

THE RESURGENCE TRUST

PRESS RELEASE, 27 SEPTEMBER 2016: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Environmental crises are upon us

Gathering at a landmark sustainability festival, leading environmentalists warn the Earth is in peril - but hope remains, if we act now

A complex environmental crisis has begun, threatening humanity, leading environmentalists, politicians and thinkers warned at the three-day [One Earth, One Humanity, One Future](#) festival in Oxford at the weekend.

Held in partnership with [Oxfam](#), [UPLIFT](#) and [Network of Wellbeing](#), the festival's long weekend of lively talks, debates and panel discussions opened with a video message from HRH The Prince of Wales and featured US rapper Prince Ea, Dame Fiona Reynolds, Lord David Puttnam, Green Party co-leader Caroline Lucas, US biologist Bruce Lipton, author Michael Morpurgo, and Satish Kumar - the inspirational editor of *Resurgence* for 43 years. The programme also included CEOs from Greenpeace, Oxfam, Friends of the Earth, the Soil Association and WWF.

Leading US environmental activist Bill McKibben underlined that July and August 2016 were the hottest months in the history of civilisation and that 2014, 2015 and 2016 have all smashed records in turn for the hottest weather ever experienced on our planet. Highlighting the imminent dangers to the earth's seas and soil caused by our society's "socially constructed silence", environmental writer George Monbiot warned: "We have 60 years of harvest left based on current rates of soil loss. Lose soil and we lose the whole basis on which our civilisation is built."

TV presenter and green campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall stressed the ivory trade's critical threat to the decimation of elephants and Labour MP Kerry McCarthy reported the world has lost 53% of its wildlife. "Insects are threatened, and if invertebrates like bees disappear then ecosystems will collapse," she said. "By 2050 there could be more plastic in the sea than fish."

But the overriding message from the festival's 50-plus international speakers and performers who assembled at Worcester College (22nd-25th September) to celebrate 50 years of the UK's flagship environmental magazine [Resurgence](#) (*Resurgence & Ecologist* since 2012) and share ideas for building a sustainable future - was that there is still hope. "It's been a long journey but I believe the end is now in sight," said zoologist Andrew Mitchell, Specialist Advisor to the Prince of Wales's Rainforest Projects.

Bill McKibben – who emphasised the drive to prevent climate change was being hindered by the fossil fuel industry's efforts to maintain the status quo to protect its assets - said the recent halts to the Dakota Access Pipeline and Canada's Keystone Pipeline following intervention from Amerindian and environmental activists, gave considerable cause for optimism. But he warned that the fight against climate change demanded everything we've got. He said:

"This is a call for a planet which is well outside its comfort zone. Which means we need to be outside our comfort zone. For me this has meant being inside jails, but that's not the end of the world. This *will* be the end of the world. Whatever you're doing to help, go beyond your comfort zone, in a non-violent way."

“We need to stop the gentle nudge along approach and act now to make a difference,” echoed Kerry McCarthy.

The outstanding festival programme blended a stimulating mix of poetry, art and dance, echoing the core themes and messages of *Resurgence & Ecologist*, the magazine it celebrated. In addition, talks and presentations throughout the weekend highlighted the powerful role of art and poetry in generating wellbeing, and provoking environmental and social change.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Greg Neale, Editor-in-Chief of The Resurgence Trust, said:

“For three days we have been challenged, entertained and informed and are feeling truly uplifted by a wonderful event. I feel deeply privileged to be filling the footsteps of Satish Kumar, who took on the challenge of editing *Resurgence* at a time when it was in danger of folding, and who has made the magazine internationally known and respected by the many campaigners, activists and writers who continue to support our work.

“And this is the key message of *Resurgence* – we remain hopeful and optimistic. Please continue to engage with the magazine’s values and commit to taking whatever action you can to support the wellbeing of our planet and its people.”

For more information about the One Earth, One Humanity, One Future festival visit:

www.resurgence.org/R50event

To view the full Resurgence 50 Press Pack and event images visit: www.resurgence.org/R50press

Festival speakers are available for interview

For Media Enquiries contact Will Gethin: 07795 204 833; media@resurgence.org

Notes to Editors

- *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine and its 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
- To order the latest issue of *Resurgence & Ecologist* (Sept/Oct 2016) in print or PDF format, visit: <http://www.resurgence.org/shop/issues.html>