

## ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

**Joan Angus** grew up in the Yorkshire countryside, roaming the hills when she wasn't at school. From an early age she felt she belonged to Nature's community.

She went to College in Liverpool where she trained to become an Occupational Therapist and moved south following her husband's job opportunities. They raised their two children in Hampshire, where she now lives with her second husband and their collie dog, at the edge of the South Downs.

After retirement she became interested in genealogy and has self-published three novels based on the family history of her paternal grandmother.

She has been a member of GreenSpirit for around twenty years, much of that serving on the Council.



**Cornish poet and author Roselle Angwin** has been leading the holistic 'Fire in the Head' creative and reflective writing programme for 29 years. As an eco-writer and transpersonal counsellor, she also leads 'The Wild Ways' outdoor workshops and retreats designed to help deepen our sense of intimacy with the other-than-human and the sacred. Courses take place in beautiful wildish locations in Britain and France, and online.

Roselle's publications include poetry, fiction and narrative non-fiction. Her new book *A Spell in the Forest – tongues in trees* is due out in June 2021. She has been described as 'a poet of the bright moment... whose own sources of creative inspiration are her native Westcountry, the Scottish islands, a Brittany forest, and a highly individual blend of Celtic myth and metaphysics, psychology, native British shamanic and Zen thinking'.

[www.fire-in-the-head.co.uk](http://www.fire-in-the-head.co.uk)  
[www.thewildways.co.uk](http://www.thewildways.co.uk)  
[www.57billion.org](http://www.57billion.org)  
[roselle-angwin.blogspot.com](http://roselle-angwin.blogspot.com)

**Ruth Barton's** poems reflect her deep regard for the natural world. Most mornings she greets the day marvelling at the beauty and complexity of what she calls the work of the Great Creator. It's what moves her to write most of her poems. Her almost finished novel is different. Her imagination runs wild as her characters experience the unexpected.

In 1982, Ruth and her family moved into a wooden bungalow on an acre of land. They developed the plot into a plant nursery. When the children left home there was more time for writing about the antics of their Pot-bellied pig, chickens, ducks and goats. Ruth's holidays in Scotland inspired her to write about mountains, lochs and weather.

Ruth claims the accolade of being a descendant of Robert Cawdrey who compiled the first English dictionary in 1604.

**Grace Blindell** was born 1921. She nursed in London during the war. Subsequently nursed and taught English in France, Singapore, Malaysia, Nigeria, Gaza strip and was awarded a Red Cross medal for work in Malaysia.

She was in California when she first heard Matthew Fox speak about Creation Centred Spirituality, later to become GreenSpirit. She came to London and became involved at St James Piccadilly, helping in the office. She remembers Matthew Fox coming to speak there.

**The Rev Dr June Boyce-Tillman MBE** read music at Oxford University and is Professor Emerita of Applied Music at the University of Winchester and an Extra-ordinary Professor at North West University, South Africa. She is an Anglican priest. Her interests are in music education, theology and wellbeing through music. Her international one woman shows concentrate on spiritual themes and the lives of the mystics such as Hildegard of Bingen. She is an international hymn writer – *A Rainbow to Heaven*. She lectures internationally and is concerned with radical musical inclusion, composing large-scale works for cathedrals such as Winchester, Norwich and Southwark involving professional musicians, school and community choirs, and children and adults with disabilities and schoolchildren. She is editing a series on Music and Spirituality for Peter Lang including: *Experiencing Music-Restoring the Spiritual* and the edited collection *Queering Freedom: Music, Identity and Spirituality*. She founded Music, Spirituality and Wellbeing International ([www.mswinternational.org](http://www.mswinternational.org))

<http://www.impulse-music.co.uk/juneboyce-tillman/>

**Chris Clarke** (22.02.1946 – 16.04.2019): Chris's formidable intellect took him to international recognition in the fields of General Relativity and Cosmology, along with a chair in Applied Mathematics at York University, 1986 – 1999.

