voice'. He continues, 'I just want to hear everybody else, all these young



Mark Cropper & James Rebanks, 2021 James Cropper Wainwright Prize winner

people out there and their voices, and this prize means that bit more to me because it feels like youth voices can be heard, and we can, even in the world of literature - which has always been seen as older, especially nature writing - be heard. I've proved to myself that younger people can write about these diverse and incredible issues, while also exploring the natural world that we live in'. This year, we welcome another brilliant young activist, Mya-Rose Craig, into our fold with her longlisted work, *Birdgirl*, a story of the joy and consolation she has found in birdwatching.

In recognition of the central role of children and young people whose words, speeches and rallies have changed the narrative around nature, we introduced another vital and timely category last year - the Children's Prize for Writing on Nature and Conservation. Brothers Rob and Tom Sears were awarded the inaugural prize for their richly illustrated book and imaginative story, *The Biggest Footprint*, and Dara McNulty found himself once again on a Wainwright Prize shortlist the following year for his children's book, *Wild Child: A Journey Through Nature*, which felt only fitting.

As McNulty rightly pointed out to us, 'Every single voice that we add to a discussion



Dara McNulty, 2020 Wainwright Prize winner and 2022/2023 shortlisted author



diversifies and enriches it', and it is refreshing to witness the changes in publishing that have happened in the nature writing industry over the last decade. And for the first time in our prize's history, this year's longlist has been dominated by female writers. The notion of the aloof, male, Romantic nature writer is losing its footing, and something more diverse is emerging. The stories and connections that different people have to the land and sea are coming to the surface, buried as they have been by the types of narratives that have taken centre stage. The right to claim land and one's place in it is a complex issue, and the ability to naturally feel at home or to 'belong' is

often a privilege. This year's longlistee Mya-Rose Craig is also a campaigner for equal access to nature via her organisation Black2Nature, and we are so grateful for figures such as her who are changing this space in order to allow diverse stories to flourish and be told.

Whether authors are celebrating their relationship to nature, writing a political manifesto to tackle climate change, or illustrating a children's book on the wonders of the natural world, each story is theirs to tell, and each narrative is further drawing our attention to the wildlife on our doorsteps.

Olga Prinku

FEATURED ARTIST



We are delighted to introduce the extraordinary Olga Prinku, this year's artist-in-residence. As an originator of the craft of flowers-on-tulle embroidery, Prinku's work embodies the artistry we find in the natural world every day, as well as nature's creative potential to enrich and make up our own creative practices. Now living in North Yorkshire with her husband and son, Olga is a grower and forager herself, directly gathering the natural materials she finds around her to create her enchanting pieces.

Combining dried and preserved flowers and plant-based materials with tulle fabric, Olga's rich portfolio of artwork draws the eye to the unique structures of plant life we find around us, from the skeletal branches of woodland trees to delicate, intricate petals and tender berries. Detailed, fragile, and richly textured, Prinku's art is an act of preservation of the natural world around us, as well as a transformative act. She creates something new and imaginative

from her materials, often inspired by motifs drawn from nature and traditional folkloric embroidery patterns or tapestries.

Beginning her career as a graphic designer and keenly crafting outside of work, her creativity grew into something beyond all her expectations. Olga bends the traditional embroidery technique by using natural materials as her thread, which forms the very structure and foundation of her work. The work itself involves getting a tactile feel for natural materials - both their strength and fragility. Beautifully, Olga's pieces are ever-evolving as the natural materials she uses take on a new form with time and age.

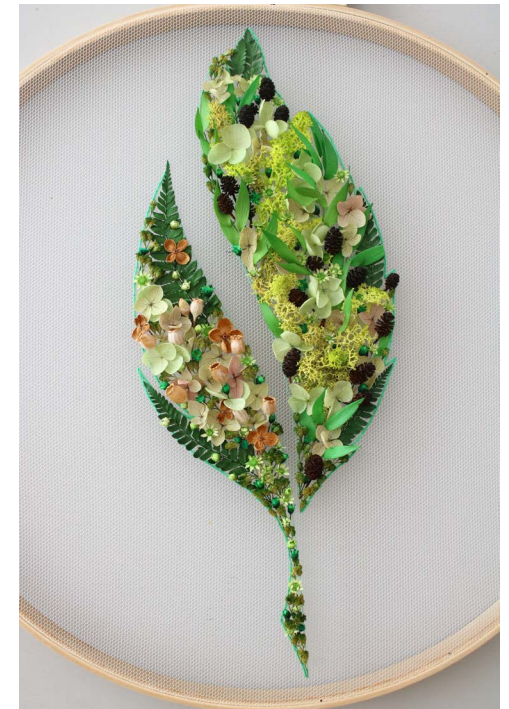
We were inspired by Olga's unique skill and ingenuity, her ability to push traditions and creative boundaries, and, of course, the natural spirit at the heart of her art and every piece she creates.

www.prinku.com



"I take inspiration for my work from long walks in the countryside - observing how nature changes through the seasons, and how there's beauty in plants that are often overlooked, and in every stage of a plant's life cycle. I'm honoured to be a part of a prize that's named after a man whose name is synonymous with long country walks, and that aims to inspire more people to develop their love and appreciation of the natural world around us".

- Olga Prinku



Acknowledgements

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James Cropper is delighted to support the authors involved in this year's Wainwright Prize who are telling their story with paper, and connecting people with the natural world and global conservation.

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facility in the English Lake District, closing the loop on what was once a significant waste stream. In fact, we have rescued 4 disposable coffee cups in the production of this magazine, giving them a valuable second life as beautiful paper.

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The fantastic 2023 judging panels.

Our featured artist Olga Prinku:
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JAMES CROPPER

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