

# WILDERNESS

## FOUNDATION UK

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# Voices for the Wild

An evening of stories of adventures in nature and transformations in the wild, to share the power of the wilderness to transform vulnerable lives and empower people to conserve nature

Thursday 5th September 2019 7-10pm

Tickets £15

Where: the Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)  
More Information at [www.wildernessfoundation.org.uk](http://www.wildernessfoundation.org.uk)

In collaboration with The Wilderness Art Collective  
'Landlines' exhibition also taking place at the RGS(IBG)

 Investec

 wilderness  
art collective

An evening of inspirational speakers and young voices, in aid of the Wilderness Foundation UK. The Wilderness Foundation UK empowers people to conserve nature and harnesses the power of the wilderness to transform vulnerable lives.

Location: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR  
Date: 5 September 2019  
Time: 7 – 10pm, cash bar from 6pm.

Tickets: £15 plus booking fee– all proceeds going towards the Wilderness Foundation UK  
Ticket sales – <https://voicesforthewild.eventbrite.co.uk>

Wilderness Foundation UK  
<https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/>  
Instagram: @wildernessfoundationuk  
Tel: 0300 1233073  
Email: [info@wildernessfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@wildernessfoundation.org.uk)



## LINKS TO VIDEOS about WILDERNESS FOUNDATION UK

ITV This Morning: Pursuits of Happiness

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1te5ydLPbMP3LL9ybikh3XMaoLOvfPYrr/view?usp=sharing>

CBBC Hike to Happiness -

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XJP7sPg4q\\_LFT8kszJ\\_R3RoKjBg\\_Vz-e/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XJP7sPg4q_LFT8kszJ_R3RoKjBg_Vz-e/view?usp=sharing)

BBC Breakfast

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1paOulAPns60doC2Sdl14nyOsQ98Zizdf/view?usp=sharing>

**Images can be found here: <https://bit.ly/2wLfkH7>**

**VOICES FOR THE WILD**, supported by **INVESTEC**, is in aid of The Wilderness Foundation UK and will be an evening packed full of inspirational speakers and young people giving nature a voice. Through personal stories of experiences in nature and transformations in the wild, the evening will raise awareness of our natural landscapes, the wonderful work being undertaken by the Wilderness Foundation UK, and inspire and engage people to conserve nature.

The Foundation engages over 5,000 people per year with the benefits and enjoyment of wild nature. Programmes develop future sustainability leaders, build resilience in vulnerable teenagers with challenging lives and mental health issues, introduce rural employment to urban youth, and bring curriculum-based sciences to life in the outdoors. They switch off technology and switch on reality.

During the event visitors can also share the positive power of nature on the human spirit through **LIFELINE**, a collaborative and public art installation visualising how nature is a 'lifeline' for people, created for the Wilderness Foundation UK by artist Sam Gare. **LIFELINE** is a visual representation of the wonderful work of the Foundation sharing how they help and support vulnerable youths and people using the therapeutic power of nature. The Installation will raise the profile of the Foundation and the importance nature has on both physical and mental health.

**LIFELINE** is a trailing vine, created with string and fabric leaves. Public are invited to write their own messages of thanks/what nature gives them, on a leaf which is then added to the installation. As **LIFELINE** grows in length and strength visitors can see and read how nature is a 'lifeline' to us.

The evening will also consist of an auction, raffle and a book launch and all proceeds from the evening will go towards the Wilderness Foundation UK.

**Investec** is proud to sponsor Voices for the Wild and the work of the Wilderness Foundation UK. The desire to make a meaningful contribution to the world we live in is at the heart of Investec's values. Making an unselfish contribution to society, nurturing an entrepreneurial spirit, embracing diversity, and respecting others, underpin their aim to be a responsible corporate citizen. For more information, visit [investec.com/csr](http://investec.com/csr).

Introduced by:

**JO ROBERTS**

<https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/turnaround-project/>

CEO of the Wilderness Foundation UK & Founder of TurnAround

Hosted by:

**MIKE GUNTON**

<https://twitter.com/MikeGunton>

Creative Director of Factual & the Natural History Unit for BBC Studios, and is best known for his role as executive producer of the inspiring BBC programme *Dynasties*, *Planet Earth II*, and *Africa*.

Speakers:

### **YOUNG VOICES WITH SIMON THOMAS**

Stories from inspirational young people who has directly benefited from the work of the Wilderness Foundation hosted by Simon Thomas, a TV presenter from Blue Peter and Sky sports. Having suffered a tragic bereavement, he has subsequently been involved with an ITV series on the benefits of nature on mental health. One part of the series included the work of the Wilderness Foundation UK.

### **ALASTAIR HUMPHREYS**

<https://www.alastairhumphreys.com/>

[https://www.instagram.com/al\\_humphreys/](https://www.instagram.com/al_humphreys/)

Alastair was named as a National Geographic Adventurer of the Year for his pioneering work on the concept of microadventures, trying to encourage people to get outside, get out of their comfort zone, go somewhere they've never been. A microadventure is an adventure that is close to home, cheap, simple, short, and yet very effective.

### **BEN SAUNDERS**

<https://bensaunders.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/polarben/>

One of the world's leading polar explorers, and a record-breaking long-distance skier who has covered more than 7,000km (4,350 miles) on foot in the Polar Regions since 2001

### **SOPHIE MONTAGNE**

<https://www.polarperform.co.uk/ice-maiden>

<https://www.instagram.com/polarperform>

World Record holder for Ice Maiden - the first female team to ski across Antarctica using muscle power alone. A London desk-dweller that hates the cold, Sophie had no relevant experience to bring to the Ice Maiden team, but was selected from 250 applicants to traverse the most remote wilderness on Earth.

### **SHIRIN SHABESTARI**

<https://www.instagram.com/persianpursuits/>

Shirin Shabestari, an Iranian-born London-based mother of two, is the founder and director of Persian Pursuits, a UK based company that specialises in trekking, hiking and skiing expeditions in Iran. Shirin grew up in Iran climbing with her dad, where her passion began.

### **TIFFANY FRANCIS**

<https://tiffanyfrancis.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/tiffany.francis/>

A nature writer, author and artist from the South Downs in Hampshire, and author of *Food You Can Forage* and will sharing the story of her third book *Dark Skies*, inspired by a year exploring the landscape at night to see how we connect with nature after dark.

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## **SISTER EVENT**

VOICES FOR THE WILD is occurring alongside LANDLINES an art exhibition curated by, and showcasing artists from, The Wilderness Art Collective, supporting The Wilderness Foundation UK. See separate press release for full info.

Location: Royal Geographical Society (with IBG), 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR

Date: 4 – 14 September 2019

Wilderness Art Collective

Website: [www.wildernessart.org](http://www.wildernessart.org)

Instagram: @wildernesartcollective

[wildernessartcollective@gmail.com](mailto:wildernessartcollective@gmail.com)