His lifelong passion for humanity and justice led to deep involvement with the Christian faith from his conversion as a student in the 1960s, to involvement with Scientists Against Nuclear Arms, and then the environmental movement through involvement with Creation Spirituality from its inception. He was chair of Creation Spirituality/GreenSpirit following his departure from academic life, through disillusionment with the direction universities were taking, in 1999. As well as mathematical works, he has published on philosophy and the spiritual potential of the environment movement in the following books.

*Knowing, Being, and Doing: New Foundations for Consciousness Studies*, 2013. Imprint Academic.

*Weaving the Cosmos: science, religion and ecology*, 2010. O Books.

*Ways of Knowing, Science and Mysticism Today* (Edited), 2005. Imprint Academic.

*Living in Connection. Theory and Practice of the New World View*, 2002. Creation Spirituality Books: Warmister.

*Reality through the Looking Glass. Science and Awareness in the Post Modern World*, 1996. Floris Books.

And the posthumously published collection of the tree focused blog he wrote during his last few years, while contending with the insidious onset of Alzheimer's.

*Wisdom and Isness: Deep reflections on living in the moment*, 2019.

For more see: [www.scispirit.com](http://www.scispirit.com) and <https://blog.scispirit.com/search/label/tributes>

**Miranda Cox:** I started writing poetry when I went to New Zealand during a year off before uni to visit my Kiwi mother's family and learn how to be independent. I was lonely and had some painful romantic liaisons and writing helped me express my feelings.

Back in the UK I studied law at Kent university, volunteered for a homeless peoples' charity, studied and practised acupuncture then psychotherapy and moved from near Taunton to Bideford to live with and marry my husband.

I was a green councillor on Northam Town and Torridge District councils for seven and four years respectively, loving and wanting to protect nature and the environment.

Throughout these times and especially from being in writing groups locally I have written mostly poetry but also some short stories and a novel and enjoy the creativity and release of being expressive in this way.

**Christine Roe Cripps** (1923-2020) was born in 1923, Christine experienced many changes in our world. She had a deep faith in God. Much of her poetry reflects her faith, and her love of creation, of all things on earth. She loved her family, her six children and wider family, the many friends she made along the way, animals, birds and insects – especially frogs! She loved her garden.

Throughout her long life – she died aged 96 in January 2020 – Christine continued to learn, and master new skills – including computers, the Internet, and email. In addition to poetry she wrote about growing up before the War, and of her trip to Canada in her 80s – tracing the steps of her missionary great-uncle in the Yukon!

She wrote from an early age, poems for us as children, and her many diverse interests. Her acute sense of humour, love and wonder, show clearly in her poems.

**Dr Vivianne Crowley** is a writer, psychologist and an international teacher of mindfulness and Earth-based spiritual traditions. She is a member of the Department of Psychology, Nottingham Trent University, UK, where she specialises in the psychology of religion and spirituality, and was formerly Lecturer in Psychology of Religion at King's College, University of London. Her research interests include contemporary Paganism, women religious leaders and religious experience. She is the author of many books on contemporary Paganism and on Jungian psychology, including the best-selling *Wicca: The Old Religion in the Modern World* and *Jung: Journey of Transformation*. Her forthcoming book *You were Wild Once*, an exploration of green spirituality and magic, will be published by Century-Random House in 2021.

**George Eliot (1819-1880):** Was known by this pen name. She was born as Mary Ann(e) / Marian Evans and was a leading writer of her time. She lived with her partner George Henry Lewes between 1854 and 1878 and later married John Cross in 1880.

**Gerard Manley Hopkins, SJ (1844-1889):** Born in Stratford, Essex, Hopkins became a Jesuit priest. He wrote some influential poetry which was not published until 1918, after his death. He died in Dublin.

