

Middlesbrough Museums

Dorman Museum

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum

Exhibition Information

Wing and a Prayer Charles Darwin Anniversary

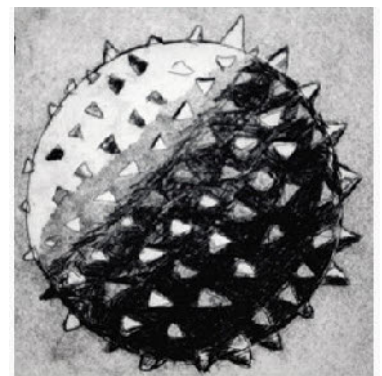
DORMAN MUSEUM
10 FEBRUARY TO 29 MARCH 2009
Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 to 17:00

Two hundred years ago on the 12th February, Charles Darwin was born into a world he would change forever when, 50 years later in 1859, he published his ground breaking theory '*On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection*'. Darwin's theory gave a scientific explanation for the sheer variety of life on Earth through a process that drove evolution.

The *Theory of Natural Selection* states that within a species some individuals have characteristics that enable them to survive better and adapt to environmental change. These favoured characteristics will be passed on to future generations and accumulate. Over a long period the accumulated changes can result in new forms of life.

Since the 1970's the number of British moths has reduced dramatically. Nearly two thirds of the larger species are in decline. About 20% of all species are declining rapidly, yet a few species appear to be increasing. A complex mix of habitat loss, climate change and other environmental factors are thought to be the cause. These are the forces that Darwin noted could affect evolution but rapid change may not give species enough time for the process of natural selection to work.

Five North East-based artists come together to mark the bicentenary and highlight the crisis in our moth population. **Sharon Gollans'** prints take host plants as a starting point whilst **Martin Gollan** evokes chrysalides in his stone carvings. **Kate Livingstone** explores moth wings in paint and glitter, **Margaret Livingstones'** mixed media works investigate lost habitats and multi-media artist **Stephen Livingstone** looks at collecting and extinction.



The Dorman Museum
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Middlesbrough
moving forward

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum
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