

Bristol was central to the birth of Romanticism. William Wordsworth and Samuel Taylor Coleridge stayed and worked in the city; the first edition of the *Lyrical Ballads* was published in Bristol; and Bristol at the time was a place for debate often led by Coleridge in a celebrated series of lectures in 1795 and the publication of his newspaper, *The Watchman*. It was a time of revolution, progress in medicine and science, youthful democratic politics and the wide debate of ideas.

Our programme for spring 2015 celebrates Bristol of the time – including the life of Thomas Chatterton, Hannah More, Wordsworth, Coleridge and others in the city – but brings the issues debated then right up to date. The Romantics focused on nature and the emotions, place and the environment. The looming ecological crisis makes a renewed focus and debate essential. In the year when Bristol is European Green Capital, we hope our special series will create a new battle of ideas about Bristol, society and the world.

The Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of discussion and debate. The Festival, established in 2005, covers a wide range of topics, and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects.

Full programme details and booking information for all events can be found on our website: www.ideasfestival.co.uk. This programme is subject to change. Please visit the website for updates and further information about those chairing and interviewing speakers. Don't forget to sign up to our E-newsletters and Twitter feed for advance notification of new events and speakers.

Andrew Kelly
Director

Cover image credits: 1st row: Ruth Padel, Don Paterson (Murdo Macleod), Fleur Adcock (Caroline Forbes), Sean O'Brien (Caroline Forbes), Gillian Clarke. 2nd row: David Harsent, Greta Stoddart, Samuel Taylor Coleridge (Bristol Central Library), Isabel Gallegymore, Jamie McKendrick. 3rd row: Kathleen Jamie (Eamonn McCabe), Nick Laird (Mark Pringle), Ian McMillan (Adrian Mealing), Michael Symmons Roberts (Martin Bence), Jean Sprackland. 4th row: Rachael Boast (Julia Simone), John Burnside (Helmut Fricke), Patience Agbabi (Lyndon Douglas), Paul Farley (Jemimah Kuhfeld), Liz Lochhead (Norman McBeath)

Other events/

War, Revolution and the Romantic Era in South West England
Sat 28 February 2015, 09.00-18.00
M Shed, £20 / £17 / £12
In association with UWE

Celebrating Bristol's historic association with Romanticism, a UWE Regional History Centre, M Shed and Festival of Ideas conference addresses the Romantics, the war of ideas, the French Revolution, the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars and the scientific, philosophical and religious context of the time.

Nature and Wellbeing: A Bristol 2015 Summit
Wed 4 - Thu 5 March 2015
By invitation only – see website for details

The Bristol 2015 Nature and Wellbeing Summit looks at how the wellbeing of people and the natural planet go hand in hand in helping to deliver a thriving natural environment and a healthier, fairer and more prosperous society. A two-day summit with National Trust, RSPB and The Wildlife Trusts.



Nature – Our Big Green Ally
Wed 4 March 2015, 18.30-20.00
At-Bristol, Free but booking required

Nature is our ally as we face up to many of the big problems of twenty-first century society, but our environment is under more pressure than ever before. Debate how nature can lead to a fairer and more just society.

Opening of new nature reserve in Bristol
March 2015

In March, Avon Wildlife Trust will open a new nature reserve in the Avon Gorge to celebrate Bristol being European Green Capital. The site, with its many challenges (such as tonnes of buried rubble from the World War II blitz) shows that wildlife habitats can be restored in even the most difficult of locations.

Our events take place in venues across Bristol city centre. Go to individual event pages on www.ideasfestival.co.uk for links to venues and full booking conditions, including details of booking fees where appropriate. Events start punctually and, out of consideration to other audience members and speakers, our policy is not to admit or issue refunds to latecomers. Refunds are only available if an event is cancelled. Please allow enough time to collect your ticket/s from the relevant box office (if these haven't already been posted to you), and make sure to arrive before the advertised start time to take your seat/s.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership



Bristol Festival of Ideas

In association with

@FestivalofIdeas

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Radical Environmentalism Today



Romanticism and Bristol/Coleridge Lectures Spring 2015

Coleridge Lectures/

Coleridge Lectures 2015:
Radical Green
Feb-April 2015

In 1795 Samuel Taylor Coleridge gave a series of radical lectures in Bristol which questioned religion, attacked the slave trade, condemned the war with France and criticised taxation. They promoted wide debate and were censured by the city's merchants. A new Festival of Ideas series, the Coleridge Lectures, looks annually at a theme of interest to the city. To mark Bristol 2015 we present a series on Radical Green, in association with Bristol 2015 and the Cabot Institute, University of Bristol. All events in this series are free of charge and take place in the Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol, Queens Road, Bristol. All places must be booked via the event page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk. Booking opens six weeks before each lecture.

Kathleen Jamie: Poetry, the Land and Nature
Tue 17 February 2015, 18.00-19.30

Kathleen Jamie's work has been at the centre of the revival of nature writing in recent years. Finding nature in the tiny cracks of daily life, as well as Orkney in midwinter and 21st-century flotsam on a shoreline in the Hebrides, Jamie helps us all renegotiate our relationship with the natural world.

