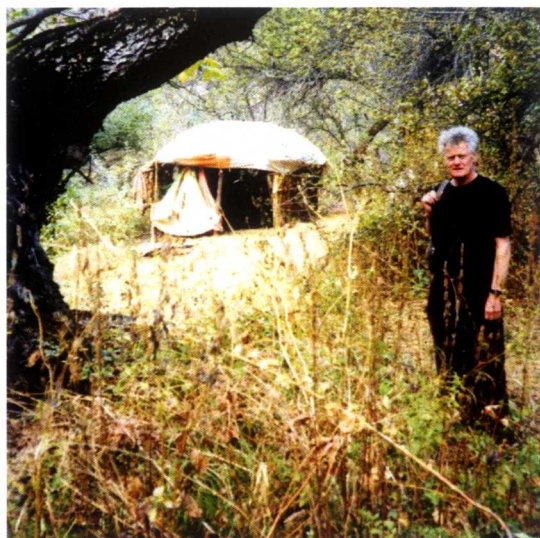


# Roger Deakin: Exploring the Archive

## *Talks, Readings and Discussion about Rivers and Woodlands*



The British Archive for Contemporary Writing is an exciting collection of contemporary authors' manuscripts, correspondence and related literary material held in the University of East Anglia's Archives. In 2010, we were given the nature writer and conservationist Roger Deakin's complete archive and today we are celebrating this extraordinary collection by inviting authors, poets and conservationists to discuss and reflect on the two major themes of this pioneering author as they continue to be written about today: water and woodlands.

Roger Deakin's work connects two generations of passionate environmentalists and nature writers. He helped to found the arts and environmental charity Common Ground and worked for Friends of the Earth in the 1980s, while more recently, his books *Waterlog* (1999) and *Wildwood* (2007) have had an enormous influence on what has come to be called 'the New Nature Writing'. This afternoon of talks, readings and discussion promises to explore and celebrate his work by looking at both the past and the present.

How can swimming rivers help us to think about them differently? What different personal and cultural meanings do rivers have for us? What is the future of the eel in East Anglia? How is our relationship with trees changing? Why are more and more communities taking on their own woodlands and renewing practices like coppicing? All of these questions and more will be debated and discussed from a range of different perspectives.

Speakers will include Terence Blacker (author, journalist and columnist for the *Independent*), Katharine Norbury (author of *The Fish Ladder*), Neil Sinden (former Director of Policy and Campaigns at CPRE), Charles Rangeley-Wilson (author of *The Accidental Angler* and *Silt Road*), Andrew Burton (playwright), Peter Larkin (poet and author of *Leaves of Field*), Elizabeth-Jane Burnett (poet, curator and author of *swims*), James Canton (author of *Out of Essex: Reimagining a Literary Landscape*), Keshia Glover (artist, writer and ecologist) and Jos Smith (lecturer at the UEA and author of *The New Nature Writing*).

The event offers talks on natural history, conservation, nature writing and Roger's own work, with readings by contemporary poets, and with an exhibition of materials selected from the British Archive for Contemporary Writing (about which there is more if you read on).

# Programme

**Date: Sunday 30 April**

**Start Time: 13:00 Finish Time: 17:30**

[Arrive 12.45 for 13.00 Start]

13.00 Welcome and Introduction: Jos Smith

## **Remembering Roger Deakin**

13.15 Terence Blacker: Reflecting on Roger Deakin's Life

13.35 Andrew Burton: On Adapting *Waterlog* for the Stage

13.50 Keshia Glover

14.00 Questions and discussion

14.15 Tea and coffee and exhibition of materials from the archive

## **Rivers**

14.30 Elizabeth-Jane Burnett

14.50 Katharine Norbury

15.10 Charles Rangeley-Wilson

15.30 Questions and discussion

15.45 Tea and coffee and exhibition of materials from the archive

## **Woodlands**

16.15 Peter Larkin – 'Trees – Eyes and Shadows'

16.35 James Canton – 'The Oak Papers'

16.55 Adrian Cooper (in conversation with Jos Smith) – 'Common Ground, Community Woodlands and *Arboreal*'.

17.15 Questions

17.30 End

***This is an event organised by the UEA's British Archive for Contemporary Writing at the Writers' Centre Norwich***



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