



British Naturalists' Association

The National Body for Naturalists

BNA CONFERENCE 2005

What was the British Countryside like 100 years ago and how has it changed?

Event Overview

Roger Tabor, BNA Chairman invited delegates to this major national natural history event. Eminent and authoritative speakers addressed key issues such as:

- Is global warming affecting the seasons?
- Is wildlife revealing climate change?
- How can we learn from our experience and the records of the past 100 years?

Based at and around historic Cressing Temple, this Conference was an enjoyable, stimulating, and educational week-end in the country for everyone, both adults and children, with an interest in natural history and our environment

The Talks

Lecture by Dr. Andrew Stott : Climate change and biodiversity in the UK: towards adaptation

Lecture by Dr. Humphrey Q.P. Crick : Climate change & birds

Lecture by Professor Trevor Beebee: Amphibian breeding times: changes afoot?

Lecture by Dr. Tim Sparks: Phenological change in the UK (and further afield)

Environmental Forum: Discussion between members of a panel comprising Professor David Bellamy, Mr. Bill Oddie, Dr. Andrew Stott, Dr. Humphrey Crick, Professor Trevor Beebee and Mr. Tim Sparks, the panel also taking questions from the floor

Field visit

Field visit to a Cressing manorial wood (Lanham Wood), leader Dr. Oliver Rackham

Field workshops

Mr. Roger Tabor: British wild herbs. Mr. Martin Hicks: Small mammal trapping and identification, using Longworth traps. Mr. Tom Thomas: Spider sampling. Mr. Michael Demidecki: Barn owl pellet analysis

BNA Centenary Exhibition

Highlights of 100 Years of BNA activities exhibited throughout the day in the Wheat Barn.

- the history of the BNA and its founder E Kay Robinson, prolific author and pioneer naturalist BBC broadcaster
- 100 years of the BNA Phenology Survey
- BNA branch activity

Special John Ray Trust Events

Conference Gala Concert

St Michael's Church, Braintree

'A Musical Celebration of the Natural World'. Organised by The John Ray Trust.

Unveiling sculpture (by Peter Harrington, Potter & Community Artist) in Black Notley, on a site which would have been the garden of Ray's home, Dewlands

Rededication/ Blessing of John Ray's tomb at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Black Notley

John Ray

John Ray (1627-1705), known as the Father of Natural History, is probably the most distinguished British natural historian, and was the first to make a systematic classification of plants. His major work was the *Historia Plantarum*, a catalogue of more than 18,000 plants known to be growing in the British Isles in the 17th century.

Ray was born in Black Notley, two miles south of Braintree. He was educated at Braintree grammar school and at the age of 16 was awarded a scholarship to Cambridge University. His first publication, in 1660, was a *Catalogue of Cambridgeshire Plants*, the first on local flora for Britain. He travelled extensively in Europe and developed a wide range of knowledge, resulting in works on fish, mammals, birds and fossils, plus dictionaries and a book of proverbs.

The John Ray Trust

The John Ray Trust was founded in 1986, the 300th anniversary of the publication of *Historia Plantarum*.

It commemorates Ray's life and achievements. Ray's industry, scholarly approach and triumph over adversity make him an example that the trust recognises with bursaries and scholarships in the natural sciences, awarded to young students and those working on relevant projects.

For more information contact:
The John Ray Trust Town Hall Centre, Market Square,
Braintree, Essex CM7 3YG Tel: 01376 320369 Registered charity no. 294915



John Ray's memorial, Braintree

Conference speakers

Tim Sparks

Based at the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Monks Wood, Tim is instrumental in the data interpretation of the UK Phenology Network, a collaboration between the Centre and The Woodland Trust.

Trevor Beebee

From the University of Sussex, Trevor has worked on amphibian breeding and climatic influences for many years and is widely known as the author of '*Frogs and Toads*'.

Humphrey Crick

Of the British Trust for Ornithology, Humphrey has played a key role in the analysis of nearly 75,000 records for 65 species from 1971-1995.

Andrew Stott

Based at DEFRA's Biodiversity and Landscape Branch at Bristol, Andrew has worked on a number of projects linking climate change to effects on wild-life.

Leader of visit to Cressing manorial woods

Dr. Oliver Rackham OBE

is a Fellow of Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, and an acknowledged authority on the countryside and its history.



The Coxhead Bequest Art Exhibition Braintree Museum

A fascinating exhibition of over 100 botanic paintings selected from the Coxhead bequest to the BNA. Painted by Will Coxhead from the 1940s to his death in 1962, these paintings illustrate a broad range of British botanic species with a wealth of scientific detail.

Water Mint: drawn by Will Coxhead © Liz Artindale/BNA

