

The Gaia Exhibition & Lectures at Hay 2007



Gaia Exhibition -
Hay 2007
business supporting
community, arts, &
environment



Image projected
in front of
audience before
and after each
event at the
Hay Festival

Many thanks to all our sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, volunteers, and our hosts at Hay Festival for contributing to the success of the event.

This year expanded considerably on previous years, with 2 local schools' Art & Ecology projects, a fascinating mix of exhibitors, & 4 events on the programme;

Weds 30 May, Mary Midgley & Elaine Brook

The Meaning of Gaia

Gaia Theory brings the science of interdependent systems to the issues of Climate Change, and opens up questions about our relationship to the rest of the biosphere.

'Earthy Realism, the meaning of Gaia' is published by Imprint Academic



Thursday 31 May

The Solar House; site visit to Nurse's Cottage in Golden Valley which is a demonstration of 'One Planet Living', the theme of this years' exhibition. The one-acre site has home grown vegetables, solar panels, photovoltaics, rainwater harvesting, insulation, and a vehicle that runs on recycled chip-fat.



Saturday 2 June

Gaia & Climate Change

Stephan Harding & Brian Goodwin

The Schumacher College lecturers explore how Gaia has sequestered Carbon Dioxide over millennia and why bacteria are essential for the formation of both clouds and continents.

If we are to have a habitable planet in the future we need solutions as complex and elegant as the conditions that give us life.



Eco-Homes of the Future

Peter Harper

The co-founder of the Centre for Alternative Technology outlines the essentials of the low-carbon lifestyle of the future and shows that technology is only part of the solution – priorities and values will have to develop as well. The talks took place in the main marquees, capacity 400, and were followed by question and answer sessions in the exhibition venue, with a smaller audience (approx 40) of the most interested people.



Q&A Sessions at the Gaia Exhibition

Several other speakers from the main Hay programme were also invited to host short Q&A sessions in the Gaia Exhibition.

These included Jeremy Leggett, Mark Lynas, Rachel Lewis, & John Sauven. Several of the exhibitors also held workshops including Rathbone Greenbank, Herbfarmacy, & Wiggly Wiggles.



Summary

As in previous years, bookings for the main talks exceeded expectations of the Festival organizers and were moved to larger venues. Several times, attendance at Q&A sessions was over capacity; we are negotiating for more space and a booking system for next year. There was a constant stream of visitors to the Gaia Exhibition during the 12 days of the Festival – estimated at approx 7000; because of the workshops and activities a higher average than for static displays. The Community Arts installation was another source of interest, featuring on Sky TV - after the Festival, it was on display in the main foyer of the Courtyard theatre in Hereford for World Environment Day and the following 3 weeks.