Anna Coote: Green and Social Justice
Mon 23 February 2015, 18.00-19.30

Anna Coote puts forward a radical green agenda for a new settlement that can meet the challenges of the 21st century. She argues that the primary goal of policy should be sustainable social justice, meaning the fair and equitable

distribution of social, environmental, economic and political resources between people, places and generations.

George Monbiot: What a Green Government Could do if it Really Tried
Wed 25 February 2015, 18.00-19.30

David Cameron promised his government would be the greenest government ever. George Monbiot says he's failed, and that there's a need for radical change. What could a government do if it really wanted to be green? Monbiot presents the case he would make to parliament, the country, and the international negotiations on climate change.

Roger Scruton: The Only True Conservationist is a Conservative
Thu 5 March 2015, 18.00-19.30

Roger Scruton argues that the only true conservationist and environmentalist is a Conservative. Conservatism is far better suited to tackle environmental problems than either liberalism or socialism; rather than entrusting the environment to unwieldy NGOs and international committees, we must all assume personal responsibility and foster local sovereignty.

Richard Holmes: Coleridge, The Ancient Mariner, Bristol and Beyond
Thu 12 March 2015, 18.00-19.30

The publication of the *Lyrical Ballads* in Bristol in 1798 launched the Romantic poetry movement. Richard Holmes looks at the life and work of Coleridge at this critical moment, and explores the varied interpretations of 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' and its powerful emergence as a modern eco-fable.

 University of
BRISTOL
Cabot Institute

Andrew Kelly: Animals 'in the Fraternity of universal Nature'
Thu 26 March 2015, 18.00-19.30

In his utopian community the Pantisocracy, Coleridge believed that animals were to be brothers and sisters 'in the Fraternity of universal Nature'. Animal rights and animal welfare were debated widely amongst the Romantics and remain controversial issues today. Andrew Kelly looks at the views of the Romantics and current campaigns for animals.

Melissa Harrison: Reimagining the City
Thu 2 April 2015, 18.00-19.30

Think of 'nature' and most of us think of the deep countryside – but the natural world can live side-by-side with us in cities, too. In a richly imagined journey through one day in a British city, Melissa Harrison brings to life a world that most never know is there.

Romantic Poets Project/

A New *Lyrical Ballads*: Contemporary Poets and Romanticism
Fri 6 March 2015, 19.00 for 19.30-21.30 (with interval)
At-Bristol, £12 / £10

In 2014 the Festival of Ideas with Bristol 2015 commissioned 23 leading British poets to write a new poem in the spirit of Romanticism. All 23 will be presented tonight by the poets and published for the first time. This is likely to be the largest and best gathering of contemporary poets reading new poetry in 2015 and an event not to be missed. The following poets are taking part:

Fleur Adcock
Patience Agbabi
Rachael Boast
John Burnside
Gillian Clarke
Paul Farley
Isabel Galleymore
Jen Hadfield (on film)

David Harsent
Kathleen Jamie (on film)
Nick Laird
Liz Lochhead
Jamie McKendrick
Ian McMillan
Andrew Motion
Sean O'Brien

Alice Oswald
Ruth Padel
Don Paterson
Jean Sprackland
Greta Stoddart
Michael Symmons Roberts
Adam Thorpe

The new *Lyrical Ballads* project will be recorded by BBC Radio 4 and two half-hour documentary programmes will be broadcast later in the spring of 2015.

Please go to www.ideasfestival.co.uk to book tickets online or in person: At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB, 0845 4586 499 (local call rate).

 **ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**
Supported using public funding by
LOTTERY FUNDED

Nature Writing Day and Romantic Poets Walks/

Nature Writing Day
Sat 7 March 2015
Watershed, Bristol
Individual events are £7 / £6
or attend all events for £15 / £13
Please go to www.ideasfestival.co.uk
to book tickets online or in person:
Watershed, 1 Canons Road,
Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX,
0117 927 5100

11.30-13.00
Writers and the Natural World
Why does nature continue to inspire and fascinate both readers and writers? John Burnside, Paul Farley, Ruth Padel and Jean Sprackland, all acclaimed writers and poets whose work draws on the natural world, discuss the enduring link between nature and the written word.

14.00-15.00
H is for Hawk: Helen Macdonald
Winner of the 2014 Samuel Johnson prize, *H is for Hawk* is a visceral depiction of grief and depression following the death of Macdonald's father, and her salvation through falconry. Part memoir, part biography of TH White and an account of the year-long training of her goshawk; this is nature writing at its very best.

15.30-16.30
What Nature Does for Britain: Tony Juniper
Ecology meets economics head on as environmental campaigner Tony Juniper evaluates the UK's natural capital. He argues that far from being worthless or an impediment to progress, nature provides much needed support systems and the damage we are causing to them makes no economic sense.

Walk: The Romantic Poets and Bristol
Sun 8 March 2015
Starts Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol
Walk one 11.00-12.30;
Walk two 15.00-16.30, £7 / £6
Please note that tickets for the walks can only be purchased online via www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Coleridge and Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* was printed in Bristol, and Coleridge and Robert Southey gave a series of radical lectures across the city. Bristol was also home to writers Hannah More and Ann Yearsley and scientists Humphry Davy and Thomas Beddoes. This tour will take you to sites associated with those who made Bristol a significant part of the Romantic age. The walks will be led by Robin Jarvis, Professor of English Literature, University of the West of England.