

NHP AGM 2023

5th June



Agenda

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- Update on the network and discussion on first report
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 - Membership and fees
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 - Election of Steering Group
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 - Election of officers
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 - Next steps and vision
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 - AOB

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NHP Purpose Statements

Main Statements:

We are a practice network for Green/Blue Care, Nature Health and Wellbeing, Eco Therapy, and other nature-based approaches.

We are a place to learn, connect and share with other nature-based professionals and practitioners, academics researching the field, health service providers, environmental organisations and nature-based health projects that are emerging in this sector.

We are focussed in the West of England and are closely linked to the West of England Nature Partnership. However, we also do have people join from further afield who are practitioners or are interested in affiliating or developing related networks in their own locale. We encourage this to emerge in relationship with the local nature partnership as this network has done.

This network will:

- Be a place that supports and encourages nature focussed professionals, practitioners, organisations, projects, and landowners to deliver the best possible service to their communities.
- Be a place of learning and sharing of practice in the field of Nature and Health, Green/Blue Care and Ecotherapy.
- Be a place that brings together academics, practitioners, and projects to encourage sharing of practice and advocacy for the sector.
- Be a place where participants and projects can find out how nature-based approaches can support them.
- Establish some of the key standards and quality assurance processes needed for partners, funders, commissioners, participants, and practitioners to feel a safe, effective, and professional service.
- Actively encourage and engage with underrepresented individuals and communities and seek to help move towards greater diversity as a network and in nature-based approaches to health.



Forum Meetings Meeting Schedule for NHP



Reaching out

B: We have been working to affiliate the network with the Healthier with Nature group (which emerged out of the Green Social Prescribing project in the Bristol area). This has been successful with an integrated approach to the Forum meetings emerging. NHP leading the Spring and Summer meetings while HWN leading an Autumn meeting and NHP leading the Winter. There has been a good and growing relationship between the two groups and networks and look forward to this continuing.



C: We have also an affiliated network that has started in Cornwall.

D: We have established the Special Interest Groups as below.

| Area of focus | Leads | contact |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Children and Young People: | The Birch Collective | tim@thebirchcollective.co.uk |
| Mental Health Therapists | Barbara Gonzalez Olivia Woodhouse | southwestcounsellor@gmail.com olivia@wildwoodhealingarts.com |
| Research in Nature based approaches | Katie Hall | katie.hall@bristol.ac.uk |
| Nature in Statutory Practice and Allies (NISPA) | Helen Jackson Brown Jon Fieldhouse | helen.jacksonbrown@gmail.com jon.fieldhouse@uwe.ac.uk |

Membership and fees

- Options
- 1: Collect subscriptions every year
- 2: Make the membership last for x amount of years
- 3: Extend membership and review at next AGM
- 4: Lifetime member

Steering Group Election

Jon Fieldhouse

Jon has been a mental health occupational therapist (OT) for 35 years and has been immersed in social and therapeutic horticulture for much of that time. He currently trains OTs at the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE).

Sarah Witts

Sarah has a background in Animal Sciences, practical conservation, youth, and community work. She cofounded Nature Connects CIC and has studied Ecopsychology, Art of Mentoring and 8 Shields.

Emily Malik,

Emily works as a Director/ Practitioner of eco-social enterprise EcoWild CIC, to enable more people and health services to be part of the living world. She studied Biology and Ecopsychology and has supported the running of NHP since 2019.

Election of officer

Co Ordinator
and Director

Michéal Connors, Director

Michéal has been in health, education, and nature for 33 years. He co-founded the social enterprise Natural Academy which offers accredited vocational training in Ecopsychology and in NatureWell, an approach to nature and health that is now offered across the UK.

Anyone want to put themselves forward?

- Steering group member, Voluntary
- Meeting co Ordinator and forum facilitator £150 a day for facilitation and £20 an hour for meetings
- Director Voluntary

- **Possible Future Strategic Intentions**
- Reinvigorate the membership process and promote the network further.
- Have the quality standards adopted more broadly and recognised within the field
- Diversity and accessibility focus
- Find further funding to support developments where needed