

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Society for the Environment Champions World Environment Day

Coventry, England (07 June 2017)

June 5th, was World Environment Day. To celebrate, the Society for the Environment, in partnership with a number of its Licensed Bodies, put together a number of activities to promote the significance of what the day stands for.

World Environment Day is a UN initiative that has highlighted important global issues since its beginning in 1974 including climate change, marine pollution and wildlife crime. It was the second year in which the Society for the Environment has taken a lead in celebrating the day. This year's overall theme was 'Connecting People with Nature'.

A highlight this year was an expert led World Environment Day conference titled 'Innovation, Partnership and the Value of Nature' held at the Institution of Mechanical Engineering (IMechE), London. It featured many of the themes in the current activities of the Society, with the speakers provoking comments such as "a fascinating, challenging talk".

The Society was delighted to include two official launches within the programme. The launches included the Society for the Environment Newsletter and 'Festival of Nature' 2017.

The Society for the Environment newsletter, launched by the Society's Chair Dr Peter Matthews CBE, will be a hub of information available to registered environmental professionals. The aim is to keep registrants informed of featured news and opportunities across the 24 Licensed Bodies, to showcase the work of registrants and the Society alike and to highlight relevant upcoming events. Contact the Society to find out how to sign up to receive these newsletters.

Festival of Nature 2017 includes a series of environmental based events attracting over 30,000 people between the 8th and 25th June 2017. The event was launched by CEO of Bristol Natural History Consortium Savita Custead. Find out more by visiting www.festivalofnature.org.uk.

Of course, the withdrawal of the USA Government from the Paris Accord on Climate Change was on delegates minds. The Society responded to this globally significant decision with a letter published in The Times newspaper on Saturday 3rd June.

Dr Emma Wilcox, CEO of the Society, said; "Our goal is to make World Environment Day celebrated by everyone, and 2017 has seen big steps in a wider awareness. However, we have a long journey yet. We are starting to plan for future years and any ideas will be welcome."

Dr Peter Matthews CBE, Chair of the Society added; "I am very pleased with the progress in raising the profile of the Society, World Environment Day and the recognition that we need to encourage behavioural change alongside efficient and effective regulation; this must be part of our thoughts and actions in a post Brexit world."

The Society thanks all those involved in the organisation of the event, with particular thanks to the expert speakers who provided some engaging, thought provoking content for the audience.

World Environment Day blogs, articles and a live Twitter feed can be found on the Society's website – www.socenv.org.uk/WED2017.

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CONTACTS:

Phil Underwood
Marketing Executive
Society for the Environment
t: 0345 337 2951 e: phil.underwood@socenv.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR:

About the Society for the Environment

The Society for the Environment, is comprised of 24 Licenced Bodies, with over 500,000 members between them. It received a Royal Charter in 2004, which empowers it to regulate the Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv) and Registered Environmental Technician (REnvTech) registration in the UK. There are now over 7,000 environmental professionals currently registered who share a common vision of delivering sustainability through environmental professionalism. Further information can be found at www.socenv.org.uk.

About Dr Emma Wilcox

Emma has been CEO of the Society since July 2015 and since joining the organisation has led the development of a new five-year strategy increasing registrations and profile for Chartered Environmentalists and Registered Environmental Technicians.

Her career has spanned a number of disciplines including scientific research, knowledge and technology transfer, skills and education, programme and business management and stakeholder and relationship management. Emma's strong academic background is supported by an in-depth knowledge of both public and private sector landscapes.

About Dr Peter Matthews CBE OBE

Peter Matthews is a Chartered Environmentalist, Chartered Chemist, and Water and Environment Manager. He has held a variety of senior positions in the environmental field, in both the private and public sectors. After a career in the water industry spanning almost 35 years, he retired from Anglian Water International as Deputy Managing Director International in 1999. And after serving on the board of the Environment Agency and as Chair of the Northern Ireland Utility regulator, he was appointed in August 2012 as Founding Chair of the Welsh Government's new body for managing natural resources in Wales, Natural Resources Wales (NRW), a position he held until December 2015.

The 24 Licensed Bodies of the Society for the Environment are:

Arboricultural Association (AA)
Chartered Association of Building Engineers (CABE)
Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists (CIAT)
Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)
Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB)
Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM)
Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)
Energy Institute (EI)
Institute of Agricultural Management (IAgrM)
Institute of Chartered Foresters (ICF)
Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA)
Institute of Fisheries Management (IFM)
Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining (IOM3)
Institute of Water (IWater)
Institution of Agricultural Engineers (IAgrE)
Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE)

Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE)
Institution of Engineering Designers (IED)
Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES)
Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE)
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)
Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC)
Society of Environmental Engineers (SEE)
Society of Operations Engineers (SOE)

About Bristol Natural History Consortium

The Bristol Natural History Consortium started in 2003, when 6 organisations in Bristol joined forces on flagship environmental communication projects. From 2003-2008 they worked together under a memorandum of understanding, before gaining charitable status in May 2008.

The consortium currently has 14 members who work collaboratively within the BNHC charitable structure. The membership reflects Bristol's reputation as a leading centre for the understanding and appreciation of the natural world, although programmes have national reach and impact. Further information can be found at <http://www.bnhc.org.uk/>.

Event Details

World Environment Day Conference
Date(s): Monday 5th May 2017
Location: 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London SW1H 9JJ (IMechE)
Cost: Free
Website: www.socenv.org.uk/WED2017

Festival of Nature
Date(s): Thursday 8th to Sunday 25th June 2017
Location: Various – between Bristol and Bath
Cost: Free
Website: www.festivalofnature.org.uk