



***Resurgence* magazine celebrates 50 years as mouthpiece to the green movement**

Born amid the creative ferment of 'Swinging London' in May 1996, *Resurgence* magazine – now based in North Devon and called *Resurgence & Ecologist* – returned to its urban roots to celebrate 50 years as “the spiritual and artistic flagship of the green movement” as *The Guardian* described it.

Many leaders, activists, writers and artists from the green and social justice movements gathered at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery near Fitzroy Square, London W1, hosted by *Resurgence* trustee Rebecca Hossack, to pay homage to a magazine that, at 50, has come of age. The radical ideas of Sixties idealists, from nuclear disarmament, decentralisation and localism, to environmental causes like championing renewable energy, tackling pollution and mass production, to human rights and animal welfare, have become mainstream.

Resurgence supporters at the event included long-time contributors such as iconic Beat poet Michael Horowitz (whose poem *For Modern Man* published in the first *Resurgence* issue, is reprinted in the current 50th anniversary edition of the magazine), leading environmentalist Jonathan Porritt, animal welfare activist Tracy Worcester, Tim Smit, Founder of the Eden Project and dignitaries from a variety of leading green and humanitarian NGOs - from Greenpeace and Oxfam to Friends of the Earth and the Soil Association.

In his speech, Satish Kumar, editor-in-chief of the Resurgence Trust, expressed his gratitude to the many friends, supporters and contributors to *Resurgence* and stated his wish for *Resurgence & Ecologist* to continue to serve the entire environmental, social justice and holistic movement. He added:

“May *Resurgence* live for a long time – 50 years and beyond – and it will live if you continue to support and give your love to it. Thank you all very much again.”

Concluding the speeches, Jonathan Porritt paid tribute to the ‘spiritual dimension’ Satish Kumar has brought to *Resurgence*, recognising its importance for sustaining the wider green movement. He said:

“Satish, you have consistently stated that without a spiritual dimension, the green movement will not be able to sustain itself, or take on the transformational tasks and challenges that it faces today...Without a proper, thought through, conscientious, loving, militant spirituality, the green movement cannot do what it needs to do, and for me that’s been utterly brilliant. Ever since I became Executive Director of Friends of the Earth in 1984, I have kind of prayed in aid for this mobilising spirituality in *Resurgence* to say to my colleagues, ‘You cannot do this purely on the basis of good science and deep humanitarian principles, we’ve got to think more about the relationship

we have with other people, with the earth, and with ourselves. And at every point *Resurgence* has allowed us to connect time after time, with the values and teachings that lie behind that wisdom, and to continue to learn issue by issue, which is astonishing."

Jonathon finished with a playful anecdote about reading *Resurgence* in bed:

"I read *Resurgence* just before I go to sleep...It sends me to this correct place before eventually my conscious brain shuts down and my unconscious brain kicks in. And I cannot tell you Satish, the consequences of having taken *Resurgence* to bed with me, year after year, as the moment of my life before I go to sleep. Thank you for that, thank you for shaping my dreams. As well as for inspiring me. And I know how much Satish has inspired all of you. So this is a fantastic moment for us all to come together and say a big thank-you to you for everything you have done."

Greg Neale, editor of *Resurgence & Ecologist*, said:

"The 50th anniversary of *Resurgence* is indeed a cause for celebration. For a small magazine - without the benefit of corporate support or a wealthy proprietor - not just to survive, but to flourish over half a century, shows not only the affection in which *Resurgence* is held by our readers, but the continuing importance of the causes for which it stands."

He added: "*Resurgence* has benefitted from two visionary editors - its founder, John Papworth and for 43 years the indefatigable and inspirational Satish Kumar - but also from the extraordinary support it has received from its contributors, supporters and readers. We are determined that the magazine will be no less successful in its second half-century, as the causes of environmental sustainability, peace and social justice have never been so pressing."

Programme & tickets for 'R50: One Earth, One Humanity, One Future', a special event celebrating 50 years of Resurgence to be held at Worcester College in Oxford, 22nd-25th September, are now live on the *Resurgence* website: www.resurgence.org/R50event

A full Resurgence 50 Press Pack is available at www.resurgence.org/R50press

Satish Kumar and Greg Neale are available for interview

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Notes to Editors

- To order the 50th anniversary issue of *Resurgence & Ecologist* (May/June 2016) in print or pdf format, visit: <http://www.resurgence.org/shop/issues.html>
- *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine and two websites (www.resurgence.org; www.theecologist.org) are published by The Resurgence Trust, an educational charity (no. 1120414) which promotes ecological sustainability, social justice and spiritual values
- For details of how to become a member of The Resurgence Trust, and receive six magazines a year, visit www.resurgence.org/membership; or contact the Trust: 01208 841824; members@resurgence.org