



Landscape & Arts *online*

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Nestlings photo Linda Gordon

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Editorial

Dear Reader

This is my last editorial as Chair of the Network, although I shall continue as online Journal Editor. As you know, Bobbie Millar is standing as Chair and I am looking forward to next year when we can all work together with her to take the Network forward. With her background in dance I look forward to there being an enlargement of material concerning the body and landscape. A great deal of exciting work is being done in this area and after all, for all of us, our physical being is the primary medium through which we perceive our world.

There are a number of areas that I hope to focus on over the next year. Thanks to Bob Williamson's hard work over the past year, the new look website and members' area is now established and we have plans for further developments.

When the online Journal was proposed, I remember writing about the need for there to be a parallel human development of the Network to balance the cyberspace component. I proposed the idea of small-scale gatherings in various areas to bring together groups of members in a way that combined talks, walks, food and idea-sharing in interesting locations. You will be receiving news of these via email shortly - the first being planned for Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria in the Spring. I want to emphasise though that any member can set up such a gathering - whether it is having three people round to chat over wine to twenty-five tramping the hills all day and showing work in the evenings. What there does need to be is a commitment to writing up such events for web news. A viable Network depends upon its members to grow and flourish!

In writing about the Desire Lines conference at Dartington Linda Gordon said. "For me personally, my greatest lesson was to be reminded that the journey, which can often be hard and solitary, is in fact part of a great movement of like-minded people sharing a dream." That seems to me to be why the Network was formed and still exists and what must be its guiding principle for it to grow and flourish.

Jeff Higley