



Conference for Members and Friends  
of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain

**AWAKENING  
OUR CONNECTION  
ACROSS THE THRESHOLD**

**Wednesday 3rd – Sunday 7th August 2022**

Emerson College  
Hartfield Road, Forest Row, Sussex

## Morning Speakers

### **Bodo von Plato**

#### **Lecture 1: Ethical Individualism – A Pathway to live with Responsibility on both sides of the Threshold.**

What does it mean to be individual – for this world and for spiritual beings?  
How to become responsible for the world – here and across the threshold?  
What is the difference between the two sides of the threshold?  
How do we develop a consciousness on both sides?

#### **Lecture 2: The Impact of Individual Spiritual Practice on the Elemental World**

What does our consciousness mean for spiritual beings?  
Does it matter in which way we are entering the spiritual world?  
How do we learn to understand the present moment – 2022?  
Imagine: What consequences does our way of life have on elemental beings?

*Bodo von Plato studied History, Philosophy and Waldorf Education. He taught in the upper school of the Steiner School in Paris, founded, and led a research unit at the Hardenberg Institut für Kulturwissenschaften in Heidelberg and from 2001 to 2018 he was a member of the executive board at the Goetheanum. Since 2019 he directs the Stiftung Kulturimpuls in Berlin and is doing research on the transformation of consciousness at the beginning of the 21st century.*

### **Annie Blampied-Radojcic** **Present at the Threshold**

Annie will share her experiences accompanying people in the process of dying, and how we can support them beyond the Threshold; and her discovery in Rudolf Steiner's lectures of what she has learnt and understood on this journey. In thinking about death, we have tremendous opportunities to renew our lives and ensure whatever time remains to us, can be filled with peace of mind and meaningful preparation, for ourselves and others.

*Annie Blampied-Radojcic is a One Spirit Interfaith Minister with twenty years' experience in Steiner Waldorf Education. She has worked as a chaplain in hospital, nursing home and hospice. She is the founder and course leader of Quietude, a training for those wishing to offer spiritual support on the journey of death and dying. [www.emerson.org.uk/quietude](http://www.emerson.org.uk/quietude)  
Annie is also a trustee at Emerson College.*

### **Tom Ravetz** **Living with the Spiritual Hierarchies**

Working with Rudolf Steiner's insights on the Spiritual Hierarchies allows us to gain perspective on our lives, on history, on Creation and on Being itself. Drawing on experience and many years of reflection, Tom will introduce simple exercises that allow us to experience how enriching it can be to gain such perspectives.

*Tom Ravetz was born in Leeds in 1964. After meeting Anthroposophy in Botton Village, he became a priest of The Christian Community in 1991. He has worked as a congregational priest in Aberdeen, Stourbridge and Forest Row and is now the Regional Coordinator of The Christian Community in Great Britain and Ireland. He lives in Forest Row with his wife, Deborah. Over the last ten years he has been developing exercises to cultivate a relationship with the spiritual hierarchies.*

## Artistic and Experiential Workshops Leaders

### 1 Diana Fischer

#### Approaching the threshold through the intervals in music

The eurythmy gestures for the intervals in music lead us beyond the boundaries of our physical bodies. We will practise listening deeply to the intervals and moving these gestures through working on two contrasting pieces of music, hoping to refine our awareness of the world beyond the threshold.

*Diana studied Eurythmy in Dornach with Elena Zucconi, and after many years of teaching children, spent 3 years doing post graduate Eurythmy with Dorothea Meir in Spring Valley. She co-founded and directed the Peredur Eurythmy training and at present is doing freelance teaching, artistic and therapeutic Eurythmy with adults.*

### 2 Michael Fuller

#### Crossing Nature's Threshold – Co-creation for the Future.

Using a combination of simple meditation and observation exercises, this workshop will offer ways to collectively and individually perceive the hidden energies/beings that underpin nature. Crossing the threshold between 'our' world and the 'natural/elemental' world has real and important co-creative possibilities for the future. In these challenging times this feels like a hopeful and inspiring ideal, an ideal which nature herself is asking for. No previous experience is necessary: just bring equanimity, positivity, and openness!

*Michael Fuller a biodynamic gardener and adult educator working in East Sussex. He trained with Dorian and Antje Schmidt learning meditative nature connection practices and has led several workshops and courses on this theme, both in-person and online. For further information see [www.michaelfullergardens.co.uk/workshops](http://www.michaelfullergardens.co.uk/workshops)*

### 3 Annette Gordon

#### Where is this leading me?

Our biography has been described as an unfinished work of art. With the awareness that we do review our life after we die, we'll be looking at life with an overview of life's phases and its signatures with the intention of working on, and sharing confidentially, the story of significant aspects of our own biography and its messages.

