The Facilitator Development Adventure: Nature-connected Facilitation
Now 2015 to July/August 2016

A year-long Training Group for people facilitating, or wanting to facilitate, transformative processes and connections with nature in service to life on earth.

With Kirsti Norris, Jenny Mackewn and Chris Johnstone
www.facilitationforlifeonearth.org

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The Vision:

The Facilitator Development Adventure is for people who are either already facilitating transformative group processes and nature connection in service to life on earth or who wish to do so.

The programme offers:
- three residential workshops which provide
- a rich mix of brain food, experience, depth, fun, feedback and creativity;
- plenty of practice, as previous participants of trainings have said that practice helped them to gain confidence and power in leading this work.
- a distance learning element involving peer skype calls, peer support and an on-line discussion forum.

The Learning Community:

Participants will include both experienced and less experienced practitioners. The workshops will be run as a learning community so that the experienced can learn from the fresh approach of the inexperienced; while the inexperienced can learn from the experienced. We tutors expect to learn as much as any participant.

The Purpose:

To support both experienced and less experienced facilitators to deepen skills, learn from us and each other, strengthen support and grow in confidence and competence in facilitating transformative processes in the service of life on earth.
Eligibility:

Being able to answer yes to the following questions:

1) Are you facilitating, or wanting to facilitate, transformative individual/group processes and connections with nature in the next 12-18 months?

2) Are you willing to commit to a group journey involving three residential weekends, plus distance learning, peer support, study time and practice - in the service of your development as a facilitator for life on earth?

3) Have you experienced deep transformative work as a workshop participant?

We normally recommend participation in at least one or two deeply transformative workshops before joining the Facilitator Development Adventure. (Some participants will have already attended many workshops and training as facilitators).

The type of workshops we recommend are:

- Work That Reconnects workshops
- Constellations workshops (family, organization, or eco-constellations)
- Other experiential workshops that include an emotional as well as a cerebral journey

Keen to attend even though you have not yet attended these kind of workshops? We can provide you with examples of the sort of workshops that would be suitable preparation, and let you know of ones we are aware of happening between now and December.

Content and Themes:

1) Clarifying Intention: what is the Destination of your Journey, in terms of type of workshop you'd like to facilitate, with what target audience? What skills/strengths/experience do you already have that equip you to do this? What do you need to develop, learn or acquire?

2) Facilitator Development: exploring/developing the skills and knowledge needed to be a good facilitator of this type of work.

3) Facing challenges and fears: an opportunity to grow in confidence as a facilitator by exploring ways of dealing with the workshop situations we fear.

4) Celebrating: hearing stories and learning about things that have worked well

5) Facilitator maintenance: how do we keep ourselves juicy and fresh?

6) Practice: Practice both during and between sessions. We particularly encourage participants to set up and run a facilitation event in the 'practice period' between the second and third weekend.
The Process:

- A joining/commitment process that will give us a flavour of who we all are, what we bring and what we are looking for.
- The first weekend will include a mini-workshop, so that we all have the connecting experience of experiencing a deeply transformative process together; and a time for participants to influence our evolving design
- Diving Deep: Each weekend will represent a particular aspect of nature connection facilitation:
  - Weekend 1 – with Jenny Mackewn, Kirsti Norris and Southstoke:
    - Introduction to the Overall Training Programme
    - Introduction to the skills of facilitation, leadership and transformative groupwork, in connection with nature and in service to life on earth
  - Practice Period: you seek and create opportunities to put into practice what you have learnt on weekend 1: eg set up and run tasters sessions or workshops in transformative processes through connection with nature - with friends or peers or in work settings
  - Weekend 2 – with Chris Johnstone, Kirsti Norris and Hazel Hill Woods:
    - An immersion into how to nourish our capacity to act for life on earth: the Work that Reconnects
  - Practice Period: you seek and create opportunities to put into practice what you have learnt so far (see above)
  - Weekend 3 – with Jenny Mackewn, Kirsti Norris and Southstoke
    - Weaving it all together
    - Designing, Facilitating and Leading transformative events using powerful group work, ceremony, ritual, eco facilitation and connection to the wild;
    - A Practice intensive: an opportunity to practice all you have learnt
    - A chance to develop ideas and intentions for the future
    - An exploration into taking this work into the commercial, public and voluntary sectors; outdoor events; community events; and wherever else our imagination takes us.
- We start the weekends on the Friday evening with an Opening Circle and finish by 4pm on the Sunday afternoon.
The Facilitators:

**Kirsti Norris:** I bring a lifetime of working with others in the Great Turning, as activist, trainer, sustainability professional, facilitator, mother and researcher*. I believe strongly in the power of hearing from ourselves and others in safe spaces as a means of finding our steps to a more life-sustaining society. I trained in eco-facilitation and empowerment work to deepen my offerings to individuals and groups seeking to find strength and inspiration in these challenging times. I set up *Action for Sustainability* to facilitate the understanding of sustainability and empower change in organisations (see [www.actionforsustainability.com](http://www.actionforsustainability.com)) and work with other facilitators to offer workshops based on the Work That Reconnects (see [www.findingstrength.org.uk](http://www.findingstrength.org.uk)). I also facilitate guided quests to wild places (see [www.wildtimeadventures.co.uk](http://www.wildtimeadventures.co.uk)).

