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LICHFIELD **GARRICK**
Theatre & Studio

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8:00 pm on Thursday 12th September 2013
in the Studio Theatre of the Lichfield Garrick, Castle Dyke, Lichfield

FORWARD TO NATURE – Ecological intensification as a means of sustainable farming

Dr Tom Breeze

Research Fellow

Centre for Agri-Environmental Research

University of Reading

Ecosystem Services represent the fundamental benefits society receives from the natural environment such as pollination by wild insects, soil formation by earthworms or pest control by beetles. In the last decade the concept of ecosystem services has become a cornerstone of conservation science. However, intensified agricultural practices have led to a substantial degradation of many of these vital services, potentially limiting crop yields and weakening food security to future demands. Restoring or enhancing these ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes, a process called "Ecological Intensification", is therefore key to the sustainable intensification of modern agriculture.

Using a range of recently published studies from major UK and EU projects this talk will present the current state of the art in ecosystem service research, with a special emphasis on pollination by insects. It will also demonstrate how future work from the University of Reading and our colleagues across Europe will further this understanding towards ecologically sustainable agricultural intensification in the EU.

Founded in 2001, The University of Reading's Centre for Agri-Environmental Research (CAER), part of the world renowned School of Agriculture Policy and Development, is a leading institute in European Agri-Environmental research, with collaborative projects spanning UK research councils, industrial partners such as Sainsburys and the European Union.

Tom Breeze completed his BSc and MSc in Biodiversity and Conservation from Roehampton University in 2007 before attaining a PhD in Ecological Economics at the University of Reading in 2012. During his tenure at Reading, he has worked with a range of external collaborators, including DEFRA and Friends of the Earth, resulting in a policy review which has formed the core of Friends of the Earth's Bee Cause campaign. Presently his work as part of the major EU projects STEP and LIBERATION focuses on the economic and societal benefits of ecosystem services and their conservation.

For further information, please see our website at www.LSES.org.uk

**Admission: Visitors £5.00, Students and Members free but please sign in.
Tickets are not issued in advance: visitors please pay at the auditorium door.
This lecture is expected to finish by 10.00 pm.**