**Jenny Highson** was born in 1945 in Bristol, where she attended The Red Maids' School (now Redmaids High School). She has written poetry all her life and has also created eighty community dances. With her husband Noel Harrower, she ran GreenSpirit groups during the 1990s and in the early years of the twenty-first century, first in Nottingham and later in Exeter. For several years, she worked as a Reiki therapist at The Quiet Mind Centre in Exmouth, which provided free treatment for people on low incomes. A sample of Jenny's poetry can be found on her website – [www.jennyjohnsondancerpoet.net](http://www.jennyjohnsondancerpoet.net) – as can a full list of her dances and musical sources. Her latest poetry collection, *Selected Poems: Revised & New*, was published by Brimstone Press in 2013. During the past four years, she has written a sequence of forty-two poems based on dreams: *Dreamlines* seeks a publisher!

**Jenny Joyce and Alan Whear** have been singing together and with friends since the folk revival of the 60s and 70s. When they joined a group of meditators exploring earth-based spirituality, they were inspired to create hymns and songs celebrating the living earth and our connection with all life.

They were early members of the GreenSpirit local group in Ascot, and took part in events celebrating the festivals of the Celtic year, bringing music and song to welcome the turning of the year.

The grace included here was written to celebrate Lammis, festival of the first fruits. It is sung to *La Morisque*, a renaissance dance tune brought up to date by the Albion Band.

**David Kelf** grew up in Gorleston near the rolling sea: I spent a lot of time near the sea and outdoors, including many a ramble across open fields listening to the skylarks above, while my mother played tennis. Angling was one of my early interests.

When I left school in 1965 I joined the Met Office and in 1973 I moved to the Hydrographic Office in Taunton. I was able to follow many avenues of interest including my main ones of cross-country running, weather observing, labyrinth making and I became a voluntary emissary for the Schumacher College where I met Satish Kumar.

Since retiring I have been involved with Dowsing and have moved back to Gorleston. I have led walks along the Michael and Mary living currents from Hopton to Lands End in this country, which gets me out into our wonderful countryside and there have been many church visits along the way. I am currently the vice-chair of the Great Yarmouth InterFaith and Belief local network.

**DH Lawrence (1885-1930):** David Herbert Lawrence was born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire and was educated locally, leading to his qualification as a teacher in 1906.

He was troubled with recurring serious illness most of his life, which caused him to leave his teaching post in Croydon in 1912. Soon after, he eloped with Frieda Weekley to Germany where they stayed until 1914 when war broke out.

Returning to England, they married at Kensington Registry Office. They stayed until 1925 while his illness became worse, then returned to Europe.

Lawrence was a prolific writer.

**Nigel Lees** was, for 30 years, a chemistry information specialist in various organisations and published a number of articles and books on his work. Although now retired he is still very passionate about science and tries very hard to write creatively on the connections he perceives between science, art and spirituality. He has written a few articles for GreenSpirit, is a keen wildlife gardener and vegetable grower.

**Marian Van Eyk McCain:** Plato said "Every man, before he dies, should do four things: father a son, build a house, write a book, and plant a tree". He didn't mention what women should do, of course. But Marian has built a house (out of mud bricks and recycled timber), written seven books, birthed two children and planted hundreds of trees. She also published dozens of articles, plus short stories and poems, and co-edits the GreenSpirit magazine.

Originally from Devon in the south-west of England, Marian has travelled extensively and lived on four continents. She has a BSW from Melbourne University and an MA in East-West Psychology from the CIIS San Francisco and worked as a social worker and as a spiritual psychotherapist in private practice. Returning to her roots after retirement, she now lives with her soulmate/husband in a Devon village where her current project is the co-creation of an elders eco-cohousing community.

**Sister Kay (Ann Catharine) McMullen, SNDdeN** (July 18, 1939 – March 12, 2018). Born in Oakland, Kay entered the Sisters of Notre Dame in 1959. She taught in Notre Dame schools and received her bachelor's degree in music from College of Notre Dame, Belmont, and later, a Montessori diploma and Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

In the 1980s, Sr. Kay volunteered with the Monterey County AIDS Project and John XXIII HIV/AIDS Services, helping with AIDS education and peer counseling, and frequently accompanying those who were dying.

