

Michael Dower

Memorial Event

Losehill Hall, Peak District National Park

Saturday 22 April 2023
15:30 – 22:00



*Celebrating Michael's life
and the causes that he espoused*

15:30 **Welcome: James Blake (YHA CEO)**

15:35 **Michael in Britain – compère Alex Dower**
Michael's vision for the countryside and National Parks

- ‡ Children from Beaminster (video)
- ‡ Fiona Reynolds
- ‡ Geoffrey Strachan on Michael leading volunteers in the 1960s
- ‡ John Dunning on Michael who had a vision for the countryside
- ‡ Michael in the Peak: pen portraits by John Anfield, John Youatt and Roly Smith
- ‡ Nigel Dower
- ‡ Kate Ashbrook on Michael at the Countryside Commission

16:15 **Michael in Dorset – compère Alex Dower**
Michael's role as a teacher and inspirer of action

- ‡ Mark Kibblewhite
- ‡ Giles Watt
- ‡ Other video contribution

17:00 **Michael in Europe – compère Hannes Lorenzen**
How Michael inspired people across Europe with his vision and personality

- ‡ Vanessa Halhead
- ‡ Márta Márczis
- ‡ Boban Ilic (by Zoom)
- ‡ Anita Selicka

17:45 **What does Michael's legacy mean for us?**

James Blake will chair a panel to reflect on what has been said and what it means for those who will now carry the countryside torch that Michael used to hold aloft - with **Marian Spain, Andrew McCloy, Janet Dwyer** and **Anita Selicka**

18:15 **Close**

18:30

- 19:30 **Buffet Supper**

20:00 **Social evening, plus**

- 22:00 ‡ Announcement of the launch of 'The Michael Dower Award for European Rural Resilience' by **Prof Janet Dwyer** (*Countryside and Community Research Institute, University of Gloucestershire*) and **Hannes Lorenzen** (*President of Agriculture and Rural Convention*)
‡ Bar with music, dancing and singing for some, but also a time for chatting for those who want something quieter.

While the above is our best guess of who will be speaking when, this may not pan out exactly as planned! Being ready for the unexpected is something that Michael would have advised on such an occasion.