



For this year's summer conference we are returning to The Briars just on the edge of Exeter (EX2 9JD). Do bring wet weather clothing and sun cream for whatever the weather throws at us as we're outdoors for 3 hours of the afternoon. Wear comfortable clothing and bring a drinks bottle too.

We have a full programme so please make sure you arrive well before 10 am. Allow yourself time to register, put the food you bring in the fridge if needed and grab a cuppa. We will need to have everyone in the building and lock the front door before 10 am so we can get started on time.

There is parking at the Briars but it can get tight.

9:30 – 9.55 Arrivals and registration, tea & coffee

10:00 Welcome

10.05 Morning Workshop (2hr 25 mins)

Mary Booker & Sarah Scoble will jointly run the morning workshop.

*Title: Watering Stones: serving and preserving presence*

Mary and Sarah have worked together for many years. In this body-based workshop they aim to support you to find, deepen to and explore 'presence'. Through breath work, movement and imagery, they will invite you to examine playfully through the senses pathways to 'presence', ways of finding stillness and embodying 'presence' for the self and acknowledging it in the other. How can we develop our connection with the energetic body? How can we find and work with variations in the quality of embodied presence? What relevance might this have for our work, our lives and the world?

12.30 Bring and Share Lunch (1 hr)

1.30 Afternoon Workshop 1 (3 hrs)

Ali Chown will run this outdoors workshop

*Title: Stepping out – working in nature*

The traditional therapy space of an indoor room in a secure building may be described as 'a box within a box' and a potentially sterile one at that! This workshop will introduce participants to my work on taking play therapy into outdoor settings. I will set this in the context of my practice as a non-directive play therapist, my work as a specialist support teacher for SMhE and outdoor therapy in general. Participants will get the opportunity to explore their own relationship with nature and consider how the outdoors offers a much more democratic space than the traditional therapy room and how the therapeutic relationship continues to contain our work. We will consider how our attachment patterns developed in early life can be illustrated by our relationship with nature and how we can apply this knowledge and understanding to work with clients. We will also consider some of the challenges which we perceive may arise and how our perceptions of these may have been shaped.

4.30 Break (30 mins)

5.00 Afternoon Workshop 2 (1 hr 30 mins)

Amy Gunther will run this experiential workshop drawing on elements from the day

6.30 Close followed by some form of informal social at or near The Briars for those wanting to stay on