In the past four months, the courage and grace Sr. Kay showed in dealing with glioblastoma, an especially aggressive form of cancer, was an inspiration to everyone who knew her. She, who was so gifted with words, became unable to speak or communicate in any written form. She still found ways to express her care and appreciation for others until she passed away in 2008.

**Richard Meyers** was born in 1947 in the London Borough of Islington. His last working years were based at Islington Ecology Centre and he died in an Islington hospital in October 2013, and so his life came full circle.

Most of Richard's childhood was spent in the new town of Crawley where he developed his love of the natural world through the freedom he was given to explore the surrounding countryside and Worth forest. Richard was entirely self educated, having left school at the age of 15.

Richard found huge fulfillment in his work in nature conservancy. As Outreach Officer at Islington Ecology Centre he shared his wide knowledge and delight in the natural world with a wide variety of community groups with huge generosity of spirit.

Richard became very interested in Creation Spirituality in the 1990's and during a period of unemployment he volunteered at St. James's Church, Piccadilly in the early years of GreenSpirit.

**Helen Moore** is an award-winning British ecopoet, socially engaged artist and outdoor educator based in SW England. She has published three poetry collections, *Hedge Fund, And Other Living Margins* (Shearsman Books, 2012); *ECOZOA* (Permanent Publications, 2015), acclaimed as "a milestone in the journey of ecopoetics", and in which her poem 'glory be to Gaia' is included; and *The Mother Country* (Awen Publications, 2019) exploring aspects of British colonial history. Helen offers an online mentoring programme, Wild Ways to Writing, supporting a creative writing journey into deeper Nature connection, and leads workshops in a range of locations. Helen is currently collaborating with Cape Farewell on RiverRun, a science-informed arts project examining algal blooms in Poole Harbour. She has recently received an award from the Royal Literary Fund to support her work, and has a poem nominated for this year's Forward Prize. [www.helenmoorepoet.com](http://www.helenmoorepoet.com)

**Ellis Mortimer:** I am 11 years old and live in rural north Dorset. I have just left Primary school and will be starting secondary in September.

I have a great love of nature and outdoors, I love to write poetry and am greatly influenced by the natural world. We spend a lot of our spare time exploring the many footpaths around our beautiful village, and I collect many things I find along the way (most of which is stored in my shed!) I enjoy spending time with my friends from the surrounding villages.

I have lived in Dorset all of my life and I am very fond of my surroundings, however, my grandparents live in North Devon, by the sea and I have a great love for that area too.

When I am not outside, you can find me in my room, drawing an original character or reading my favourite books.

**Ian Mowl** has worked in financial markets, for homeless people and in mental health. He is now the Coordinator of GreenSpirit and an Interfaith Minister conducting ceremonies for people of all faiths and none. He also has a passion for the Universe Story (that is the story as revealed by science from the big bang through to today) and its implications for our lives.

**Chris Newsam** lives in Malton, North Yorkshire with his wife Janice, mother in law Edith and Saluki dog Sophie. A Quaker for some 20 years with an open and inclusive and eclectic spiritual outlook. Chris has a passion for peacemaking and social justice and has been active in many campaigns. He is actively interested in helping to protect the natural environment and has been a member of GreenSpirit for more than a decade, currently serving on the national council which administers the charity and helps to steer it in fulfilling its role of increasing knowledge and passion for all things green. Chris occasionally writes poetry and enjoys reading and walking the beautiful landscape of North Yorkshire including the rugged coastline.

**Sue Proffitt** lives by the coast in South Devon. Writing poetry is central to her life and is an exploration of the beauty and mystery of the more-than-human world, and of our complex human relationship with it. She has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of Bath Spa and has been published in a number of magazines and journals. Her first collection, *Open After Dark*, was published by Oversteps in 2017. Her second collection, *The Lock-Picker*, will be coming out late this year, published by Palewell Press. In 2018 she was awarded a Hawthornden Fellowship.