*Documented in a contributed chapter of *Stories of the Great Turning*, edited by Peter Reason and Mel Newman, with an introduction by Joanna Macy.*

**Jenny Mackewn:** I am a creative catalyst: I have facilitated and catalyzed breakthrough in many different groups and contexts. I love the continuous creative challenge of discovering what is needed in each unique situation. And I look forward to supporting you to try out new approaches and develop your own unique power as facilitators and catalysts of Connecting to Nature and Living with the Wild.

I am currently convening:

- a Masters Programme in Leading and Facilitating transformative Change; a Schumacher Certificate: Leadership & Facilitation in Service of the Future; Training in Constellations and Systemic Coaching; Creative Catalyst Training in organizations;

**Chris Johnstone:** I have been involved in facilitating the Work That Reconnects and similar workshops for over twenty years, working with Joanna Macy many times in this. By background I trained in medicine and worked as a group therapist in an NHS addictions treatment team over many years. I've trained in a wide range of transformative psychological processes and now focus on writing, training and coaching. I'm author of *Find Your Power – a toolkit for resilience and positive change*, and co-editor of *The Great Turning Times*, a free email newsletter I set up to spread the word about the Great Turning. My most recent book, *Active Hope: how to face the mess we’re in without going crazy*, is coauthored with Joanna Macy and came out in April 2012. I have websites at [www.chrisjohnstone.info](http://www.chrisjohnstone.info) and at [www.resiliencehappinesschange.com](http://www.resiliencehappinesschange.com)
The Dates:

**December 11th – 13th 2015:** Residential weekend from Friday evening until Sunday afternoon at Southstoke House, near Bath.

**March 4th - 6th 2016:** Residential weekend from Friday eve ‘til Sunday afternoon at Hazel Hill Woods, near Salisbury.

**June 10th - 12th 2016:** Residential weekend from Friday eve ‘til Sunday afternoon at Southstoke House, near Bath.

**Distance learning component:**
- **Two peer skype call:** one in-between the March and June weekends; and one July / August 2016 to share post-workshop progress and experiences
- **Local/peer support:** To be arranged to support you throughout the programme and especially during the practice period
- **Online discussion forum:** To develop themes and explore questions.
The Venues:

To give good experience of practice at facilitating in different environments, the programme is held in two venues:

Southstoke House, near Bath is a family home, in beautiful countryside with 5 acres of grounds and stunning views, yet only 2 miles from Bath station.

Accommodation at Southstoke House is either:

- dormitory style in the house
- dormitory style in yurt or camping
- sometimes single or shared rooms are available in the house at our normal air bnb rate of about £40 per room per night
- privately arranged bed and breakfast – list of bed and breakfast can be provided.

Hazel Hill, near Salisbury is a wonderful, secluded 70-acre wood and sustainable retreat / education centre, seven miles from Salisbury, offering unique scope for people to deepen their connection with nature.

Accommodation at Hazel Hill Wood is in either:

- in sleeping lofts on foam mattresses (included in course fees)
- single or double rooms are available at an extra £5 / £8 per night
- privately arranged bed and breakfast – list of bed and breakfast can be provided.

Simple Meals are included in the overall fee and past participants have loved the food. We all contribute to some preparation and to clearing up - as part of learning to build sustainable communities and leave no trace.
The Fees:

£825 Full Rate  (Or £750 if you pay in full before October 1st 2015)

£650 plus work exchange  (For those who are on benefits or low wages, we offer a hybrid
money and work contribution)

Fees cover all the training dates and activities listed above plus food and all accommodation
(upgrades additional as described under the section on The Venues).

Application:

If interested, please, in the first instance, email us at:

Kirsti: kirsti@actionforsustainability.com

Jenny: jennymac@netgates.co.uk

Chris: findyourpower@mac.com

We look forward to hearing from you.

For more information see our website at:

www.FacilitationForLifeOnEarth.org

For information about Work That Reconnects workshops, and resources for the Great Turning,
see the website and subscribe to the free email newsletter at:

www.facilitationforlifeonearth.org/great-turning-times.html