

## UK's longest-running environmental magazine reaches its half-century

Celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in May, **Resurgence** - once a radical fringe magazine - has become the leading voice for some of the crucial issues of our times, and one of British journalism's great survivors

The 50th anniversary May/June special edition of the magazine – now called *Resurgence & Ecologist* - marks five decades at the forefront of the Green movement, with a wider remit to inspire social justice sustainable living and the arts

The special May/June issue of [Resurgence & Ecologist](#), to be published on 22nd April 2016, marks 50 years since the magazine – originally titled *Resurgence* – was launched in 1966 by a small group of idealists amid the creative ferment of 'Swinging London'. Other titles from that era have come and gone, but some 296 issues later, *Resurgence* has not only survived but has a worldwide reputation. Often described as "the spiritual and artistic flagship of the green movement", today its readers and supporters range from the singer Annie Lennox to the broadcaster Jonathan Dimbleby.

Published on a shoestring budget, without corporate support, the magazine has nonetheless outlived many of its 'Sixties contemporaries. Instead of glossy city-centre offices, it is produced from a Devon farmhouse with wild strawberries around the front door. But to its enthusiasts, *Resurgence & Ecologist* remains essential reading.

The celebrity chef and food campaigner Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall says: "*Resurgence was ahead of its time in the beginning and remains so now, shining a light on the cultural, spiritual and environmental aspects of life that are so crucial to our wellbeing and yet so easily neglected. We need voices like this.*"

Launched against the background of the Cold War, *Resurgence* was – in the words of its founding editor John Papworth - always more than just 'another peace publication'. Instead, influenced by an eclectic group of early contributors such as the economist E F Schumacher of *Small is Beautiful* fame, and 'earth pilgrim' Satish Kumar (who has edited *Resurgence* since 1973), the magazine identified, articulated and embraced some of the ideas emerging from the 'Sixties counter-culture which have subsequently become mainstream (an early issue featured both Schumacher and the Rolling Stones!).

Its coverage diversified to include 'small is beautiful' issues such as decentralisation and localism; environmental causes such as tackling pollution and the destruction of nature; human rights and the growing separation of politics and economics from ethics and spirituality. It championed modern artists, writers and musicians – Yehudi Menuhin once wrote about his 'heaven on earth' – supported American troops wanting to desert rather than fight in Vietnam, and was an early opponent of nuclear power, consumerism and high-tech mass production.

Today, the magazine is part of the Resurgence Trust, an educational charity. Having merged along the way with *Undercurrents*, the alternative technology magazine, and in 2012 with fellow green trailblazer the [Ecologist](#), the magazine now offers a strong coherent voice for the whole environment and social justice movements, but with a concern for beauty and the arts that is reflected in its design – a typical issue will use paintings, drawings and other artwork alongside conventional photographic illustrations.

Greg Neale, editor of *Resurgence & Ecologist*, said the magazine's 50th anniversary issue will be "part-celebration, part rallying call to the future". He added:

"We'll be celebrating our first half-century with a range of articles marking the history of *Resurgence*, but we're also looking forward, with prominent activists in various fields – including the environment, localism and social justice – writing on the challenges that face us. Over 50 years, *Resurgence* has helped draw attention to some of the pressing

problems facing the world, and to potential solutions. At the same time, it has celebrated so much of what makes life worth living. We'll continue to evolve this rich mix of reportage and commentary into our next half-century."

Writing in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, leading UK environmentalist Sir Jonathon Porritt says that the value of *Resurgence* lies in its integrating the world's inherently diverse spectrum of social movements – from the environment and human rights to animal welfare –into a more holistic worldview. "There are so few places (online or in print) where that kind of worldview can be explored and shared with imagination and total integrity," he says.

The actress and campaigner Joanna Lumley says: "*Time spent reading Resurgence & Ecologist is something that I savour. Always blissfully designed and presented, it challenges and inspires in equal measure*", while the TV gardener Monty Don writes: "*Congratulations to Resurgence on its 50th anniversary! It has never been more relevant or central to the really important issues facing us all. Long may it thrive.*"

The issue's diversity demonstrates why *Resurgence & Ecologist* continues to be essential reading, including an analysis of the Paris climate change deal from the commentator Herbert Girardet and a reminder from columnist Ros Coward that austerity isn't necessarily a dirty word. Satish Kumar writes on war and the refugee crisis, and the magazine's eclectic arts and books reviews range from a study of woodwork to Shakespeare's writings on nature. Other highlights include Geoffrey Lean charting the environmental issues and politics of the *Resurgence* years; a profile of *Resurgence*'s founding figures; beat poet Michael Horowitz recalling the *Resurgence* early days, plus a reprint of his iconic poem *For Modern Man*, published in the first *Resurgence* issue; a reprint of EF Schumacher's classic essay "Buddhist Economics"; and a timeline charting the history of the magazine.

Also included is a preview of "One Earth, One Humanity, One Future" - a special event celebrating *Resurgence*'s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday at Worcester College, Oxford from 22nd-25th September, where distinguished speakers and key figures from the environment movement will gather to share ideas and inspiration for the future wellbeing of our planet.

Satish Kumar, editor-in-chief of *Resurgence & Ecologist*, says: "The vision of *Resurgence & Ecologist* for the next 50 years is to celebrate the diversity of cultures and colours, faiths and philosophies, and our September anniversary event will do just that. Let us transform our divisions into diversity and engage in dialogues over our differences. Ultimately there is only One Earth, one humanity, and one future."

**A full Resurgence 50 Press Pack is available at [www.resurgence.org/R50press](http://www.resurgence.org/R50press)**

**Satish Kumar, Greg Neale, Sir Jonathon Porritt and other contributors to the Resurgence & Ecologist anniversary issue are available for interview**

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#### **Notes to Editors**

- *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine and its two websites ( [www.resurgence.org](http://www.resurgence.org); [www.theecologist.org](http://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](http://www.resurgence.org/membership); or contact the Trust: 01208 841824; [members@resurgence.org](mailto:members@resurgence.org)
- 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>
- Programme & ticket details for the "R50: One Earth, One Humanity, One Future" event in Oxford, 22nd-25th September, will be available on the Resurgence website from Friday 6th May: [www.resurgence.org/R50event](http://www.resurgence.org/R50event)