Gull Dawn was originally published in *Open After Dark* (Oversteps, 2017).

**Bryony Rogers** is a Writer, Singer, Coach and Therapeutic Film-maker, living in Lancashire. She has published many poems over the years, in *Earth Pathways* publications and various magazines. Her most recent poetry collection, *Wilderness Renewal*, exploring Spiritual Nature Connection, is available as an eBook for £6 from her at [bryonytree@gmail.com](mailto:bryonytree@gmail.com).

She also recently published a longer book, sharing the Spiritual Guidance she has been receiving for the past 23 years, since her Awakening experience living at the Finedhorn Community. The book, *The Golden Road: My Journey with Spirit*, has beautiful prose, channelled from Source, interwoven with full colour Nature photographs from Scotland, England and New Zealand. *The Golden Road: My Journey with Spirit* is available from Amazon, as both paperback and eBook.

You can see more about Bryony's work at [www.songofawakening.org.uk](http://www.songofawakening.org.uk) and on Facebook – HeartSong Sacred Singing and Meditation, Wilderness Renewal, Nature as Medicine and Moving Essence pages.

**Rev Dr Margie Schneider** has a bachelor's degree in Multi-disciplinary Studies, Master of Arts in Religion, and a Master of Divinity from Liberty University.

Is certified in Eco-Art Therapy from Project NatureConnect.

Ordained as The The School of Peace as an Interfaith Minister with a focus in Ecospirituality.

Is ordained as an Animal Chaplain and Pet Bereavement Facilitator, as well as has received a Doctorate in Humane Religious Studies from Emerson Institute.

Presently working towards receiving a Creation Spirituality Certification from Global Ministries University; and

For fourteen years, ran a non-profit animal sanctuary, while raising five adopted developmentally delayed children, which, eventually led to the establishing of a non-profit, called Heart-To-Heart All Creatures Ministry, which is both online and local.

**Heather Shute** enjoyed writing essays at school, and as an adult wrote mainly various magazine articles and some short stories, and (to her shame, and for the money!) even contributed the 'speech bubbles' for illustrated stories in girls' comics.

She began to write poems in the 1980s, after joining a creative writing group at Braziers Park community in Oxfordshire. She writes in fits and starts, when she feels she has something to say, has published one or two poems in anthologies, and has a go at poetry competitions.

She lives in a Cotswold village with three small dogs who help with her volunteer fundraising for the charity Medical Detection Dogs – which is her *raison d'être*.

She also enjoys working in the local library as a volunteer, and with the Berks Bucks & Oxon Wildlife trust. She has a special interest in Water Vole conservation, and monitoring the Swifts when those magical birds return to breed in Britain.

**Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941):** Born in Kolkata, India, He was an artist, poet, writer and musician who had a great reforming influence on Bengali art, music and literature. He died in Jorasanko Thakurban, Kolkata.

**Sarah-Jane Toleman:** I have lived in the North East of Scotland for 30 years, though I was brought up in the tree lands of Hampshire. I have always been drawn to green things from toddling by my Granny and Mum and the hedgerows to taking long country walks in the highlands of Deeside. From these experiences come the inspiration for my writing. As well as writing I love to draw and from time to time I illustrate my poems.

I have two grown up daughters and a black cat and I work as a teacher of English as An Additional Language. As well as walking in the countryside I like to grow things in my garden and read.

**Peter Watkins** is a Suffolk poet living on the Stour Estuary. Many of his poetic motifs arise from the gentle landscape and the slow rivers of Suffolk in which he finds divinity, solace and inspiration. He is interested in the 'redress of poetry'; that is the capacity of poems to push back against the vicissitudes of life. His first collection *Enough to Love a Multitude* is published by Eye Wild Books. Peter is co-founder of the arts and mental health charity Inside Out Community.

