



# Uncivilisation 2011 THE DARK MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL

**19TH - 21ST  
AUGUST**

**THE SUSTAINABILITY CENTRE**  
EAST MEON, PETERSFIELD, HAMPSHIRE GU32 1HR

**MUSIC  
DISCUSSION  
WORKSHOPS  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

*set in 55 acres of tranquil woodland*

**POETRY**

“THERE ARE  
MORE WAYS  
OF LIVING AND  
THINKING  
THAN WE  
COULD EVER  
IMAGINE”

JAY GRIFFITHS

UNCIVILISATION 2011: THE DARK MOUNTAIN FESTIVAL  
[WWW.UNCIVILISATION.CO.UK](http://WWW.UNCIVILISATION.CO.UK)



## Welcome to Uncivilisation 2011

History seems to be moving pretty fast these days. Sometimes we need to step back, to slow down, to take a walk up into the hills and see how it looks from there. Sometimes it's good to put down the things that matter to us, to be willing to lose them, until we stumble over them again in new and unexpected forms. Sometimes there is nothing better than to spend hours staring into dark water, watching the light on the surface, the worlds below. Sometimes it's only by walking away from the politics of today that we find room for the reflection which might offer the hope of a politics for the day after tomorrow. Sometimes hope is sitting around a fire and hearing old stories told as if for the first time.

We hope this weekend will be a time for reflection, for renewing old stories and making new friendships, for looking into the darkness and finding new stories.

Much of the work around the Dark Mountain Project seems to involve us, or others, setting things in motion and then chasing after them to see where they go. The festival has been no different. We became festival organisers by accident, and we're intensely grateful for the hard work of those who have helped us to make this weekend work. We offer up huge thanks in particular to Michael, Julia, Arthur, Beth, Kat and Laura, and also to everyone else whose hard work has made the once-impossible happen. We hope you get a lot out of what we have put together.

Dougald & Paul

*Please note: Children's activities will be added to the programme as they are confirmed (Updated 25.07.11)*

## Friday 19 August

### **Main Space**

7-8pm\*

#### **Huckleberry Mockingbird (The General Assembly)**

The lead singer of Australian trio The General Assembly, Huck will be performing songs from their debut EP, *Dark Mountain Music*.

8-9pm\*

#### **Marmaduke Dando**

Morose ballads and frisky drunken jigs from Dark Mountain's favourite Heathcliffian crooner and water gypsy.

9-10pm\*

#### **Get Cape Wear Cape Fly**

Sam Duckworth brings us Get Cape Wear Cape Fly, with a lineup of passionate, radical songs.

*\*Performance timings may vary slightly within each slot to account for setting up.*

10-11pm      **Ivashko Medvedko (a Russian-folk-tale-telling)**

Before Beowulf, but not before memory, in a place untouched by the scratching pens of monks and bleating of scholars, there were tales that connected us to knowings and ways beyond the stories they tell. Storyteller **Tom Hiron** bring us one of them, by the light of the summer moon. With shadow-work and musical accompaniment by **Rima Staines** (cover artist of Dark Mountain Book 2) and masks by **Smickelgrim**.

## **Woodland Space**

7-9pm      **Powerdown with Billy Bottle**

A magical evening in the company of Billy Bottle and friends. After an opening set from the soulful AllieKStewart, we plunge into a strange lamplit world of feral choirs, accordion duets and gentle jazz yodeling. Guests include experimental music legend Phil Minton.

## Saturday 20 August

### Main Space

**10-10:15**      **Welcome to Uncivilisation 2011**

Dark Mountain founders Paul Kingsnorth and Dougald Hine introduce this year's gathering.

**10:15-11:45**      **Collapsonomics: living through the unfolding breakdown**

Four thinkers who have lived through economic and social collapses discuss why the world as we've known it is coming apart, and how to make the best of the uncertainty and disruption which result.

**Smari McCarthy** has wired up improvised internet systems for Afghanistan, helped Tunisian activists distribute footage of the uprising which launched the Arab Spring, and worked with Wikileaks on the release of videos from Iraq. He lived through the Icelandic economic collapse and has been involved in attempts to build something new in the aftermath.

**Eleanor Saitta** is a hacker, designer, artist and writer. She makes a living understanding how complex systems work and fail — and redesigning them to work, or at least fail, better. Based in the USA, she is a sharp observer of the unravelling of the American empire.

**Arthur Doohan** is an engineer by training, a banker by experience and a computer nerd by choice. In his home country of Ireland, he has been applying his insider's knowledge to lobby for alternative responses to economic disaster — proposals in which the banks themselves would have to share the cost of the crisis they caused.

**Anton Shelupanov** is a criminal justice specialist who works on research and policy development in the UK, and rewrites the penal codes of central Asian countries in his spare time. He grew up in the USSR and began his career as a prison reformer working with the post-collapse realities of the Russian prison system.

**11:45-1:15**      **On Extinction**

Poet and librettist **Melanie Challenger** reads from her forthcoming non-fiction book on the destructive tendencies of the human species and the cultural history of how we became estranged from the natural world.

