# Stubborn optimism

Issue 320 May/June 2020

1 WELCOME

# FRONTLINE

4 NEWS

# **ECOLOGIST**

### 8 THE VIRUS IS CAPITALISM

The decision to defend profit and not people has been a grave error, says Brendan Montague

# 10 RETURNING THE POLIS TO POLITICS

Brendan Montague interviews George Monbiot

### 14 CLEARING THE AIRWAYS

Russell Warfield celebrates a ground-breaking court ruling

### 16 THE REAL CUSTODIANS OF THE FOREST

Colonial conservation is destroying biodiversity, argues Mya-Rose Craig

# 18 A STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

We can restore even the most broken ecosystems, writes Kate Blincoe

# 20 ON THE TRAIL OF MARY MIDGLEY

Nat Dyer catches up with a touring biscuit tin

# **KEYNOTES**

# 22 TIME TO CHOOSE

Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac look back at the Paris Agreement with a message for the future



Cover image: Lake Mungo National Park, Australia Photograph by Russell Curr www.russellcurr.com @russellcurr

# UNDERCURRENTS: CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

#### **26 THE STUBBORN OPTIMIST**

Catherine Early speaks to former UNFCCC chief Christiana Figueres

# 30 CHAMPIONS OF THE FUTURE

Harriet Lamb profiles community leaders around the world

# 34 CHALLENGING POWER IN INDIA

Vandana K meets 12-year-old activist Ridhima Pandey

# WISDOM & WELLBEING

### 36 THE POLITICS OF LOVE

Satish Kumar recollects some wisdom from Gandhi

# 40 THE 'BIG APPLE'

James Clarke reflects on the legacy of Johnny Appleseed

# **NEW ONLINE**

# www.resurgence.org

# Resurgence & Ecologist book club

To help connect with each other in these times of selfisolation, we are launching an online book club with a new book set each month. See members page 66. www.resurgence.org/bookclub.

# www.theecologist.org

Daily news from the front line of the environmental movement. Sign up for daily, weekly and monthly newsletters and never miss a story

# Social Media

Twitter: @Resurgence\_mag

@the\_ecologist

Facebook: Resurgencetrust

TheEcologist

Instagram:@resurgencetrust

# Resurgence & Ecologist App

Free access for print members: www.resurgence.org/app

#### 42 WEST WIND

Peter Reason smells the ocean in the summer air

#### 43 DEAR MOTHER...

**Bibi Gratzer** meets a co-founder of Letters to the Earth

# 44 A CUP OF TEA FOR TROUBLED TIMES

Sara Melendro shares an immuneboosting recipe

# ARTS

# 46 GIVING POETRY BACK TO THE LAND

Huw Wahl meets poet laureate Simon Armitage

# 52 UNCHARTED LANDSCAPES OF THE HEART

Peter Abbs shares some modern voices in poetry

#### 54 SEEDING CHANGE

Liz Wells introduces a new exhibition on future-proofing Nature

# REVIEWS

#### 58 MIGRATIONS IN SPACE

Alex McDonald reviews the film Swarm Season directed by Sarah Christman

### 59 ECOLIBRIUM

David Lorimer reviews Global Hive: What the Bee Crisis Teaches Us about Building a Sustainable World by Horst Kornberger

### 60 THE COMMON GOOD

Gerald Taylor Aiken reviews Free, Fair and Alice: The Insurgent Power of the Commons by David Bollier & Silke Helfrich

#### 61 RESHAPING THE WORLD

Adam Weymouth reviews This Land Is Our Land by Jedediah Purdy

#### 62 ESSENCE OF FOX

Kate Blincoe reviews The Hidden World of the Fox by Adele Brand

### 63 REJOICE IN INSECTS

Lorna Howarth reviews Emperors, Admirals & Chimney Sweepers: The Weird and Wonderful Names of Butterflies and Moths by Peter Marren

#### 64 LOVE MAIL

Jini Reddy reviews Letters to the Earth: Writing to a Planet in Crisis, illustrated by Jackie Morris

#### 64 OUT OF THE COMFORT ZONE

Paul Zeal reviews Climate Psychology: On Indifference to Disaster, edited by Paul Hoggett

# 66 MEMBERS

- 67 SHOP
- 68 LETTERS
- 70 ADVERTISEMENTS



Marianne Brown marianne@resurgence.org

Helen Banks Rachel Marsh Emily Martin Emma Randall Iulia Willan

### The Ecologist

Brendan Montague brendan@theecologist.org

Marianne Brooker

### The Resurgence Trust

Editor Emeritus Satish Kumar

PA to Satish Kumar Elaine Green

Trust Manager Angie Burke

Finance Manager Mark Gough

Resurgence Centre Events Manager Army Lythgoe-Jones

Fundraising Manager Sharon Garfinkel +44 (0)7435 781842 sharon@resurgence.org

Outreach Officer Georgie Gilmore georgie@resurgence.org

Membership & Classified Advertising Jeanette Gill Mandy Kessell +44 (0)1208 841824 members@resurgence.org

Office Assistant Jenny Routley +44 (0)1237 441293 info@resurgence.org

# Advertising Sales

Dan Raymond-Barker +44 (0) 7776 361671 dan@emsm.org.uk

Resurgence & Ecologist is published by The Resurgence Trust, a registered educational charity (no. 1120414)

Registered office: The Resurgence Centre, Fore Street, Hartland, Bideford, Devon EX39 6AB, UK +44 (0)1237 441293 www.resurgence.org

