

CitizenZoo presents

# WILD Kingston

at the ROSE THEATRE

Check out our amazing line-up of speakers for **WILD Kingston**:

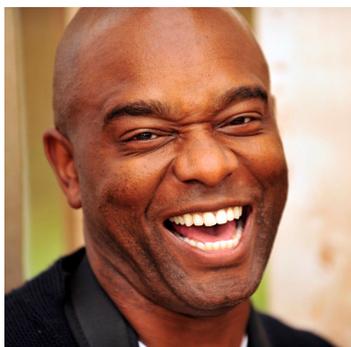


## **Dr George McGavin**

Originally from Glasgow, George McGavin is a well known TV presenter and BBC One Show's resident bug man! He has presented a host of documentaries on screen including *The Secret Life of Landfill: A Rubbish History*, *Nature's Turtle Nursery: Secrets from the Nest*, and *Oak Tree: Nature's Greatest Survivor*. George is also a regular on Radio 4 and has written numerous books.

Before stepping into television, George spent 25 years as a highly respected academic at Oxford University following a degree in Zoology and a PhD in Entomology. Today, Dr George is an Honorary Research Associate at the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, a Research Associate of The Department of Zoology of Oxford University, a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Royal Geographical Society, as well as an Honorary Fellow of The Society of Biology and an Honorary Life Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. *PLUS*, he has several insect species named in his honour! His research has taken him from the tropical forests of Papua New Guinea to the caves of Thailand and from the jungles of Belize to the savannas of Tanzania.

A supporter of several wildlife charities, George is President of the Dorset Wildlife Trust and is a Patron of Wildscreen - a charity bringing together the best photographers, filmmakers and conservationists to inspire the wider public about the natural world; to experience it, feel part of it and protect it. And, this is exactly what WILD Kingston is trying to achieve locally!



## **David Lindo**

Known by many as the *Urban Birder*, David Lindo is a wildlife and birding expert, as well as a broadcaster, writer, speaker and tour leader. Named the 7th most influential person in wildlife by *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, his mission is to engage city folk around the world with the plentiful urban nature that surrounds them.

Born and raised in London, David has featured on a host of TV shows including the BBC's *Springwatch* and *Countryfile*, and ITV's *Daybreak*. David is also an author of several books and contributes countless articles to publications and magazines including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), *Bird Watching Magazine*, *BBC Wildlife Magazine*, *The Observer* and *The Guardian*.

David is a Vice President of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) along with Sir David Attenborough and Chris Packham and was the Founder of Britain's Vote National Bird Campaign. He supports numerous other charities including The Friends Of Wormwood Scrubs, is a proud Ambassador for Leica Birding and the London Wildlife Trust, and a Patron of the Alderney Wildlife Trust and Birding For All - a charity dedicated to facilitating access to nature reserves for disabled people. David passionately believes that all we have to do is open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds and soon we will be linked in to the nature around us.



### **Derek Gow**

For over 20 years, ecologist Derek Gow has been working on species restoration and reintroduction across Britain and recently spoke at Citizen Zoo's international Rewilding conference at Cambridge University. Based in West Devon, Derek is a passionate spokesperson for protecting the UK's wildlife habitats, many of which are under constant threat, and educating people about how we can all help.

Known by many conservationists as *THE* expert on water vole reintroduction, Derek is proud to have successfully bred over 25,000 water voles so far! Beyond the charismatic water vole, Derek is currently working on a range of beaver, wildcat, harvest mice, white stork and burbot reintroductions. He has spoken and written widely for a range of public and general media on countryside issues involving species recovery, and in 2019 will be working with Citizen Zoo to reintroduce water voles back to the Hogsmill River in Kingston-upon-Thames.



### **Tom Hooker**

Local resident Tom Hooker is a professional television cameraman whose work has taken him around the world, from Antarctica to the Arctic Circle, with major broadcasters including the BBC, ITV and Channel Four. He has worked on a range of nature programmes, including *Blue Planet II*, *My Family & The Galapagos*, *Countdown To The Rains*, *Monkey Planet* and *Wild Burma*. Tom has also produced and filmed his own award winning film, called *Hedgehog Close*, for the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, which has had over one million views!

Passionate about nature, Tom set up the Surbiton Wildlife Group in order to bring his local community together and improve green spaces in the town, for which he was awarded the Mayor of Kingston's Community Award. More recently, he has produced an outstanding short film, which will be premiered at WILD Kingston, about the amazing wildlife along Kingston's Hogsmill River and which has been narrated by the fantastic Griff Rhys Jones.

### **Elliot Newton**



Elliot was brought up in the borough and as a child loved to explore its wilder side, learning about nature. This led to him studying a postgraduate certificate in Ecosystem Health & Biodiversity and then an MSc in Conservation Science.

Elliot is co-founder of Citizen Zoo CIC, a social enterprise committed to wildlife conservation through community engagement and the organisation behind WILD Kingston. He runs conservation projects ranging from the restoration of neglected nature reserves to inspiring school children about nature, and from leading community conservation events to species reintroduction projects.

As well as co-founding the *Kingston Biodiversity Network*, Elliot is a Director of *A Focus on Nature*, working tirelessly to inspire and connect young conservationists across the UK, and is co-director of *People for Pangolins*, an organisation that provides global support to pangolin conservationists. Elliot loves to inspire people of all ages and we hope that by sharing his knowledge of our amazing natural world, he will inspire hundreds of people to get more involved in conservation projects locally and beyond.