2:15 – 3:45     **200 years of General Ludd**

*2011 is the bicentenary of the Luddite uprising against machine civilisation. This session explores the real story of the Luddites, and looks at what lessons we can learn for the digital age.*

Everyone knows the Luddites were just technophobes, right? Wrong, says **Warren Draper**, who invites us to revisit the history of their uprising. The followers of the mythical General Ludd weren't opposed to technology itself, but to machinery which was destroying a way of living in which people had control over their own lives.

Their view – that technology is never neutral – resonates with the decisions we face today, argues **Dougald Hine**. Relating the technology politics of 200 years ago to our current situation, he invites us to question the influence of Stewart Brand's Whole Earth story over the environmental movement and its ways of thinking about technology.

Meanwhile, artist **Rachel Horne** connects the experience of the Luddite rebellion to the more recent experiences of the Miner's Strike and its legacy for the community where she grew up in South Yorkshire.

3:45 – 5:15     **'We can no longer afford to ignore the sacred'**

Modern industrial civilisation leaves no space for the sacred narrative. Does it matter? Given the resistance many of us feel towards both institutionalised religion and New Age spirituality, can we find ways of speaking which make room for the return of the sacred? **Vinay Gupta** belongs to the Indian tradition of the 'kapalika', or 'bearers of the skull bowl', and the Nath Sampradaya, an ancient yogic sect. He will be in conversation with Dark Mountain co-founder **Dougald Hine**.

## **MUSIC**

7pm\*     **Billy Bottle & The Multiple**

Described by Nick Harper as 'Nick Drake on jazz mushrooms', Billy Bottle presents his own originals plus excerpts from his suite of Henry Thoreau settings. He will be joined by a chamber version of his troupe, The Multiple.

8pm\*

**Chris T-T**

After a storming set at Uncivilisation last year, Brighton-based radical alt-folk songwriter Chris T-T returns for a full solo performance. He's been called a 'genius' on Radio 1, in the Guardian and in the Sunday Times. Even the NME is nice about him.

9pm\*

**Merry Hell**

Born out of the ashes of northern folk-punk-rock orchestra The Tansads, Merry Hell is a band founded on the ever-evolving Folk tradition – music made by the people and shared by the people. But though their hearts and souls are tuned to the songs which came before, they bring you new words and music forged from their own experiences, from the lows and the loves of their lives.

*\*Performance timings may vary slightly within each slot to account for setting up.*

## Doing Space

10:15-11:45

**From Techno to Tao: an Introduction to Stone Age Economics**

A discourse and discussion on creative poverty, towards a poetic approach to frugal living. With Gill Barron, artist, painter, and co-editor of The Land Magazine.

11:45-1:15

**How to make booze for (almost) free**

**Andy Hamilton**, author of *The Self-Sufficientish Bible*, leads a brewing workshop. On the agenda will be 'how to make beer for the terrified and wine for the worried' from foraged and wild ingredients

2:30 – 4:00

**An Introduction to Permaculture**

Permaculture considers practical ways of managing land and food production in a world of contraction and depletion. **Maddy Harland**, editor of Permaculture magazine, looks at woodland management, eco-building and growing food.

## Woodland Space

11:45-1:15

**Living on the edge - and by the word**

**Sharon Blackie** is the author of *The Long Delirious Burning Blue*, described by *The Independent on Sunday* as 'A tribute to the art of storytelling that is itself an affecting and inspiring story.' She founded independent and eclectic literary publisher Two

Ravens Press in 2006, and currently lives on a working croft sandwiched between the sea and the mountains at the very end of the farthest road west on the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides. Sharon will be talking about writing, publishing and crofting in the wilderness – her own very individual contribution to the uncivilising of the world and the development of its new story.

2:30 – 4:00 **New Myths for New Worlds**

Salvation through technology? A return to primordial Eden? Apocalyptic collapse? Writer and journalist **Nick Hunt** will explore the myths that give meaning to our future and the narratives mankind creates to navigate through the unknown. First, an overview of stories and environmental mythologies: from James Lovelock to Cormac McCarthy to sci-fi epics and speculative fiction. Then the group will divide into Myth Creation Syndicates, tasked with plotting new narratives to explore these various myths about our future.

4:00 – 5:30 **Wild Writing**

**Susan Richardson, Paul Kingsnorth, Adrienne Odasso & Em Strang** are all poets whose work circles around the relationship between the wild and the civilised. This joint session will see their poetry rebounding from the walls and each other, as they read from their work and invite the audience to engage in questioning them and each other about the value and purpose of poetry in times like these.

5:30 – 6:30 **Visions of Transition**

The stories we tell ourselves at this time are vital to the transformation we need to make to living well on the planet. **Dearbhaile Bailey**, the Bard of Glastonbury, brings us her stories and poems, offering inspiration for the changes and challenges ahead.

**MUSIC**

7:00 – 10:00 **Powerdown with Marmaduke Dando**

We welcome back the originator of the electricity-free Powerdown night, Marmaduke Dando. The magnificent Mr Dando will be joined by the likes of Robin Grey, Citizen Helene, Rebecca Jade and AP Clarke for an evening of lamplit delights.

