Biography

Lesley Kinsley
An environmental perspective on the influence of Peruvian guano on the development of agriculture.

Lesley Kinsley will share recent findings from her doctoral research into the influence of Peruvian guano on the development of agriculture in the context of the Gibbs family legacy at Tyntesfield.

This will include an exploration of the following key questions:
- Why is Peruvian guano or seabird excrement the most effective and unique natural fertiliser in the world and how was it managed in Peru?
- How did Antony Gibbs and son come to hold the monopoly of the global guano trade and what was the cost to Peru?
- What were the environmental costs and benefits to British food production?
- How is Peruvian guano being managed today and what are the environmental implications?

Biography
Having previously worked as a teacher, lecturer and strategic manager, with a background in geography and environmental science, I enrolled for a PhD in History in 2012 at the University of Bristol. My planned thesis title is currently: 'The Guano Moment: a socio-environmental perspective on mid-nineteenth century British agricultural development and attitudes to excrement'.

Bill Morris
The National Trust Land Management, stewardship and conservation practice.

Bill Morris will explore how since 1895 the National Trust has been caring for places of historic and natural beauty, conserving them ‘forever, for everyone’. Understanding the ‘spirit of place’ the features we all value about a site like Leigh Woods underpins this stewardship. Each element (history, landscape and wildlife) are interdependent and need an integrated approach to conserve them. The National Trust management tries to work with nature and be prepared to adapt and embrace changes in the dynamic natural world. We want to provide sustainable access and engagement that enables a wide range of people to enjoy and understand Leigh Woods.

Biography
First involved in conservation work many years ago as volunteer before doing an environmental degree. Worked for eight years in the Pennines for Kirklees and Oldham councils then moved to Avon Heath Country Park in Dorset. Joined the National Trust 15 years ago as Leigh Woods NNR warden, now as Head Ranger manages 7 sites in and around Bristol.
**Schedule of the day**

**Welcome:**
10.30 – arrive Tyntesfield – walk to the Saw Mill
11.00 Registration at the Saw Mill
11.10 Welcome by Ruth Gooding

**Part 1: On the Land**
11.15 – 11.45 Paul Chaney
FIELDCLUB – an introduction to dark ecology

11.45 – 12.15 Lesley Kingsley
An environmental perspective on the influence of Peruvian guano on the development of agriculture.

12.15 – 12.30 Bill Morris
The National Trust Land Management, stewardship and conservation practice

12.30 – 12.45 Discussion

12.45 – 1.30 Lunch

**Part 2: From the Land**
1.30 – 2.00 Justin Carter
Urban/Rural – Walking the Line

2.00 – 2.45 Tom Bailey and Jez Riley French
Leigh Woods: Sounding nature’s poetics

2.45 - 3.00 Discussion

3.00 – 4.00 – House and STILL/life exhibition visit

4.00 – 4.30 - Final discussion – Chapel

**Tom Bailey and Jez Riley French**
*Leigh Woods: Sounding nature’s poetics*

Tom Bailey and Jez Riley French discuss the making of Nightwalk. Within a landscape that has constantly shifted across time – from being beneath a sea bed, to observing the retreat of vast glaciers, to Celtic tribes, psalm singing, rare plants, murder, Romantic poets and nightingales singing... How does one begin to create a sonic natural history of Leigh Woods? What issues of geography, place and our interaction with an increasingly fragile natural world does this project address? Tom discusses the project’s conceptual origins (in Giorgio Agamben and Walter Benjamin), sharing his research process into the woods’ rich (natural) history. Jez, meanwhile, explores the methods recording and composing of sounds, and the particularities that Leigh Woods has thrown up in his practice as a field recording artist.

**Biography**
Tom Bailey (b. 1985) Bristol, produces work through his company, The MechanicalAnimal Corporation. Projects include Und (Paintworks), The Softening of MAO-A (Summerhall; World Stage Design), Johnny Head-in-Air (Amolfini) and The Temptation of Saint Anthony (ongoing). His work often investigates themes of environment and evolution.

Jez Riley French (b. 1965) born & lives in East Yorkshire. Using intuitive composition, field recording, improvisation and photography, French works to capture the detail and emotion connected to places and situations. Recent work includes recording surfaces and architectural spaces, which contributed to the Audible silence project currently on display at Tate Modern. His work has been performed, exhibited & published widely, including in France, Austria, Japan, Korea, the Czech Republic, and Belgium.

**Justin Carter**
*Urban/Rural – Walking the Line*

Taking W. J. Muller’s painting ‘Autumn’ (1833) as a starting point, Justin Carter developed a work which moves between Leigh Woods, Bristol Museum and Tyntesfield House. Carter will discuss how Bristol’s distinctive topography helped to shape the project. He will also show footage from the film he has been working on with Benjamin A Owen, who captured one of the walks in early September.

**Biography**

**Paul Chaney**
*FIELDCLUB – an introduction to dark ecology*

Paul will introduce the FIELDCLUB project – an experimental smallholding in the Southwest of the UK, originally set up to interrogate the premise of subsistence farming and off-grid living in a post-industrial society. Paul’s practise at FIELDCLUB focused on revealing complexities concealed within this environmental ideology, illustrating the principles of ‘dark ecology’, and engaging with some of the more difficult areas of a post-human concept of nature. He will also discuss FieldMachine (the custom software tool that forms part of the work Hypothetical Reterritorialisation – Tyntesfield 2013) and the problem of imagining wide-scale alternatives to the industrially dependent city model.