*Annette's anthroposophical connection began in Camphill communities, and she's had an interest in our life after death for a while. She's been counselling and supervising for many years in various settings, and biographical work offers her, and many clients, the bigger picture of our life on this side of the threshold and beyond.*

### 4 Adrian Locher

#### Exploring the Mystery of the Word

In our speaking we reveal the coming together of our inner life of soul (the vowels) with the outer world of Nature and its elements (the consonants). In this workshop we will explore this magical union through sounds, words and poems and how language is as such a 'second creation'. We may experience how in our speaking we can become aware of the Logos.

*Adrian Locher trained in creative speech and has worked as an adult educator, actor and theatre producer. He is currently a member of Council of the ASinGB and involved in the developments of the theatre at Rudolf Steiner House.*

3<sup>rd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> August 2022 Awakening Our Connection Across the Threshold

	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>
8.30 – 8.55		Singing			
9:00 – 10.25		2. Spiritual Practice and the Elemental World <i>Bodo von Plato</i>	Present at the Threshold <i>Annie Blampied-Radojcin</i>	Living with the Spiritual Hierarchies <i>Tom Ravetz</i>	Workshop Sharing
10.30 – 11.00		COFFEE			
11.05 – 12.35		Interactive Session <i>led by Bodo von Plato</i>	Grave Talk <i>led by Annie Blampied-Radojcin</i>	Interactive Session <i>led by Tom Ravetz</i>	Closing Plenum: Review and Looking Forward <i>with Adrian Locher</i>
12.45		LUNCH			
1.30 – 2.25		Market Place (or free time) <i>led by Helen Dolby</i>			
2.30 – 4.00		A Choice of 6 Artistic and Experiential Workshops (see page 3 and 6)			
4.00 – 4.30		TEA			
4.35 – 5.45		Welcome and Introductions  Sign Up	Meeting George Ritchie <i>Nino Radojcin</i>  Followed by conversation	Working with the Dead Panel Talks	Working with Loss on both sides of the Threshold <i>Graham Kennish and Marjatta van Boeschoten</i>
5.45 – 6.10		Harvesting the Day			
6.15 – 7.00	SUPPER				
7.30 – 9.00	1. Ethical Individualism <i>Bodo von Plato</i>	An Evening of Eurythmy, Music and Speech (see separate Programme on the Night)	Honouring the Dead With Poetry and Music	Ceilidh – a Social Gathering with Song Stories and Dance	

## **5 Paul Matthews**

### **Words at the Threshold: Writing Creatively**

Through guided writing tasks, playful and profound, we will attend to the voices of stone, leaf, beast, and human being and, through poetry and praise and prayer, find fit ways in which to address their hallowed names that the wider conference theme invites.

*Paul Matthews, poet, and teacher has taught for many years at Emerson College. He is known for helping poets and other writers to free and develop their creative voices. His book, 'Sing Me the Creation' (Hawthorn Press) is a sourcebook valued by teachers, storytellers, and those wishing to write creatively. 'This Naked Light' (Troubador) is a recent gathering of his poetry. See <https://paulmatthewspoetry.co.uk> for further details.*

## **6 Mary-Anne Paterson**

### **'Thresholds' out of Goethe's 'Dying and Becoming'**

We will work in paint or pastel from your personal choice of two related themes within Goethe's fairy-tale 'The Green Snake and the beautiful Lily'. Suggested themes might be: The young Prince and Lily; The Green Snake and the Bridge; The Temple and the old man with the Lamp; The Ferryman's wife and the Will 'O the Wisps, or others that may have spoken to you. Rudolf Steiner wrote that 'The green snake and the beautiful Lily' had been an inspiration for his four mystery Dramas, most especially 'The Portal of Initiation.'

*Mary-Anne Paterson has been a practising Anthroposophical Arts therapist and Social Arts practitioner in hospitals and clinics for the past thirty years. She lectures and teaches in universities, colleges, Arts and Health centres throughout the world. This July she is giving a local weekend course for 'all comers', teaching painting with plant colour pigments at Tobias College as well as giving various weekend workshops at the Emerson Healing Garden.*

## **Further Speakers and Performers in order of contributing**

### **Thursday Evening Programme**

**Eurythmy** led by Diana Fischer and others

**Eurythmy, Speech and Music** led by Chrystal Hayn and Louie Coigley (Separate Programme on the Night)

### **Chrystal Hayn**

*Chrystal did her Eurythmy training with the Botton Ringwood Eurythmy School and has performed nationally and internationally. She is the co-founder of London Eurythmy and Eurythmy India and is currently working at the Mount Camphill Community in East Sussex, for whom she is also a fundraiser.*

### **Louise Coigley Sollars**

*Louise is an experienced Speech and Language Therapist and is also trained in Curative Education and Speech Formation. Her method of communication development for children and adults with complex learning needs, Lis'n Tell, is a programme of live inclusive storytelling, and is used across the UK in Special Education. She also runs trainings in this field for professionals.*

## **Nino Radojcin** **Meeting George Ritchie**

Because of the fear of death that overwhelmed many people during the covid pandemic, Nino decided to help alleviate these concerns by sharing the thought that consciousness extends beyond the threshold. Telling people about Dr. George Ritchie's near-death experience was the key for Nino being able to start a process of suggested understanding towards greater being. This initiative continues.