**Outdoors** (meet by the Hexayurt. Wear weather- and land-appropriate clothing)

11.45 – 1.15 **Wielding the scythe**

Dark Mountain co-founder and part-time scything tutor **Paul Kingsnorth** muses on the symbolism of a piece of human-scale appropriate technology that's almost as old as

agriculture itself, and speculates on what its recent comeback has to say about the past, the future, us and our land. All while mowing the grass. A short introduction to the art of mowing, with some practice and bar room philosophy thrown in. You'll never use a lawnmower again.

1:15 – 2:30 **Animate Earth**

Poet **Susan Richardson** leads this outdoor writing workshop (with walking) that will encourage participants to explore, through poetry and prose, the concept of animate earth, as inspired by texts such as David Abram's *The Spell of the Sensuous*.

4:00 – 5:30 **Why forage?**

Wild Man of food **Fergus Drennan** leads this session, with a talk and discussion followed by a wild food walk.

5:30 – 7:00 **Carrying stories across Europe**

Last year, **Adam Weymouth** walked from England to Istanbul. He'll be leading a journey through the woods, exploring differing attitudes to walking and discussing what relevance pilgrimage can still have today.

10:00 **Liminal**

**Dougie Strang's** 'Liminal' takes performance off the stage and into the woods, combining physical theatre, installation art, poetry and music. It's low-tech, participative and very uncivilised. An unmissable piece of after-dark theatre for all.

## Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August

### Main Space

10:00 – 11:30 **The Dark Mountain Project: what next?**

The Dark Mountain Project is two years old. A lot has been done, and a lot could still be done. But what direction should the project take next? What should we focus on, emphasise or move away from? How do we help the movement grow and deepen? Dark Mountain co-founder **Paul Kingsnorth** leads an open discussion about the future of the Project, to which everyone is welcome – indeed, encouraged! – to come with their opinions and ideas.

11:30 – 1:00 **Staying Awake: Poetry as source of sustenance & suspicion in the Sustainable Age**

Poet, ecologist & broadcaster **Mario Petrucci** lays bare our habits in art and economics, making plain the various eco-unfriendly beds we have made for our species. Through Lorca, Rilke and Woody Allen, via the Salmon of Knowledge and the tragedy of Chernobyl, he explores how art – and particularly poetry – can lead us to our truest selves. The session includes a film showing. Chaired by **Paul Kingsnorth**.

2:00 – 3:30 **The Songlines of West Papua**

West Papua is a land of song, where the soul is the 'seed of singing'. With hundreds of different languages, and biodiversity to match its beauty, the land is sometimes called the Bird of Paradise, and the paths of the mountains are sung by people who extemporise part-songs around the firesides at night. Meanwhile, our governments and corporations are conniving in the annihilation of this nation of singers. **Benny Wenda**, a leader from Papua, living in exile in Oxford, will play music of his lands, and talk about his extraordinary story. Award-winning writer **Jay Griffiths** will talk about her visit to Papua, its Songlines and the dream-shrines of the mountains, and how singing can be a political act.

### Doing Space

10:00-11:30 **Embodying Uncivilisation: A Physical Workshop**

Just as the narratives of civilisation colonise our thinking, so too are they embedded in our fundamental patterns of perception, movement and physical being. Using conversation, games and a range of practices derived from T'ai Chi, Somatherapy and

Contact Improv, **Steve Wheeler** invites us to explore how Civilisation got stuck in our bodies, what we can do to get it out again, and what happens when we do.

11:30 – 1:00 **The Future of the University**

Our present universities justify their existence in terms of economic competitiveness and treat knowledge as a commodity. How do we create new pockets and pathways for the cultivation of knowledge? **Ben Vickers** from the Temporary School of Thought and the Really Free School is working with **Dougald Hine** on The University Project.

2:00 – 3:30 **Playing with the unknown: an improvisation playshop**

Facing a future that wasn't forecast, holding incomplete maps marked "here be dragons", we need to live with the unknown. Improvisational theatre offers one way to approach this, focusing on playfulness and connection as a route to ground us in what opportunities exist at every moment. This highly interactive session with **Alex Fradera** offers a dip into these waters, messing about with the techniques, exercises and games that improv offers.

## Woodland Space

11:30 – 1:00 **Coming home to Bright Valleys: Remembering Responsibility in Unsettling Times**

We are not the first peoples to face existential fear - nor to protect what we love come what may. Animist priestess and witch hunt-saboteur **Zoe Young** holds space to share tales and lessons from hearths and homes protected when worlds turn upside down.

2:00 – 3:30 **Where next for publishing?**

Even before the rise of Amazon, few writers were able to make even a basic living from their work. As a publisher, **John Mitchinson** has worked with some of our favourite writers – not least, the great Alan Garner. He's also spent time at the commercial heart of the UK book trade. Now he's launched Unbound, which brings communities together through the internet to get books into print – not so different to how we publish Dark Mountain. Could this offer a hope for supporting writing that matters? John will share his experiences and answer your questions about how (and whether) publishing works.

## Outdoors

1:00 – 2:30 **Why forage?**

Wild Man of food **Fergus Drennan** leads this session, with a talk and discussion, followed by a wild food walk.

