We are all connected to our landscapes, whether urban, rural or those inside our minds. But how do we live in tune with our people – whether they be in conversations with musicians, artists across all genres – who describe and animate our surroundings with insight and voice, and we are delighted to bring some of these to our festival in June 2016.

Whether it’s Robert MacFarlane on the English Earze, Helen Macdonald on flying it is for Hawk around the world, Inua Ellams leading you on a Midight Run through South London, Ryan Chapman revealing Ground Control to Major Tom, or Sean Borodale skewing the perspective, Lauren Elkin on Eelies, Onchiu Huchu on why we include landscape in our contemporary take on the wilderness, or John Berger approaching the settlement of The Wolf Border, we urge you to join us for a dazzling, Appeals to the world around and within us.

To keep up to date with all things Balham Literary Festival:
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To view our full programme visit www.balhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

Sat 11 June 2016
10:00 The birds and the bees
Sean Borodale in conversation with Sarah Craven
Sean Borodales outstanding Bee Journal brings a hive to life in poetry and Tim Dee is one of the UK's foremost authors on birds. Between them they examine the world of bees, from the role of pollinators to their place in human ethics.

12:00 Extremes of exploration – flight, mountains, jungle, desert
With Andrew Simm
We will examine extraordinary human feats of exploration in the 21st century and compare them with earlier explorers such as Alexander von Humboldt.

14:00 A Walk Around South West London
with Andrew Michael Hurley
The Midnight Run is an arts-filled, night-time cultural journey through urban spaces. It will include landscape in contemporary fiction or Sarah Hall taking you into the wilderness. We will have included a paperback copy of The Wolf Border in the entry price so you can follow along with the presentation.

17:00 What is that work? Why is the cosy and charming so often so unsettling?
China Miéville skewing the picturesque, Lauren Elkin on flâneurs, Tendai Huchu on why we need landscape in our contemporary take on the wilderness. Or through Dulwich Books:
6 Croxted Road SE21 8Sw
020 8670 1920

To purchase tickets click HERE

Sunday 12 June
16:00 Deep into the English Earze
Robert MacFarlane and Andrew Michael Hurley in conversation with Stephanie Cray
Robert MacFarlane and Andrew Michael Hurley have been described as two of the most original writers of our time. They take us on a tour around their respective worlds, from the landscapes of the English Earze to the wilderness.

18:00 And where next?
Owen Hatherley, Fred Poole and Gaia Vince in conversation with Avant Akbar
Where are the new landscapes being created and how? Can art be used as a tool for political engagement, and how does art change our relationship with the environment? How do we react to mythical men, whether in non-fiction such as Nina’s which traces the lives of legendary fathers to modern-day pop culture or the 1960s Sex Pistols.

19:00 Flâneurs in London and Paris, by day and by night
Lauren Elkin, Matthew Beaumont and Anna-Louise Mike in conversation with Lusie Camps
Can we all wander at will through our great cities? How different is the experience for men and women, and how does our landscape alter throughout the day? We will hear from three flâneur in conversation with Susie Nicklin.

To view our full programme visit www.balhamliteraryfestival.co.uk

Saturday 4th June
17:30 The Midnight Run
The Midnight Run is an arts-filled, night-time cultural journey through urban spaces. It will include landscape in contemporary fiction or Sarah Hall taking you into the wilderness. We will have included a paperback copy of The Wolf Border in the entry price so you can follow along with the presentation.

19:30 International Nature & Travel Writing with Patrick Barkham, Helen Macdonald in conversation with Susie Nicklin
Britain’s countryside is changing. But what are the consequences of population in the UK. But how does it work internationally? When is the overlap with travel writing and how does it compare with the work of explorers such as Lewis Camps?

21:00 Caught by The River
Caught by The River join us to kick off the first ever Balham Literary Festival with a special night of live music. Trevor Moss and Hannah Lou are a DIY folk duo from St. Leonards-on-Sea. Trevor and Hannah have been entertaining the audience with their stories and music for over four years now. Following a glorious day, they will be joining us to play some new songs from their latest album. All proceeds will go towards The River’s education and creative projects. Join us to kick off what promises to be a great Balham Literary Festival.

£15
£7.50 or £10 on the door
£10
£12 including a paperback copy of ‘Common Ground’
To purchase tickets click HERE

Friday 10th June
17:00 What do we have in common?
Robert MacFarlane and Andrew Michael Hurley in conversation with Stephanie Cross
The authors of the book telling Creators in Conversation. They explain how to find your own place among the sensual. We will discuss what living in the landscape can teach us about different narrative traditions. Three acclaimed writers in conversation.