*Nino worked as a Steiner Waldorf class teacher for 34 years at Michael Hall school. In his retirement he enjoys volunteering. He helped build the strawbale house over two years at Tablehurst Farm and currently does groundwork at Emerson College. He's busy learning, not dying, in various study groups!*

## **Graham Kennish** **Working with Loss on both sides of the Threshold**

*Graham Kennish is a Waldorf science teacher and trainer of 45 years. He is also a driving instructor and a BACP counsellor, giving workshops and individual sessions in Goethean Psychology. Graham is a grandfather and lives near Stroud with his partner, Jane.*

## **Marjatta van Boeschoten** **Working with Loss on both sides of the Threshold**

*Marjatta van Boeschoten was a Waldorf pupil and then became a lawyer. After having two children, she founded a management consultancy working predominately with national and international organisations and governments in leadership, personal development and building creative and collaborative relationships between organisations. She was on the Supervisory and Trustee Boards of Triodos Bank NL and is now General Secretary of the Anthroposophical Society in Great Britain.*

## **With Gratitude and Appreciation also to our additional Artistic and Social Contributors:**

Helen Dolby (Market Place Coordinator)  
Marilyn Edwards (Singing, Panel Talk Friday)  
Diana Fischer's Eurythmy Group (Thursday Evening: Penny Raeside, Anna Redgrove, Rebecca Voge, Kelly Williams)  
Ben Hesse (Cello on Thursday evening)  
Kim Retallick (Piano Thursday Evening)  
Sarah Lett (Wandering Minstrel)  
Antoinette Reynolds (Conference Organiser, Panel Talk Friday)  
Wendy Teal (Panel Talk Friday)  
Nana Woo (Circle Dancing Saturday Evening)  
And the many supportive staff at Emerson College

# Awakening Our Connection across the Threshold

Many of us have experienced loss and bereavement of loved ones at first hand. We may also fondly remember individuals who were active in our anthroposophical circles and have crossed the Threshold. Where are they now? How can we reach them? How can we support them and, no less importantly, how can we enable them to support us in these challenging times, when so many of our anthroposophical institutions have closed down or are facing huge challenges?

What part do the spiritual Hierarchies play in this? How can we learn to recognise them in our meditative life? How can we learn to work with them in ways that are truly fruitful not just for ourselves but for humanity as a whole? In fact, how do we know what is truthful and what is perhaps delusional? In addition, how can we connect with the elemental beings around us and work with them consciously?

These are questions we may carry, but often they remain personal and private. Nevertheless, working with and caring for beings on the other side of the threshold is as important for our world as the practical love and support we offer to our fellow human beings around us. During this year's conference for members and friends of the AS in GB, we want to explore these themes in an atmosphere of warmth and trusting care for one another and the beings that surround us in the spiritual worlds.

We shall have three key speakers to guide us through these themes – Bodo Von Plato from Germany, Interfaith minister Annie Blampied-Radojcin and Tom Ravetz, Lenker of The Christian Community in Great Britain. They will offer their insights and facilitate ways for us to ponder and share in smaller groups. There will be creative and artistic workshops to choose from, which will seek to bring aspects of the spiritual world to us from their different approaches – through Eurythmy with Diana Fischer, the Spoken Word with Adrian Locher, Painting with Mary Anne Paterson, Creative Writing with Paul Matthews, Connecting with the world of Elemental Beings with Michael Fuller and Biographical review and storytelling with Annette Gordon.

Later in the afternoons there will be Panel Talks, where a number of people will share their research and experiences on topics such as Reading to the Dead, Near Death Experiences and Life before Birth, which will then be followed by contributions from the floor.

Regarding the evening events, Bodo Von Plato will speak on the opening evening. On Thursday August 4th, at 7.30pm there will be a Eurythmy performance, followed by eurythmy, speech and collaborative audience involvement. There will be a Celebration of the Dead on Friday evening, with music and contributions from conference participants. On the last evening we hope to have a Ceilidh. Although the conference is open to full time participants only, local members and friends are very welcome to attend the evening Eurythmy event on Thursday, August 4th, and join the Ceilidh on Saturday August 6th.

To register, please book online at: <https://emerson.org.uk/event/anthroposophical-summer-school-awakening-our-connection-across-the-threshold/> or use the registration form enclosed with this leaflet.

Cover image: Christiana Bryan