

Our Speaker at London Anglia Regional Council Meeting, Newnham College, Cambridge
Saturday 19th November 2022
JULES PRETTY OBE, PFHEA, FRSB, FRSA



Jules Pretty is Professor of Environment and Society at the University of Essex, and Director of the Centre for Public and Policy Engagement. His books include *Sea Sagas of the North* (2022), *The East Country* (2017), *The Edge of Extinction* (2014), *This Luminous Coast* (2011), *Agri-Culture* (2002) and *Regenerating Agriculture* (1995). He is Chief Editor of the *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*. He received an OBE for services to sustainable agriculture, an honorary degree from Ohio State University, and the British Science Association Presidential Medal. He is among the top 1% most cited scientists worldwide, and is host of the podcast *Louder Than Words*.

Through stories he will guide us on the steps we can take to reduce our carbon output and understand the major threat of Climate Change for all of us especially in parts of the world already facing increased sea levels that are destroying their communities and livelihoods.

“The Climate Crisis: Sagas and Stories of Hope”

There are shadows on this shining sea. Fish cities have shrunk to hamlets, old ports have been levelled and harbours are full of warming water yet there’s barely a single ship. An Arctic author asked, “How do you say goodbye to a glacier?” A burnished fishing skipper from the east coast also said, “You know, we were more tolerant and kind in those days, when we sailed and steamed and brought home stories.”

Sea Sagas of the North is the new book by Jules Pretty, covering travels and tales of sea sagas and heroic crossings in the warming waters of the North Sea and North Atlantic, circling clockwise from Iceland to Norway, Denmark, east and north England, and to the Atlantic isles of Shetland, St Kilda and the Faroes, closing in Iceland. Whilst writing *Sea Sagas of the North*, Jules Pretty visited 160 ports, seaside settlements and islands facing and edging the North Sea and North Atlantic. Jules Pretty believes stories are important because, “They help create identity and meaning for living. They also increase our care for nature and for each other.”