

“I’m not a ‘Nature Writer’, I’m normal!”

A lively weekend of talk, walks and reflection
(and optional Kenny Taylor)

at the Slochd Mhor Lodge, Slochd,
Carrbridge, Inverness-shire.

23rd -25th March 2012
(arrive any time after 5.00pm Friday 23rd).

Speygrian is an educational trust, which promotes creativity through outdoor experiential learning. For more information, visit www.speygrian.org.uk

The Weekend

Speygrian networking weekends are open to all, and in the past participants have included artists, writers, musicians, educators and ecologists. Speygrian believes that people should be free to choose what they would like to do at these events, but we hope most people will join in the workshop on offer.

Cost of the weekend: £55 per person

The Workshop

On Saturday, Kenny Taylor will use sources both ancient and modern to lead a workshop introducing different approaches to writing inspired by nature and landscape. People that wish to do so can then do their own creative writing outside, followed by some later feedback.



‘Nature’ is a very tricky concept, described by one writer as one of the most hard-to-define words in English. Part of its challenge comes from how it links to perception of ourselves, and so can be connected to cultural changes. In recent years, there’s been a renewed interest in writing drawn from nature in Britain, while the North American tradition has remained strong.

Kenny will discuss these new developments and also use very early literature from Scotland and Ireland to provoke ideas and suggest some ways of getting fresh approaches to communication that draws on nature.

Kenny is a writer, musician, broadcaster and environmentalist whose work includes many books and long associations with BBC Wildlife Magazine, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Scottish National Parks. He is also one of the original group of intrepid souls who paddled down the Spey from Aviemore to the river mouth eleven years ago, when Speygrian was “launched” and is one of our longest-standing Trustees.



The Venue

The Slochd, with its group accommodation and its superb location, provides the perfect base for activities in the Highlands. It is within easy reach of the Cairngorms and the ski centres, Inverness & Loch Ness. Surrounded by woods and hills there are wonderful trails from the doorstep and it's a great area for birdwatching, walking, skiing or just a quiet break.

Accommodation & Catering

We have booked Slochd Mhor Lodge which offers self-catering accommodation for up to 25 people in en-suite rooms, dormitory rooms and a room suitable for a wheelchair user. Costs for the weekend shown below include accommodation for two nights **and** optional workshops. Rooms will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. **All bedding is provided but not towels.**

Accommodation

- 2 x 5 bed en-suite family Rooms
- Twin bedded room (1 available)
- Bunkrooms (1 x 6 and 1 x 8)

There is a fully equipped kitchen with woodburning stove together with a spacious dining area and a large lounge/lecture room also with woodburner. Central heating throughout with under floor heating and hot showers. Other facilities include drying room and washing machine, an on-site cycleshop/workshop, mountain bike hire and, in winter, nordic ski hire and instruction. There is an outside seating and BBQ area, a bikeshed and ample parking, free internet access.



Directions: SAT NAV NH847237 Post Code PH23 3AY

After you see the road sign Inverness 23 Miles / carry on a further 1.5 Miles / Take the first opening on your left marked Slochd / Drive 0.25 mile till you see the sign on your right.

The Slochd, Carrbridge, Inverness-shire, Scotland, PH23 3AY

Tel: +44 (0)1479 841666

Fax: +44 (0)1479 841699

Mob: 07817 419901



To book your place and check room availability, please send an email to:-

a.hamilton02@btinternet.com

Please include the following information:-

- **which room you would prefer (1st and 2nd choice)**
- **how you would like to pay (bank transfer, cheque, Paypal) If Paypal go to our website www.speygrian.org.uk and under More info, see Donate, and follow the links.**

Musical Instruments

Bring guitars, flutes, whistles, accordians etc for informal jamming sessions. You don't have to be an expert to join in!

Food

Bring your own food for breakfasts and packed lunches plus something to contribute to a shared meal on Saturday evening. Don't bring too much food as we've found that storage and left-over food can be a problem. While there are limited recycling facilities available, we have found it is easier (and better!) to reduce packaging where possible before you come. Please note: **BYOB!**