

an Invitation

To Co-Create a New Living Learning Experience

An inspiring new way of relating to our evolutionary origins and one another through 'natural inclusion'

Facilitated by Dr Alan Rayner

When: Saturday 10th April, 2010

Where: The Matara Centre,
Kingscote Park, Kingscote, Gloucs GL8 8YA - England
www.matara.co.uk

RSVP by phone to the Matara Centre: 01453 861050
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NaturesScope

Unlock Natural Empathy and Creativity

The intention of NaturesScope co-enquiry is to provide an opportunity for those attending to reflect and learn together not just about the living world, but from the living world.

Aim of this one-day meeting

To bring people who have already experienced the view of natural inclusion together with others who are interested in finding out more and thinking about how it might be applied to their life and work. From this it is hoped that ideas will emerge about how to develop the *NaturesScope* programme and take it out into the wider community. *What* should the programme include; *Where* should it be presented; *When* and *how often* should it be presented; *Who* would like to be involved in the programme and in *what way*; *How* should the programme be resourced?

NaturesScope Co-enquiry

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In practical terms, it is envisaged that the co-enquiry will involve bringing people together physically or virtually into a welcoming location or 'pool' that invites them to receive, reflect upon and respond to insights offered by one another about their knowledge and experience of life in the natural world. Depending on its length, which can be anything from one or two hours to one or two days, it will cover one or more themes to do with life, environment, and people, which Alan (or any one else familiar with the approach) will introduce using poetry, art, outdoor experience and imaginative exercises as well as more conventional forms of presentation to initiate and sustain conversations amongst those present. This will be followed by conversations initiated by other participants.

Suitable topics for discussion might include:

'the meaning of natural neighbourhood' © 'water and life' © 'biodiversity' © 'evolutionary creativity' © 'living with uncertainty' © 'love' © 'sustainability' © 'biotechnology' © 'globalization' © 'consumerism' © 'the nature of time' © 'climate change' © 'conflict' © 'conservation' © 'modes of governance' © 'pollution' © 'science and religion/art/mathematics'

Summary

For thousands of years we have tried to study, interpret and teach ourselves *about* Nature from our own point of view, through the lenses of our telescopes, microscopes and binocular eyesight directed outwards. We see a rigidly framed objective picture 'out there' that does not include our selves yet upon which we project our own image and psychology.

This one-way view has brought us into profound conflict with our natural origins and one another. *NaturesScope* evokes a different view, *from* Nature, which brings human beings and the world into empathic mutual relationship. It assists us in enquiring imaginatively and creatively into how to turn the narrowed down objective worldview around and see our selves and our world through nature's fluid lens of mutual inclusion.

People who have experienced this view of natural inclusion have found it a source of profound inspiration.

Background

Alan Rayner is a naturalist who uses art, poetry, 'transfigural' mathematics and rigorous scientific observation to enquire and communicate about our natural human neighbourhood. He has been using a participatory and co-creative approach to explore his evolutionary understanding of *natural inclusion* with final year undergraduate students at the University of Bath, U.K., since 2001.

He wants to open what he has learned through this experience to others through *NaturesScope*

Programme For the Day

09.00 - 11.00.

Meeting, greeting, coffee and tea, allowing people time to arrive and relax

11.00 - 12.30.

Introductory conversation about NaturesScope and experience of natural inclusion, led by Alan Rayner

12.30 - 14.30.

Lunch and walk and talk in the grounds

14.30 - 16.00.

Group discussions: how could - and should - we make NaturesScope a viable project?

16.00 - 17.00.

Tea and departure

About The Matara Centre: A meeting of minds

Big decisions need places to be calm, clear and fresh. Matara is such a place - an exceptional setting as where we meet determines what we can achieve. In times of change and transformation organizations need to reassess where they are going and how to get there. They need an environment that makes this easy: A space that encourages the imagination and creativity. A space that helps bring people together so we can move forward. Usually our offices or traditional meeting venues lock us in to where we already are.

**Do,
please come and help us make
an imaginative turn.**

You will be most welcome!

Who is invited?

Anyone who has received this invitation, especially Bath University alumni, friends and colleagues of Alan and their friends and colleagues. Total numbers may have to be limited, so please RSVP early to ensure a place.

Cost, Travel and Accommodation

There is no charge for participation. We would appreciate a contribution of £10 per person towards administrative costs, food and drink. Participants will need to make their own travel and accommodation arrangements. The Matara Centre can provide advice about local overnight accommodation in the area, if this is needed.

Imaginative Turn

How tiresome it is
This beast that turns in my grave
Shrieking to unearth
Such fearful foreboding
Of what is to come
From what has been done
In the name of the Rose
That holds itself in
Enshrouded by sepals
To keep all its petals
From falling to ground
Out of sight, far from sound
Stalled in the bud
Distilled in the mud
Defended by prickle
Refusing to tickle
But piercing instead
The heart that yearns
To get out of bed

How exciting it is
This creature that rises with the sun
Singing its heart out
In radiant flower
Bearing fruit into joys to come
From what has been done
Crying, hip, hip hooray!
In the name of the Rose
That gathers all in
As it dies and grows
Loosing its petals
From the confines of sepals
To spread light in sound



Through death and decay
Before turning back inward
Whilst falling to ground
Where others come to bear its energy
away
Into life that unfurls
In the opening
That sustains the possibility
Of flowering afresh
Through darkness in light
Breaking out of bounds
In another day

Alan Rayner 1/10/2010

'Digitalis' (Oil painting on canvas and poem by Alan Rayner)

Oh, that iron fist that hides; In a velvet glove; Intoxicating the heart; Whilst ordering its erratic wanderings; Into the hard-edged metronomic beatings; Of a loveless marriage to mechanical objects; So clearly defined; To beguile the seeker of certainty; Could not that purple velvet that flatters to deceive; Yet restore our child's play?

An antidotal, anecdotal softening; Of hard manipulations; That exclude the darkness from the day; Light touching lightly upon the fringes; Of etchings into clay; Where the bodies' soft life-linings; Can frolic in the summer hay