

Book review

Celebrating Nature by Gordon MacLellan (Capall Bann Publishing, 2007. £14.95)

As a busy Senior Countryside Ranger with a short deadline, my first concern was how to get the most from this book in the shortest time. Gordon (also known as Creeping Toad) had foreseen this shallow approach: 'You might just plunge in and out of this book, clutching at activities as you need them, but to understand the entire process, try reading the whole book first'. 330 pages later... no, I admit it, I plunged in and out.

Thirteen of the twenty chapters are crammed with fresh, well communicated practical activities which will put a new slant on whatever nature you are celebrating – however much of a hurry you are in to do it. The other seven chapters cover scoping and planning a celebration/event; pulling it all together; evaluation; and the rationale behind the author's approach. You can read these later/during lunch-breaks/over the winter.

One thing is for sure, after plunging (or even dipping) into this book you will want to know how the whole thing fits together and make time for the principles which guide one of Britain's leading environmental educators. But is it interpretation? Provoke: tick. Relate: tick. Reveal: tick. Themes: tick. Message: tick ... Yes, definitely!

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